



THE BRITISH SCHOOL
OF TASHKENT
A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL

AS/A LEVEL OPTIONS 2024/2025



**It matters not how straight the gate,
how charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.**
William Ernest Henley, Invictus, 1875

Contents

Welcome from Head of Secondary
Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form
Sixth Form Curriculum
Entry Requirements
Transition from Year 12 to Year 13
Choosing the right A level subjects for popular degree courses
Key considerations when choosing your A level subjects
Subject Descriptors
Independent Study
Changing Subjects
Attendance
Uniform
Academic and Pastoral Support
UCAS and Careers Advice
How to Apply
Useful Websites

Welcome from Head of Secondary



Dear Year 11 students and parents,

Welcome to the British School of Tashkent AS and A Level Options Handbook. The transition from Year 11 into the Sixth Form is one that is incredibly important for your academic future and one that can have a profound bearing on the rest of your academic life. We will be here to support you through the entire process, to ensure that you feel well informed and can make educated decisions about the subjects you wish to pursue in Year 12 and possibly, Year 13.

At BST, we ensure that each student is given the best possible information and support with which to help make the best choices for now, and for the future. The fact that we know our students so well means that we are well-positioned to counsel each student effectively through this process. The BST AS and A Level Options process is designed to promote positive choices and confidence-building decision-making for our students in line with our school values.

During any transition period, students require support and guidance to ensure they make good choices for their future and for their wellbeing. It is essential that the life they plan for themselves has balance, in terms of academic pursuits as well as other extracurricular activities.

This handbook contains a wealth of information about A Levels, universities and the courses that can support a strong application, as well as an outline of the support available in our school for all students as they take this important next step in their education. This, however, should be just the starting point, and we encourage conversations with our Teachers, Heads of Department and Mr. Frederik and Mr. Jacques, as well as Ms. Kari and myself - we would be delighted to meet with you to discuss the process and answer any questions that you may have about this very important stage of your child's education.

We are confident that our A Level students will thrive and succeed at BST, in our happy, supportive, friendly community.

Chris Parfitt
Head of Secondary

Welcome from the Head of Sixth Form



Attending Sixth Form at The British School of Tashkent will be the most satisfying period, intellectually and socially, of your school career. It will bridge the gap between the period of compulsory education and taking one's place in the adult world.

This is an exciting time, what you are about to do is lay the foundation to the further education, university placement or career that you are planning for yourself. It is vital to recognise that decisions you make now about how you work and study will have an enormous impact on the opportunities available to you in higher education and employment. Over the course of the next two years, you will study hard in the subjects that you have chosen because they inspire you and you are passionate about them.

Academically, the emphasis is firmly on independent learning. The first thing you will notice about academic life in the Sixth Form is that your relationship with your teachers change. The learning process becomes much more of a partnership between yourself and teachers as you explore more detailed subject content than you have encountered before. The amount you are expected to cover, in lessons and in free time, is greater than you thought possible for a student. At the same time, you can look forward to greater freedom and privileges. As a small Sixth Form, we aim to retain a genuine sense of community and for teaching staff to offer focused individual support. Our dedicated and experienced team offers a huge amount of advice that will guide you through your A level studies.

While we take academic achievement seriously, we also consider educating the whole person to be vitally important. We aim to equip our students with the values, attitudes, skills and knowledge that bring success in future employment, study and life. Life in the Sixth Form is very different from year 11; students will be more involved with the school community, help run the Sixth Form and many other aspects of the school. Students need to be prepared to meet academic challenges, but also utilise the greater freedom that will be given in an industrious and worthwhile manner. This offers the opportunity to take advantage of growing into the sort of young people that universities and employers desire: those with the organisational and social skills to enrich their environment, and to emerge with the confidence and ability to hold and present themselves wherever they go.

Yes, there will be high expectations, but you will leave BST believing that everything you strive for is possible. You will explore exciting and extensive opportunities, be encouraged to be inquisitive and to innovate, to face challenge, take responsibility and show leadership. Be aspirational and inspire others to aspire to the very best you and they can be. Work hard, play hard and achieve your personal best!

Jacques Krige
Head of Sixth Form

Sixth form Curriculum

The majority of students will take 4 A level subjects in Year 12 and Year 13. Some students may wish to do more or less following discussion with their teachers.

Choosing your A level subjects is an important decision which needs careful thought. As a general guide, we recommend you consider the following:

- **Ability**
Are you good at the subject? Have you spoken with your subject teacher or looked at the course outline in detail? Are you prepared to work hard to ensure your success?
- **Suitability**
Is an A Level in this subject going to provide you with the necessary qualifications to follow your chosen course in higher education or pursue your chosen career?
- **Enjoyment**
Are you genuinely interested in the subject? Does your interest extend beyond the classroom?

