



La Retraite

Roman Catholic School

Sixth Form
Curriculum
Choices
2008/2009



La Retraite

Roman Catholic Girls' School

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The Sixth Form Curriculum

Level 2 Higher Diplomas

Students can follow either:

Business Administration and Finance Diploma level 2

Society Health and Development Diploma level 2

Fully integrated in the diploma courses are GCSE maths, English and ICT (functional skills) and a general RE course.

Level 3 courses

Students on level 3 courses study the equivalent of a minimum of 3 A levels in Year 12, as well as either general studies or critical thinking and an enrichment curriculum. The Extended Project and the AQA Baccalaureate are also available, and combine the depth of A level study with the breadth of additional learning to prepare students for the highest and most demanding university choices.

AS (Year 12) + A2 (Year 13) = 1 A level

Btec National = 3 units (Year 12) + 3 units (Year 13) = 1 A level

Diploma level 3 = 2 A levels

Students can study up to four level 3 courses choosing from:

Art and Design (AS/A2)	ICT Practitioners (BTEC National)
Biology (AS/A2)	ICT (AS/A2)
Business: BTEC National	Mathematics (AS/A2)
Business Administration and Finance Diploma level 3*	Media Studies (AS/A2)
Business Studies (AS/A2)	Music (AS/A2)
Chemistry (AS/A2)	Physical Education (AS/A2)
Drama and Theatre Studies (AS/A2)	Physics (AS/A2)
Economics (AS/A2)	Portuguese (AS/A2)
English (AS/A2)	Product Design: Graphics (AS/A2)
French (AS/A2)	Product Design: Textiles (AS/A2)
Further Maths (AS/A2)	Psychology (AS/A2)
Geography (AS/A2)	Religious Studies (AS/A2)
Government & Politics (AS/A2)	Society Health and Development Diploma level 3*
Health & Social Care (AS/A2)	Sociology (AS/A2)
History (AS/A2)	Spanish (AS/A2)

*equivalent to 3.5 A levels, includes one A level in any other chosen subject

Additional Learning Opportunities

Students also select as appropriate from a range of additional learning opportunities.



Advanced Diplomas Level 3

The Advanced Diploma is equivalent to 3.5 A Levels.

Principal Learning 50% Applied Learning (540 GLH)	Generic Learning Functional Skills: Eng, Maths, ICT Extended Project (120 GLH) 10 days' work experience	Additional & Specialist Learning (360 GLH)
Personal Learning & Thinking Skills (60 GLH)		

Business Administration and Finance Advanced Diploma Level 3

This Diploma teaches young people about business, administration and finance and helps them to become more employable. The employer-endorsed content is up-to-date and relevant, reflecting the blend of business knowledge, practical skills, communication and team-working skills needed by someone who is thinking about a career in any business-related job.

Through completing the Principal Learning, learners will:

- have the chance to put a business idea into practice
- learn about marketing, sales and customer service
- improve their administrative and organisational skills
- learn how to manage their own finances
- practise applying for jobs and taking part in interviews
- develop their team working and communication skills.

For the additional and specialist learning, students can choose to study one additional A level subject, choosing from:

- Art and Design (AS/A2)
- Biology (AS/A2)
- Chemistry (AS/A2)
- Drama and Theatre Studies (AS/A2)
- English (AS/A2)
- French (AS/A2)
- Geography (AS/A2)
- Government & Politics (AS/A2)
- Health & Social Care (AS/A2)
- History (AS/A2)
- ICT Practitioners (BTEC National)
- ICT (AS/A2)
- Mathematics (AS/A2)
- Media Studies (AS/A2)
- Music (AS/A2)
- Physical Education (AS/A2)
- Physics (AS/A2)
- Portuguese (AS/A2)
- Product Design: Graphics (AS/A2)
- Product Design: Textiles (AS/A2)
- Psychology (AS/A2)
- Religious Studies (AS/A2)
- Sociology (AS/A2)
- Spanish (AS/A2)

Society Health and Development Advanced Diploma Level 3

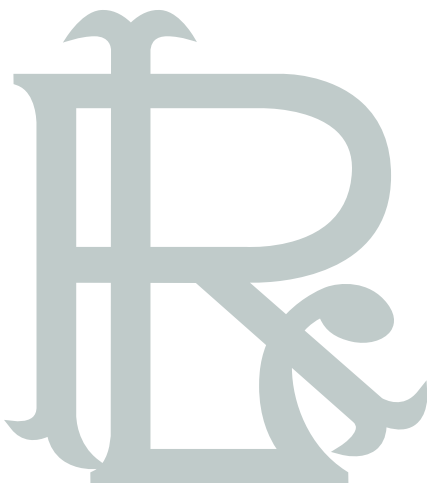
The Diploma in Society, Health and Development teaches young people about the work, values, attributes and attitudes of the health, justice, children and young people and care sectors which care for and support individuals, families, groups, communities and society. It will also raise awareness amongst learners of the range of rewarding career opportunities that exist across the four sectors.

Through completing the Principal Learning, learners will:

- explore the four sectors and the principles and values on which they operate
- investigate the importance of team work and clear communication
- assess the factors involved in growth, development and healthy living
- develop an understanding of anti-social and offending behaviour
- learn about supporting the needs of individuals
- gain an awareness of the importance of personal and professional development in the work place.

For the additional and specialist learning, students can choose to study one additional A level subject, choosing from:

Art and Design (AS/A2)
 Biology (AS/A2)
 Business: BTEC National
 Business Studies (AS/A2)
 Chemistry (AS/A2)
 Drama and Theatre Studies (AS/A2)
 Economics (AS/A2)
 English (AS/A2)
 French (AS/A2)
 Geography (AS/A2)
 Government & Politics (AS/A2)
 History (AS/A2)
 ICT Practitioners (BTEC National)
 Mathematics (AS/A2)
 Media Studies (AS/A2)
 Music (AS/A2)
 Physical Education (AS/A2)
 Physics (AS/A2)
 Portuguese (AS/A2)
 Product Design: Graphics (AS/A2)
 Product Design: Textiles (AS/A2)
 Psychology (AS/A2)
 Religious Studies (AS/A2)
 Spanish (AS/A2)





AS/A2 Courses

Art and Design (AS/A2)

Overview

Art and Design is a challenging course designed to allow you to express your individuality whilst being conversant with the artistic expression of others spanning time and culture. It will involve regular visits to exhibitions, attending courses and specialist workshops. The Department's interactive facilities allow access to all of the world's major museums and galleries. Students can use the Sixth Form art studio at any time.

Course Content

The course is designed to allow students to explore a range of two or three dimensional approaches to their studies either as free standing or related experiences.

The AS components are

Unit 1: an expressive study

Unit 2: an externally assessed assignment

At A2 the components are

Unit 3: coursework

Unit 4: an externally set assignment

Assessment

Units 1 and 3 are internally set and externally marked and moderated. Units 2 and 4 are set externally, marked internally and moderated externally.

Course Requirement

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including at least a Grade B in Art or a technology subject. In some cases, students will be considered on the strength of their portfolio.

Career Prospects

For those who wish to follow a career in Art and Design the course will allow you to prepare a portfolio for Universities and Colleges. This A level is especially suited to those who wish to follow a career in animation, architecture, draughts work, fashion designing, interior designing, publishing, stage designing, computer graphics, teaching or photography. It will also assist with intended careers in museums and galleries.

Biology (AS/A2)

Course Content

The course in common with all Advanced level studies is modular in nature, three units are undertaken at AS level and a further three for the A2 award.

The AS Units are

Unit 1: Lifestyle, Transport, Genes and Health

Unit 2: Development, Plants and the Environment

Unit 3: Practical Biology and Research Skills

The A2 units are

Unit 4: The Natural Environment and Species Survival

Unit 5: Energy, Exercise and Coordination

Unit 6: Practical Biology and Investigative Skills

Assessment

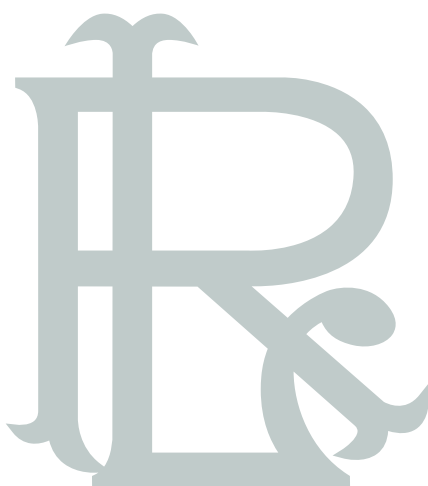
Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 are assessed by written examination; Units 3 and 6 are partly assessed by a single practical assessment and partly by written examination.

Course Requirement

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including at least a Grade B in Biology or a grade A in Double Science.

Career Prospects

Careers in medicine, teaching, dentistry, genetic engineering, ecology, nursing and veterinary medicine are opened up with Biology. Additionally areas such as law, marketing and advertising can also make good use of biology qualifications.



Business Studies (AS/A2)

Overview

This course has a very clear relevance to the world in which we live. It will enhance knowledge and understanding of the complex world of business and finance, and look at how modern society operates within these two inter-related disciplines. The course is effectively looking at how people make the best use of scarce resources. Economics analyses the principles by which resources in a society may be allocated, whilst Business explores the actual allocation decisions taken by people and organisations.

Course Content

The AS modules are as follows

Unit 1: Developing new business ideas

Unit 2b: Business Economics

For the A2, the modules are

Unit 3: International Business

Unit 4b: The wider economic environment and business

Assessment

Each unit is worth 25% of the final grade.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a minimum of a B grade in Maths and C in English.

Career Prospects

This course will provide a very firm grounding for further study at University for those wishing to pursue a career in almost any aspect of the business or finance worlds.

Chemistry (AS/A2)

Overview

How does caffeine keep us alert?

Why do reduced-fat hot dogs taste different to regular ones?

How safe are herbal medicines?

All aspects of chemistry are related to the real world, including chemical and medical industries, the global and local environment and the way the human body works. Chemistry explains why things happen, what things are made up of and what happens when substances interact with each other to make new ones.

Course Content

The AS Units are

Unit 1: Foundation Chemistry

This deals with the fundamental principles of structure and bonding in elements and compounds, relating them to the way substances react. Trends in the periodic table are examined and chemical calculations introduced. An introduction to organic chemistry is given.

Unit 2: Chemistry in Action

Introductions to kinetics and redox reactions with some applications to industry are dealt with as well as more organic chemistry reactions.

Unit 3: Investigative and Practical skills based on chemistry studied in AS unit.

The A2 Units are

Unit 4: Kinetics, Equilibria and Organic Chemistry

Equilibria in acid-base reactions are studied as well as more organic chemistry reactions.

Rates of reaction are studied in more detail.

Unit 5: Energetics, Redox and Inorganic Chemistry

An examination of energy transfer and a detailed look at trends and patterns in sections of the Periodic Table.

Unit 6: Investigative and Practical skills based on chemistry studied in AS and A2 unit.

Assessment

Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 are assessed by external examinations.

Units 3 and 6 are assessed by coursework/practical work.

Course Requirement

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade A in Double Science or Grade B or better in Triple Science Chemistry.

Career Prospects

Careers in the medical, dental and nursing professions, pharmaceutical industries, the petrochemical industry, engineering, cosmetics, environmental and developmental science and fields such as law, marketing and advertising.



Drama and Theatre Studies (AS/A2)

Overview

The course will not only develop your practical skills in Drama, but will enrich your aesthetic awareness of performance. Through a combination of analysis, discussion and active participation, you will gain a fuller understanding of the performing arts. You should be keen on acting and have some feeling for the visual and technical aspects of theatre. Central to your progression and achievement on the course, is the opportunity to visit theatres and to produce and perform your own work and the scripted works of notable playwrights. The course will bring you into contact with professional theatre practitioners, to further enhance your skills in theatrical expression, review and analysis.

Course Content

AS Level

There are two units of work, combining practical theatrical production and written examination. They cover the following areas:

Acting and producing a section of a scripted text

Character development and acting techniques

Practical and written analysis of set text

Theatre visits

Theatre reviewing

A2 Level

There are two units of work, combining practical theatrical production and written examination. They cover the following areas:

Acting and producing a devised piece of theatre

Character development and acting techniques

Production methods

Practical and written analysis of set texts and unseen extracts

Theatre visits

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a minimum Grade B in English at GCSE level. It is useful to have studied GCSE Drama, though not essential.

Career Prospects

An A level award in Drama and Theatre Studies is accepted by all universities, as an academic as well as a practical discipline, in its own right. Related careers would be: directing, producing, acting, designing, stage management, theatre administration, review writing, drama and speech therapy, journalism, law, psychology, social work, advertising and business.

Economics (AS/A2)

Overview

This course will introduce students to the nature of economics and examines price mechanism and allocation of resources; it will also introduce key measures of economic performance, pricing and nature of competition between firms. The GCE Economics will give students enhanced career choice and progression opportunities.