Many courses that students wish to study at University are based upon the knowledge and skills the students have learnt at Key Stage Four and Five. For this reason, some A-level subjects are more frequently required for entry to degree courses than others. These are called facilitating subjects.

Facilitating subjects open up a wide range of options for study at university and are highly regarded by the Russell Group Universities.

The facilitating subjects are:

Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, English, Geography, History, Physics, Modern and Classical Languages.

We highly recommend students who are considering Russell Group Universities to study at least two facilitating subjects, where relevant, to keep a wide range of degree courses open.

Subjects offered

Fine Art	Physics	Russian	History	
Biology	Chemistry	Mathematics	Geography	Drama
Business Studies	English Language	Computer Science	French	Travel and Tourism

Entry Requirements

The Sixth Form curriculum at The British School of Tashkent has been designed to ensure successful future pathways for students of all ability ranges. Depending on students' IGCSE results, we will discuss a personalised journey towards higher education.

Three A-levels will give students access to most universities and courses around the globe. The demands of A-level studies are much more demanding than IGCSE courses, as such we require students to meet the following criteria to access three or four A-Levels courses of their choice.

Students will need: 5 x A*-C /9 to 4 (Including Mathematics and English IGCSE, grade C/4 or above)

In all subjects a minimum of a grade B/6 at IGCSE is required to study the subject at A level.

Students who gain 5 x A*-C/9 to 4 including Mathematics and English IGCSE, but no B grades will be offered a reduced selection of courses at AS and a Russian A-Level. This option will only be for Year 12 and will not continue into Year 13. This will allow students to apply for foundation courses after completing Year 12.

Students who do not gain 5 x A*-C/9 to 4 including Mathematics and English IGCSE, will have to retake IGCSE courses with Year 11.

Please note that there are limited seats available in our IGCSE classes for Academic Year 2024-25.

Exam Entry Requirements

External examinations take place in January and in May/June. Entry for examinations are subject to students demonstrating the skills, dedication and attendance required to gain a grade in the external examination.

Please note the following.



- Students will not be entered for examinations if we do not have convincing evidence that they will be awarded a grade.
- The school will bear the cost for four subjects at AS level and three subjects at A-level. Students wishing to do more subject will have to pay for the extra subject's examination cost, to be paid before the entry deadline from the exam board.
- Students wanting to re-sit an examination will be accountable for the fees, to be paid before the entry date from the exam board.
- The school will not enter students for examinations in subjects we do not offer at school.

Transition from Year 12 to Year 13

Transition from Year 12 to Year 13 courses will not be automatic as the courses are structured to allow decisions to be made at the end of Year 12. Students enter Year 13 courses following their end of Year 12 external examinations and progression to Year 13 will be assessed by the academic team should they achieve E/U grades.

Academic concerns are usually picked up long before this time, following on-going student assessment in Year 12. Should a student not be permitted to continue with a particular course in Year 13, consultations will be held with the student and their parents, and an alternative course will be offered where appropriate and available. The Head of Sixth Form will inform parents of any concerns due to academic performance.

Core skill development

We believe it is important to develop a sense of leadership, community and social awareness in our students. All students in the Sixth Form can commit to leadership and community activities in school. Students can run clubs, support in lessons, or involve themselves in the school community many different ways.

BST will give you a competitive edge by developing key skills valued by employers over the course of your stay in the Sixth Form.

Our programme is aimed at developing the following key skills that employers and university are looking for in their applicants.

Effective leadership and management

Teamwork and interpersonal skills

Planning and research skills

Good communication

Self-management

Resilience



Student Leadership Team: Head Boy/Girl & Deputies

This team is chosen from the student body and takes on a number of leadership roles, including public speaking and representing the views of students from the student council to the Senior Leadership team.

Senior Prefects

Senior Prefects have additional Leadership roles, for example, representing the School at Open Evenings and helping to organise other school and community events.

Model United Nations (MUN)

Run and plan the schools own MUN conferences in order to develop debating and organisational skills.

Senior House Captains

Students are expected to organise and enthuse students in a wide range of sporting, artistic, community and charity events. Senior House Captains support House Leaders in the promotion of the house system throughout the school.

Transition Leaders

Transition leaders support Year 7 tutors in helping students integrate into secondary school life. (in and out of class support)

Paired Reading

Sixth Form students organise and run KS3/KS2 students with the paired reading programme. Volunteers are paired up with a Year 5, 6, 7 or 8 student and help them throughout the year.

Departmental Support

Work with a Department in school, assisting with record keeping, photocopying, displays and in class student support.

Nursery and Foundation Years in class support Work with our younger students in Early Years and Foundation Stage, assisting with in class support.

Peer Mentors

All Peer Mentors receive training in counselling techniques for helping younger students. The Peer Mentors also run a Quiet Room every lunchtime for Year 7 and Year 8 students, and a drop-in service for other year groups. There is also the opportunity for Sixth Form students to act as Academic mentors for younger students struggling to cope with the academic demands of the school.