Course Content

Advanced Subsidiary (AS)

Unit 1: Competitive Markets – How they work and why they fail

Unit 2: Managing the Economy

Advanced GCE (A2)

Unit 3: Business Economics and Economic Efficiency

Unit 4: The Global Economy

Assessment

Each of the four units is externally assessed with written examinations. The advance subsidiary GCE weighting is 25% each for both units and the advanced weighting is 20% and 30% respectively for unit 3 and 4.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a minimum of a B in Maths and English.

Career Prospects

This course will provide a very firm grounding for further study at University for those wishing to pursue a career in almost any aspect of the Economy, Business or the Finance worlds.

English Literature (AS/A2)

Overview

This course is suitable for students who enjoy reading and discussing texts from a wide range of periods and styles. The syllabus requires students to study English Literature from the year 1300 to the present day and consequently a selection of challenging and stimulating texts will be on offer. As well as established great writers like Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare, modern authors such as Angela Carter, Sebastian Faulks and Arundhati Roy may also be studied.

Course Content

The course at A/S level includes one unit on contemporary novelists and poetry from 1800 to 1945. This unit is to be examined as an open book exam. The second unit allows the candidates to put together a portfolio of work in response to Shakespearian Tragedy; two pieces of coursework will contribute to 40% of the A/S Level.

The A2 course (in Year 13) also includes two units. The first unit asks students to analyse texts stretching from Chaucer to the Romantics. Their understanding of these texts will be tested by a closed book exam. The final unit is again about putting together a portfolio of coursework in response to four texts. The coursework will form 40% of the final mark in the A2 course.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a minimum of a B in both English and English Literature.

Career Prospects

English Literature is one of the most established and respected subjects at A' Level. Universities and employers recognise that it opens the minds of students, provides them with first class analytical and research skills and proves that they have the ability to communicate fluently in one of the world's most influential languages. It complements the study of any other subject at A' Level, because of the very skills it promotes. As well as leading to a degree in English, one of the most popular and prestigious subjects at university, it is also for those intending to study Law, History, Psychology or any of the Humanities at a higher level. In the words of one of the Bard, it really is "the stuff that dreams are made on."

English Language and Literature (AS/A2)

Overview

This course is suitable for students who enjoy reading and discussing texts from a wide range of periods and styles, and who wish to extend their study of the English Language to develop an understanding of linguistics. The syllabus requires students to study the elements of English Literature outlined above as well as formally develop their creative writing and analytical skills.

Course Content

At AS, this course will enable candidates to develop integrated literary and linguistic analysis. Set texts will be analysed using appropriate terminology. Students will develop their writing skills and be able to write fluently and coherently in response to questions.

At A2, the course includes coursework as a means of developing integrated literary and linguistic analysis. Candidates will demonstrate the use of appropriate terminology when analysing set texts. Poetry texts will be included at A2 level.

Assessment

Year 12: The AS specification has 2 units:

Unit 1: Integrated Analysis and Text Production (Written Paper)

Unit 2: Analysing Speech and its Representation (Written Paper)

Year 13: The A2 specification has 2 units:

Unit 3: Comparative Analysis and Text Adaptation (Written Paper)

Unit 4: Comparative Analysis through Independent Study (Coursework Unit)

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a minimum of a B in both English and English Literature.

Career Prospects

As with English Literature A level, students of English Language and Literature will show universities and employers that they have open minds and first class analytical and research skills, as well as the ability to communicate fluently in one of the world's most influential languages. It complements the study of any other subject at A' Level, because of the very skills it promotes. As well as leading to a degree in English, one of the most popular and prestigious subjects at university, it is also for those intending to study Law, History, Psychology or any of the Humanities at a higher level.



French (AS/A2)

Overview

Learning another language and improving the skills that you already have in another language is a demanding yet rewarding pursuit. You will already have some aptitude for language study and you will have an interest in another culture and way of life.

By the end of your chosen course you will have learnt to communicate effectively and with a considerable degree of accuracy in the language. European work experience will be encouraged as well as other frequent visits to the mother country

Course Content

AS level Units

Unit 1: listening, reading and writing

Unit 2: speaking

Areas covered are food, diet and health; transport, travel and tourism; current affairs and media; relationships, family and youth concerns; social issues such as law and justice; leisure and the arts; education, training and employment.

A2 level Units

Unit 3: speaking

Unit 4: listening, reading and writing

AS areas are revisited and we also study energy, pollution and the environment; politics and citizenship; campaigning organizations and charities; the European Union; global issues as well as the history and a selection of the literature of France.

Grammar plays an important part of both the AS and the A2.

Assessment

All Units are assessed by examination.

Students select their own topic and carry out extensive research for the speaking examination.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B in French.

Career Prospects

A gateway to reading languages at University, studying French will be extremely valuable in a huge range of career paths, including teaching, banking, finance and service industries, leisure and tourism, journalism and law. Joint degrees are common: many Universities combine e.g. Chemistry with French and send students to France because many of the major chemical companies are based there.

Further Maths (AS)

See Mathematics

Geography (AS/A2)

Overview

A level Geography helps to develop a student as an independent learner and you will be expected to take a lot of responsibility for your own learning and progress. Besides the learning which takes place in the classroom, there is a large element of fieldwork involved. This takes the form of a trip to the Wessex Coast in South West England, visiting two sites along the coast namely Christchurch Bay and Barton-on-Sea. The aim of the field work is to investigate issues such as soil erosion, strategies in place to deal with it, the success of these strategies and an alternative to the strategies that are already in place.

Course Content

The AS consists of two units

Unit 1: Global Challenges

This unit investigates the meaning, causes, impacts and management of global challenges and looks at how we can influence global challenges through our own lives.

Unit 2: Geographical Investigations

This unit takes a closer look at how physical and human issues influence lives and can be managed. Students choose two topics from: Extreme Weather, Crowded Coasts, Unequal Spaces, Rebranding Places.

The A2 consists of two units

Unit 3: Contested Planet

This unit looks at the use and management of resources is a key issue for geography in today's world. Consumption patterns highlight stark inequalities between regions, countries and groups of people. Many resources are finite, and rising consumption means that difficult decisions over the use of resources will have to be taken more frequently.

Unit 4: Geographical Research

Students must select and study one of the following research options: Tectonic Activity and Hazards, Cold Environments — Landscapes and Change, Life on the Margins — the Food Supply Problem, The World of Cultural Diversity, Pollution and Human Health at Risk, Consuming the Rural Landscape — Leisure and Tourism.

Assessment

All units are assessed by written examination.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B in Geography.

Career Prospects

Geography at this level is useful in different types of employment.

Government & Politics (AS/A2)

Overview

“There has never been a perfect government, because men have passions; and if they did not have passions, there would be no need for government.”
(Voltaire, *Politique et legislation*.)

Government and politics is about the making and carrying out of decisions, it is about knowing who is excluded from that and who is included; it is about the use and abuse of power to affect people's lives; it is about legitimacy and authority; it is about conflict and its resolution; it is about conflicting values and their reconciliation. However dismissive we might be towards some politicians, politics is not something we can choose to ignore. We engage in politics almost the whole time.

Course Content

The AS units are

Unit 1: People and Politics

Topics include; Elections, Pressure Groups, Party Policies and Ideas

Unit 2: Governing the UK

Topics include; The Constitution, Parliament, Prime Minister and Cabinet, Judges and Civil Liberties

The A2 units are:

Unit 3: Key Themes in Political Analysis

UK Political Issues including; Economic policy, Social Welfare, Health and Education, Law, Order and Criminal Justice, Environmental Policy.

Unit 4: Extended Themes in Political Analysis

EU Political Issues including; Impact of the EU on the UK, European Integration, EU Institutions and their Relationships, Domestic Policy Issues.

Assessment

Assessment of each of the four Units is by written examination.

The Units carry equal marks.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including at least a Grade C in English.

Career Prospects

Career prospects are immense and include business, the civil service, journalism, law, teaching, media (including commentating, interviewing and investigation), politics (including research or advisory service) pressure group consultancy and a host of others.

Health & Social Care (AS/A2)

Overview

The Health and Social Care course is an Advanced Level GCE which provides a real insight into occupations and organisations in the health, social care and early years' service. It is very much a 'hands on' course with opportunities to research and visit organisations in the health and social care sectors. Students in the past have visited nursing homes, nurseries and medical exhibitions run by organisations in the health sector e.g. The Wellcome Institute and Bodyworld Exhibition. Students now have the chance to attend a study week at Disneyland Resort Paris.

Course Content

The units of study are as follows

3 AS units:

Human Growth and Development*

Communication and Values

Positive care Environment

3 A2 units:

Meeting Individual Needs*

Promoting Health and Well-being

Investigating Diseases

Assessment

Approximately 67% of the work is assessed by portfolio/coursework and the remainder is assessed by written exam.

* Written examination

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including either a BTEC First Diploma (Distinction) in health and social care or a Grade C in Science and English at GCSE level

Career Prospects

This course provides an excellent preparation for those wishing to go to University to pursue further studies in nursing, social work, housing and other care professions.



History (AS/A2)

Overview

The Council of Europe has said that "... historical awareness should be an essential part of the education of all young people".

Studying history at this level will equip you with finely-tuned skills of analysis and evaluation and as well as giving you an excellent preparation for any Arts-based University course.

Course Content

The course is modular.

AS level

Unit 1: Italy 1918-1943: The Collapse of Liberalism and the Triumph of Fascism

Unit 2: the Changing Position of Women and the Suffrage Question 1860-1930

A2 level

Unit 3: Germany 1900-1945: from Kaiser to Fuhrer

Unit 4: Civil Rights in the USA 1820-1968

Assessment

AS – two units – by examination

A2 – two units – unit 3 by examination and unit 4 by coursework

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B GCSE in History and at least a grade C in English.

Career Prospects

History at University level will help access to a wide range of careers including teaching, archaeology, museum work, conservation work. There are other areas which require the skills of the historian e.g. architecture, banking, law, civil service, economics, journalism, media and politics.

Mathematics (AS/A2)

Overview

Mathematics at this level is both intellectually challenging and rewarding. It is about patterns and structures, logical analysis, deduction and calculations within these patterns and structures. Working through problems and discovering solutions is very satisfying. It demands clarity of thought and critical attention to detail. Mathematics influences greatly our everyday lives and contributes to the wealth and prosperity of the country.

Course Content

Both AS and A level courses involve two branches of Mathematics.

Core Maths

This will extend your knowledge of topics such as algebra and trigonometry as well as learning some new ideas such as calculus. Although many of the ideas and concepts you meet in core Maths are interesting in themselves, they also serve as an important foundation for other branches of Maths, such as statistics, decision maths and mechanics.

Statistics

Here you will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions. You will extend the range of probability problems that you studied at GCSE using new mathematical techniques studied in core maths. Statistics has wide applications from insurance to the mathematics behind gambling.

Assessment

Each module both at AS and A2 level is assessed by means of written examination.

Students studying Mathematics also have the opportunity to study further maths as an AS.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B at GCSE as well as having covered all the material from the Higher Tier.

Career Prospects

There is a huge range of career opportunities. These include IT, finance and insurance, statistics, accountancy, business, medicine, engineering, data analysis, architecture to name but a few.

Media Studies

(AS/A2)

Overview

This is an AS/A2 level course. Students will learn to develop a critical understanding of the mass media and its audiences. You will also gain practical skills in using technology to create media products of a professional standard. You will be using digital cameras and video cameras, computers and software packages to produce your work and if you choose to work in the field of film you will also learn to use editing software.

Course Content

AS level consists of two units

Unit 1: Investigating Media

Unit 2: Creating Media

Unit 1 and Unit 2 provide an integrated and complementary introduction to the study of the media and the contemporary media landscape. The content of both units is underpinned by a set of key media concepts (Forms, Representations, Institutions, Audiences) and media platforms (Broadcasting, Digital/web-based media (e-media), Print).

A2 Level consists of two units

Unit 3: Media: Critical Perspectives

Unit 4: Media: Research and production

At A2 candidates will build on their AS work to look more fully at the contexts of media production and consumption, why as well as how texts are created as they are. As well as building on the concepts studied at AS, candidates will look at some or all of the following debates and theories as appropriate:

Media Debates: Representation, Media effects, Reality TV, News Values, Moral panics, Post 9/11 and the media, Ownership and control, Regulation and censorship, Media technology and the digital revolution - changing technologies in the 21st century

Media Theories: Media analysis, Politics and the Media, Consumption and Production.

Assessment

Assessment is by coursework for units 2 and 4 and written examination for units 1 and 3.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B at GCSE in English.

Career Prospects

A media studies qualification can lead in a variety of directions. Many students will study media at University. Others may choose to use their skills in the field of law, education, computing, art, English, sociology or psychology.

Music (AS/A2)

Overview

The course will not only develop your practical skills in Music, but will enrich your aesthetic awareness of performance and composition. Central to your progression and achievement on the course, is the ability to perform a musical instrument at a high level.

Course Content

AS

Unit 1: Performing Music

Unit 2: Composing

Unit 3: Developing Musical Understanding

A2

Unit 4: Extended Performance

Unit 5: Composition and Technical Study

Unit 6: Further Musical Understanding

Assessment

Units 1 and 4 practical internally assessed

Units 2 and 3 examination

Unit 5 coursework

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B in Music at GCSE level, or to have a qualification in an instrument as well as a Grade B in English.

Career Prospects

An A level award in Music is well regarded by all universities, as an academic and intellectually demanding course. Related careers would be: directing, performing, music therapy, journalism, law, psychology, social work, advertising and business.



Physical Education (AS/A2)

Overview

Among the many benefits, this course is designed to allow candidates to focus on a single physical activity throughout the course, experience and develop an interest in a variety of roles such as performer, official and leader/coach, build on their previous experience to enhance their knowledge and increase their understanding of the modern day sporting arena, and evaluate and discuss current developments in sport such as the impact of new technology, sport-specific rehabilitation and use of ergogenic aids.

Course Content

At AS, this course will develop knowledge and skills to help understand the opportunities for and effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle. Candidates will be given the opportunity to build on their experience and improve their personal skills/techniques across a variety of roles in a sport of their choice to improve performance.

At A2, the course enables candidates to further develop their understanding of key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques. Candidates will be given the opportunity to specialise further, selecting two themes to study in depth and focusing on philosophical problems through the study of a key text. Problem areas relate directly to other areas of the specification and candidates will be able to draw on, develop and apply material from both the AS and A2 modules.

Assessment

The AS has 2 units

Unit 1: Opportunities for and the effects of leading a healthy and active lifestyle (written paper)

Unit 2: Analysis and evaluation of physical activity as performer and/or in an adopted role/s (internally assessed)

The A2 has 2 units

Unit 3: Optimising performance and evaluating contemporary issues within sport (written paper)

Unit 4: Philosophical Problems (internally assessed)

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a grade B in PE and/or a grade B in science.

Career Prospects

The subjects you learn about will be invaluable at a personal level and will help you to be better at sport, no matter what your standard. This A Level also opens up a whole number of career options, such as sport scientist, physiotherapist, or working for a national governing body. PE goes well with other subjects. If you want a career in physical education you might also consider courses like Biology.

Physics (AS/A2)

Overview

Physics is one of the key disciplines of science and can be described as the study of matter and energy. The nature of physics is highlighted through major turning points in discovery such as cosmology, relativity, wave-particle duality and low temperature physics. Understanding natural phenomena has always been a central aim of physics. Its use in other branches of science is perhaps one of the reasons why physics lies at the core of the scientific age in which we live.

Course Content

The AS Units are

Unit 1: Physics on the go

Unit 2: Physics at Work

Unit 3: Exploring Physics

The A2 Units are

Unit 4: Physics on the Move

Unit 5: Physics from Creation to Collapse

Unit 6: Experimental Physics

Assessment

Units 1, 2, 4 and 5 are assessed by written examination.

Units 3 and 6 are partly assessed by written papers and partly by a written practical exam.

Course Requirements

La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including Grade B in Physics or grade A in Double Science.

Career Prospects

Careers include medicine, pharmacy, veterinary surgery, engineering (civil, mechanical, electrical, design, sound and aeronautic) and teaching. A study of physics can also lead you into work as an architect, space astronaut, pilot, lawyer, accountant as well as the insurance and finance industries. This course has a very clear relevance to the world in which we live. It will enhance knowledge and understanding of the complex world of

business and finance, and look at how modern society operates within these two inter-related disciplines. The course is effectively looking at how people make the best use of scarce resources. Economics analyses the principles by which resources in a society may be allocated, whilst Business explores the actual allocation decisions taken by people and organisations.

Portuguese (AS/A2)

Overview

Learning another language and improving the skills that you already have in another language is a demanding yet rewarding pursuit. You will already have some aptitude for language study and you will have an interest in another culture and way of life.

By the end of your chosen course you will have learnt to communicate effectively and with a considerable degree of accuracy in the language.

Course Content

AS level: Unit 1

Areas covered are food, diet and health; transport, travel and tourism; current affairs and media; relationships, family and youth concerns; social issues such as law and justice; leisure and the arts; education, training and employment.

A2 level: Unit 2

AS areas are revisited and we also study energy, pollution and the environment; politics and citizenship; campaigning organizations and charities; the European Union; global issues as well as the history and a selection of the literature of the Portugal.

Grammar plays an important part of both the AS and the A2.

Assessment

All Units are assessed by examination.

Course Requirements

La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B in Portuguese.

Career Prospects

A gateway to reading languages at University, studying a modern foreign language will be extremely valuable in a huge range of career paths, including teaching, banking, finance and service industries, leisure and tourism, journalism and law.

Product Design: Graphics (AS/A2)

Overview

The aims of the course are:

- to encourage students to develop and sustain their own innovation, creativity and design and technology capability, to recognise constraints and to produce high quality products
- to develop a critical understanding of the influences of the processes and products of design and technological activity from a historical perspective and in current practice
- to apply essential knowledge, understanding and skills of design production processes to a range of technological activities and develop an understanding of industrial practices.
- to use ICT to enhance their design and technological capability
- to develop an understanding of health and safety, to develop spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural awareness inherent in design and technological activity and to develop critical evaluation skills in technical, aesthetic, economic, environmental, social and cultural contexts
- to develop as discerning consumers able to make informed choices
- to develop positive attitudes of co-operation and citizenship and work collaboratively

Course Content

The AS course looks at industrial and commercial products and practices, with a design and make assignment built in, as well as materials, components and systems with options. The A2 course follows on from the AS course in further depth.

Assessment

Unit 1 External assessment (examination)

Unit 2 Internal assessment (coursework)

Unit 3 External assessment (examination)

Unit 4 Internal assessment (coursework)

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a GCSE grade B in Design and Technology. A similar grade in Art and Design, Physics, Chemistry, Business Studies, Computing or ICT would also provide a suitable basis.

Career Prospects

Careers include graphic design, marketing, internet based design, product design, product development, product testing, art direction, materials technology, industrial design.



Product Design: Textiles (AS/A2)

Overview

The main purpose of the course is to develop your ability to respond in a personal and creative way to a given brief through textiles. You will be developing your imaginative, analytical and documenting skills plus related textile specialisms. You will also develop a specialist vocabulary and knowledge and understanding of the place of textiles and design in history and in contemporary society.

Course Content

The AS level course studies Materials and components and Design and market influences, and includes a Design and make unit.

The A2 level course consists of a Product study, a Design and make project and a Synoptic unit.

Assessment

AS level – one examination unit and one coursework unit.

A2 level – one examination unit and one coursework unit.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B at GCSE Textiles is required. A qualification in Art would also be useful.

Career Prospects

An AS or A2 level qualification in Textiles offers a wide range of possible career and higher education opportunities. Many of these require further study at Art College or University. At present most students go on to a one year Foundation course before applying to degree level courses in more specialist areas of art and design. Most courses are specifically designed to train students for employment in the visually creative world in such fields as fashion design, fabric design or interior design.

Psychology (AS/A2)

Overview

Developing as it did from biology, philosophy and physics, psychology has come to be defined as the scientific study of behaviour and the mental processes that accompany it. As with most 'new' disciplines the initial challenge is to be found in coming to terms with an array of technical terms which we may have at some point heard but never quite understood. The idea of observing human behaviour and attempting to understand and analyse it is a quite exciting undertaking. It will help you to understand yourself in a much more objective way and perhaps find some answer to the question as to why we do the things we do.

Course Content

AS level offers two modular units and A2 offers a further two.

Unit 1: social and cognitive psychology – obedience and prejudice, memory and forgetting

Unit 2: understanding the individual: psychodynamic, biological and learning approaches

Unit 3: applications of psychology (two selected from criminological, child, health and sport psychology)

Unit 4: how psychology works, clinical psychology and key debates.

Assessment

Each of the six units carries the same marks and are assessed by external examination.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including Grade C passes in English, Mathematics and Science.

Career Prospects

Psychology at Advanced level offers a very solid foundation for reading a variety of arts courses as well as social sciences. It has a clear application in the field of criminology and all areas related to human behaviour.

Religious Studies (AS/A2)

Overview

Both religion and philosophy have exercised an enormous influence on societies and civilisations down through the centuries, and indeed continue to do so. This course provides an opportunity for a rigorous study of religion, using an enquiring, critical and empathetic approach. The focus is on two key complementary areas, namely the philosophy of religion and religious ethics. The areas are demanding and challenging and are certainly thought-provoking.

Course Content

Unit 1: AS Philosophy of Religion

This looks at ancient Greek influences on religious philosophy with a focus on Plato's Analogy of the Cave and the Form of Good; Aristotle's ideas about cause and purpose in relation to God; the concept of God as creator: 'creatio ex nihilo' and what we mean by the 'goodness of God'; A study of the classical arguments for the existence of God: ontological, cosmological, teleological, moral; the problem of evil and the theodicies of Augustine and Irenaeus; the relationship of Religion and Science; it also examines various challenges to religious belief.

Unit 2: AS Religious Ethics

The ethical theories of Kant, Mill, Bentham; Natural Law; Utilitarianism; Ethics through a study of a specific religion chosen by the candidate; absolute and relative morality; Ethical theory as applied to genetic engineering, abortion, euthanasia; the right to a child; war and peace.

Assessment

All units assessed by written examination.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including at least a Grade B in RE or in English.

Career Prospects

Religious studies at this level is a rigorous academic discipline and can be an appropriate foundation for almost any University degree course. It is most suitable for pursuing a career in personnel management, business, law, education, services industries and as an extra subject for a career in medicine.

Sociology (AS/A2)

Overview

Sociology is essentially an investigation into how society functions, in all its various parts. It seeks to answer questions such as why do we behave the way we do, or how can we explain the growth in street crime or why do certain groups do better in education than others? Sociology is about understanding society, how society shapes and affects our lives and how we in turn shape and affect society. It will question our assumptions about the world and force us to look at things in a very different way.

Course Content

Unit 1: Families and households

Unit 2: Education and sociological methods

Unit 3: Beliefs in Society (The Sociology of Religion)

Unit 4: Crime and deviance and sociological theory and methods

Assessment

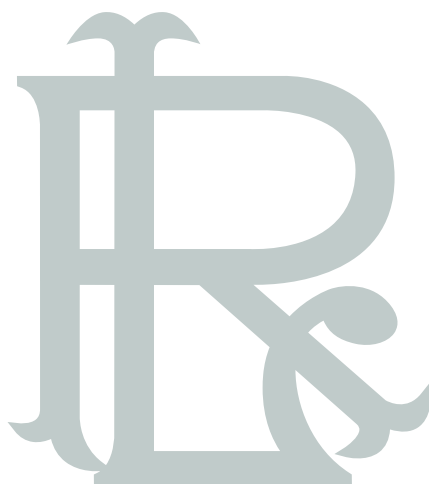
All units are assessed by written examination.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade C or above in English.

Career Prospects

Those considering a career in law, the civil service, social work, journalism, teaching, personnel management, health care, the media, police work and the world of business in general including marketing will find this course invaluable.





Spanish (AS/A2)

Overview

Learning Spanish and improving the skills that you already have in Spanish is a demanding yet rewarding pursuit. You will already have some aptitude for language study and you will have an interest in the Spanish or Latin American culture and way of life.

By the end of your chosen course you will have learnt to communicate effectively and with a considerable degree of accuracy in Spanish. European work experience will be encouraged as well as other frequent visits to the Spain.

Course Content

AS level Units

Unit 1: listening, reading and writing

Unit 2: speaking

Areas covered are food, diet and health; transport, travel and tourism; current affairs and media; relationships, family and youth concerns; social issues such as law and justice; leisure and the arts; education, training and employment.

A2 level Units

Unit 3: speaking

Unit 4: listening, reading and writing

AS areas are revisited and we also study energy, pollution and the environment; politics and citizenship; campaigning organizations and charities; the European Union; global issues as well as the history and a selection of the literature of the target language country.

Grammar plays an important part of both the AS and the A2.

Assessment

All Units are assessed by examination.

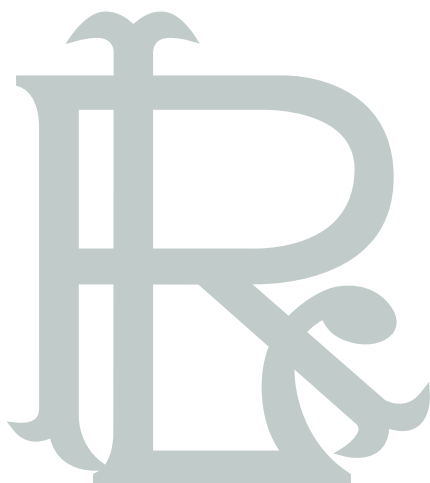
Students select their own topic and carry out extensive research for the speaking examination.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including a Grade B in your Spanish.

Career Prospects

A gateway to reading languages at University, studying a modern foreign language will be extremely valuable in a huge range of career paths, including teaching, banking, finance and service industries, leisure and tourism, journalism and law. Joint degrees are common: Spanish can be combined with any subject at degree level.



BTEC National Courses

Business (BTEC National)

Overview

A BTEC National Award is a practical, work-related course of A level standard.

Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

Students focus on a particular subject area and develop a range of specialist skills and knowledge.

It is the equivalent to one GCE A level or a Single Award VCE.

It helps students to enter employment or to progress to a more responsible job if already in employment. Learners may also use it, together with other qualifications, to progress to higher education.

Course Content

The course is made up of six units – four core units which everyone takes and two specialist units which explore topics in more depth.

The four core units are:

Exploring Business Activity

Investigating Business Resources

Introduction to marketing

Effective People, Communication and Information

Two further units are taken from a choice of 38 and include Exploring Creative Product Promotion and Investigating Recruitment and Selection.

Assessment

All units are internally assessed and graded, and an overall grade for the qualification is awarded. Grades awarded are Pass (E), Merit (C) or Distinction (A).

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including English and Mathematics at grade C or above.

Career Prospects

The course is suitable for any business-related career ranging from human resources to working in a competitive business environment.

ICT Practitioners (BTEC National)

Overview

A BTEC National Award is a practical, work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. The new BTEC National Award for IT Practitioners is the most up-to-date and focused IT qualification that is available today. It is very practical in nature and is taught by staff with many years of teaching experience. Students will find it both challenging and rewarding.

It is equivalent to one A level which means when you have finished the course you can use the Award alongside A levels and other BTEC National Awards to go into Higher Education before going into employment. Students who have completed BTEC courses report 'that the style of learning and assessment strategies were excellent preparation for what was expected of them at University'.

Course Content

The course is made up of six units – two core units and four specialised units

Core Units:

Communication and Employability skills for IT

Computer Systems

Specialist Units:

Information Systems

Advanced Database Skills

Advanced Spreadsheet skills

Website Production and management

Assessment

All units are assessed and graded and an overall grade for the qualification is awarded.

Course Requirements

The La Retraite course requirement for level 3 courses applies, including either a BTEC First Diploma in a related subject with an overall Distinction grade or a GCSE grade C in Maths and English.

Career Prospects

Advanced ICT skills are required in an ever-increasing number of careers including business, human resources, finance, teaching, computer programming, design, engineering, multimedia and science-based careers.



Higher Diplomas Level 2

The Higher Diploma is equivalent to 7 GCSEs at grades A*-C.

Principal Learning 50% Applied Learning (420 GLH)	Generic Learning Functional Skills: Eng, Maths, ICT (80 GLH) Extended Project (60 GLH) 10 days' work experience	Additional & Specialist Learning (180 GLH)
Personal Learning & Thinking Skills (60 GLH)		

For their Principal Learning, students can choose between two specialisms: Business Administration and Finance or Society Health and Development.

Business Administration and Finance Higher Diploma Level 2

This Diploma teaches young people about business, administration and finance and helps them to become more employable. The employer-endorsed content is up-to-date and relevant, reflecting the blend of business knowledge, practical skills, communication and team-working skills needed by someone who is thinking about a career in any business-related job.

Through completing the Principal Learning, learners will:

- have the chance to put a business idea into practice
- learn about marketing, sales and customer service
- improve their administrative and organisational skills
- learn how to manage their own finances
- practise applying for jobs and taking part in interviews
- develop their team working and communication skills.

Society Health and Development Diploma Level 2

The Diploma in Society, Health and Development teaches young people about the work, values, attributes and attitudes of the health, justice, children and young people and care sectors which care for and support individuals, families, groups, communities and society. It will also raise awareness amongst learners of the range of rewarding career opportunities that exist across the four sectors.

Through completing the Principal Learning, learners will:

- explore the four sectors and the principles and values on which they operate
- investigate the importance of team work and clear communication
- assess the factors involved in growth, development and healthy living
- develop an understanding of anti-social and offending behaviour
- learn about supporting the needs of individuals
- gain an awareness of the importance of personal and professional development in the work place.

Additional Learning Opportunities

Critical Thinking (AS only)

This course uses real life source material which has been designed to:

- develop skills and encourage attitudes which complement other studies across the curriculum
- prepare candidates for the academic and intellectual demands of higher education, as well as future employment and general living
- introduce concepts, terms and techniques that will enable candidates to reflect more constructively on their own and others' reasoning.

At AS, the specification is a general introduction to the subject of Critical Thinking. Students have opportunities to develop the skills of analysis and evaluation, and to present some of their own reasoning. Students are then assessed on their ability to make critical responses to information and its sources, and to draw reliable conclusions from it.

Unit 1: Foundation Unit (Written Paper)

- how to recognise reasoned argument and its contexts;
- how to interpret and evaluate reasoning;
- the identification of evidence, ambiguity and persuasive language within reasoning;
- how to recognise bad reasoning and counter it with cogent responses;
- the acquisition of basic vocabulary of associated with reasoning.

Unit 2: Information, Inference and Explanation (Written Paper)

- the various ways in which information or evidence can be presented;
- basic methods of numerical and statistical reasoning;
- patterns and correlations;
- plausible explanations;
- how to judge what can (and cannot) be safely inferred from information or evidence;
- how to use information and data to draw conclusions and construct reasoned arguments.

General Studies (AS only)

This course has been designed to:

- broaden students' post-16 education and complement other studies
- enable a deeper understanding of important contemporary issues
- provide useful preparation for higher education and life in general

At AS, the specification builds upon a base of knowledge acquired through studying a broad range of subjects at GCSE. Students discuss the nature of knowledge, truth and belief; analyse data; information, ideas, opinions and argument; examine questions, form values, make judgements and draw conclusions.

The AS specification has 2 units

Unit 1: Culture and Society (written paper)

- the similarities and differences between cultures, nature and use of language
- the role of artists and art in society, examples of art works and major artistic movements
- the role of religious and value systems, beliefs and values, tolerance and moral issues
- freedoms, rights and responsibilities
- evaluating the media and recognising bias
- the British political system and the role of the monarchy.

Unit 2: Science and Society (written paper)

- the origins of the universe, natural forces and sources and forms of energy
- human and social behaviour and approaches to social studies and policy
- commerce and industry and the impact of political and economic issues on science, society and the environment
- mathematics in science and society
- the impact and implications of new inventions
- moral dilemmas surrounding the work of scientists
- the impact and social, ethical and environmental implications of scientific discoveries and inventions
- research methods in science and social science.



Extended Project (AS)

The Extended Project Qualification is both a free-standing qualification, and is a compulsory part of the Diploma at Level 3 and the Baccalaureate.

It offers students a free project choice, so they can explore in depth

- an aspect of a subject they are studying, or
- a topic in which they have a personal interest.

The topic for the project is chosen by the student and agreed by the student's teacher, who then acts as his or her supervisor. The student has to show that they can

- plan
- deliver, and
- present

an extended piece of work at Level 3.

Students will:

- identify, design, plan and complete an individual project (or task within a group project), applying organisational skills and strategies to meet stated objectives
- obtain and select information from a range of sources, analyse data, apply relevantly and demonstrate understanding of any appropriate linkages, connections and complexities of the topic
- select and use a range of skills, including new technologies where appropriate, to solve problems, to take decisions critically, creatively and flexibly, and to achieve planned outcomes
- evaluate outcomes including own learning and performance and select and use a range of communication skills and media to convey and present evidenced outcomes and conclusions.

Students work under the supervision of a teacher who guides them through their research.

The independent study skills developed by students are highly valued by Higher Education institutions and efficiently prepare students for university study.

RE

All students in the Sixth Form follow a course in RE for one period per week, which is assessed and accredited by QCA and recognised by the Diocese.

Enrichment: CAS

Asdan Universities Award

Asdan Certificate of Personal Effectiveness
Enrichment Diary

All students in the sixth form spend Wednesday afternoons in CAS: Creativity, Activity, Service. These opportunities are monitored by staff who support the students in completing 100+ hours of enrichment.

The Enrichment Diary, in use from January 2009, is a web-based application designed for students and teachers to help record evidence for the Enrichment element of their Sixth Form studies.

Students record electronic evidence to demonstrate their 100+ hours of activities during the study period. Teachers monitor their students as they record their enrichment evidence.

Students can record evidence using a mixture of media types including graphics, sound and streaming video.

Students compile evidence of involvement in the three core areas: work-related learning, community participation and personal development.

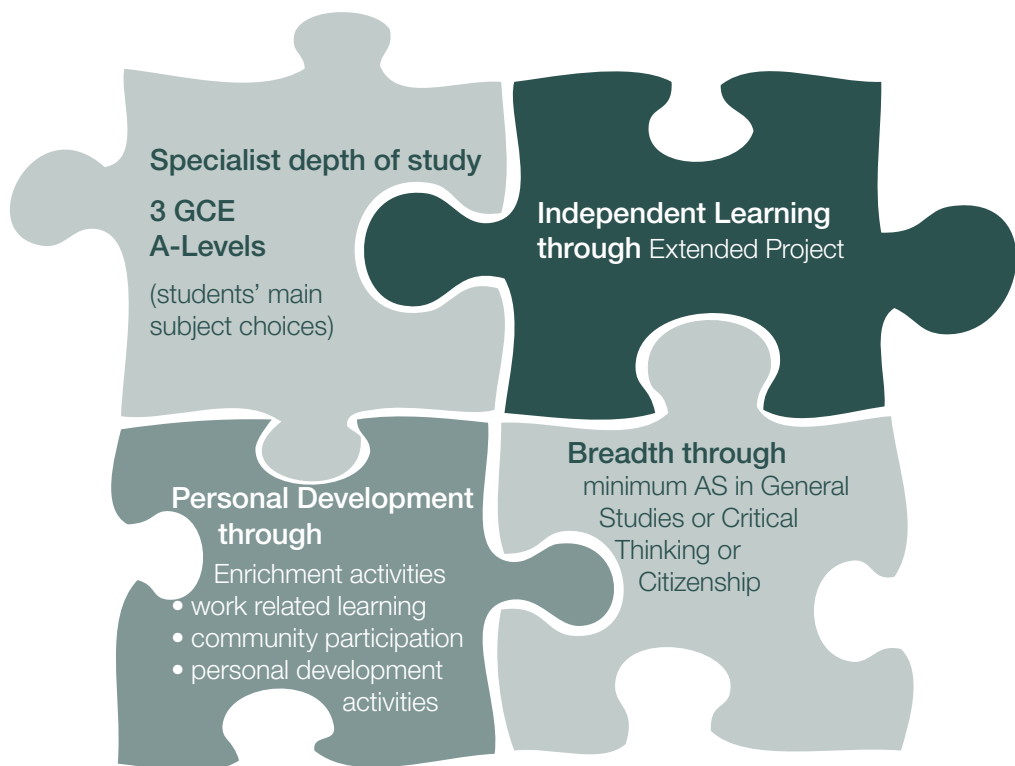
By the end of Year 12, students are awarded the Asdan Universities Award. In Year 13, they have the opportunity to take up the next certificated stage of enrichment: the Asdan Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE).

Examples of enrichment activities on offer at La Retraite include:

Debating Society, Work experience, Cooking and fundraising, Ecology Group, Community support, Self-defence classes, First Aid course, Film Club, Team Sports, Web design, Driving lessons, Keeping fit.

AQA Baccalaureate

This qualification prepares Gifted and Talented students for the demands of Higher Education at the highest level. Students who complete three A levels in any three subjects, an extended project, an AS in critical thinking or general studies and their enrichment activities (through CAS) obtain the Baccalaureate Qualification.



Students face ever-increasing challenges in highly competitive environments for opportunities in employment and higher education. To be successful, they must develop and demonstrate self-management, independence, communication and initiative alongside their academic ability. The AQA Bacc effectively strengthens and illustrates these skills. Students build on core A-level subjects, adding value through wider learning and enrichment activities.

'Reaching for the stars' – enriching students' education and prospects

The achievement of an AQA Bacc is a demonstration that a student has gained a fuller, more rounded education with greatly enhanced personal qualities and skills. 'Enrichment' means students have extended their education and personal growth beyond their A-Level studies. It

demonstrates that they have developed their skills and individual potential to take their places as successful members of society. Employers and Higher Education centres are increasingly looking for students who can demonstrate that they are resourceful, imaginative and, using their own initiative, can work both independently and with others.

La Retraite

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