The Student Council

The Student Council is a group of Committees who represent the views of students across the school. They organise several extra-curricular events throughout the year. It provides a valuable voice in the decision-making process of the school. Committees run on a regular basis, where students can develop a variety of skills that are necessary for applications to universities and further education. Leading in the student council requires dedication, strong communication and leadership skills. Committees are as follows:

Welfare Committee who is responsible for gathering and publishing information and news from within the Sixth Form and the wider school.

The Social Impact Committee who run social events for the Sixth Form and lower school and are also involved with organising the year 13 graduation.

The House Committee who plans and execute House activities.

School Council who leads all representatives from Reception to Year 13.

The Sports Council who develops a healthy lifestyle and activities to support it across the school.

Graduation Committee who plans and execute the final year preparations for school.

Choosing the right A level subjects for popular degree courses

This section describes the A Level subjects which are essential for various popular degree courses, and those which would be directly useful. It is essential that you do your research now to avoid disappointment when you start your applications to universities.

- Chemistry A level is essential or very useful for: Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Biology (and Biology related subjects).
- To study Medicine: Chemistry and Biology are essential, plus 2 other A Levels, one of which should be a science. Physics is not always essential, but it can be useful.
- For a Business Studies degree: No essential A Level subjects, though Maths is useful, and you will need a good Maths result at GCSE. Business Studies is helpful but not essential for your application.
- Law degrees: No essential subjects, though they like you to have subjects which show logical ability and the ability to write such as History. A mixture of Arts and Science subjects would be a good combination.
- Psychology: No essential subjects (a mix of Arts and Science subjects is good.) You will need a high grade in IGCSE Maths.
- Computing: No essential subjects for most courses although Maths and Physics are highly advised. Maths A Level is essential for a few universities and useful for all.
- Engineering: Maths and Physics are generally essential (though you can apply without them, but will have to opt for a foundation year in the first year at university). Chemistry is essential for most Chemical Engineering degrees.
- Most other degree courses either have no essential A Level subjects, or just require an A Level in the subject concerned, plus any two others.

If you know what you wish to study at university and want to know what subjects you will need to have studied in preparation, you will find detailed information on each university's entry requirements on the UCAS website www.ucas.com. You can also find out more from the HEAP Online website www.heaponline.co.uk.

Another good source of information is the Informed Choices booklet produced by the Russell Group www.russellgroup.ac.uk.



Key considerations when choosing your A level subjects

Subject strengths

You may be passionate about history but, if you have difficulty stringing sentences together, history may not love you. Unsure? Ask teachers (and those who know you well) for an honest assessment.

What you enjoy

You'll typically have twice as many lessons for an A Level as a IGCSE. If you have a bent for physics but an aversion to lab work, oscillations leave you in a spin and mechanics fail to move you, you may be better considering alternatives rather than alternators. When it comes to endurance, enjoyment can be the redeeming feature.

Keep your options open

You may be focused on studying Business at age 16, but after two years of charts, diagrams, and increasingly complex mathematical operations, may wish to confine Business to the history books and opt for anything but. Will your subject combination count?

Take subjects that are of value

Consult the list of facilitating subjects produced by the Russell Group. As a rule of thumb, leading universities strongly recommend that students should take at least two of the facilitating subjects (such as Maths, English, Physics and History) or other 'hard subjects.' Not all hard subjects are facilitating, but more challenging subjects will also be welcomed by top universities, though not for all courses - so always check course requirements. Art may not appear on the facilitating list, but you will struggle to get a place on an Art degree course without evidence of previous study at a higher level.

Read the small print

If your heart is set on a particular career or university course, find out any course requirements before you choose your subjects. A course may not only request the specific grades e.g. AAB but specify the subjects too. Often the grades will be attached to subjects e.g. minimum of: Maths A, Physics A, Chemistry B, so getting the right grades in the right subjects is key.

Not all A Level studies are equal

A Levels are the most popular advanced level qualification. Check the suitability of the subjects you are studying (and the combination) for subjects which interest you.

Check for additional requirements

Not studying Biology will severely limit the choice of medical schools available to those wishing to pursue a career as a doctor. Most Business degree courses require either A Level Maths or top grades at IGCSE.



Subject Descriptors

The following pages are dedicated to introducing you to the courses on offer next year.

Whilst every effort will be made to meet students' choices, it may not be possible to provide for every combination requested by students. We reserve the right to not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it, or where resources are not available. If these scenarios occur, students will be told as soon as possible after the options deadline and offered appropriate alternative options and advice.

Fine ART

Why Study Art?

Art is all around us from the clothes we wear and the buildings we live in, the apps on our phones and virtual reality used in medicine, as well as games and entertainment.

Producing art not only involves technical skill but requires understanding of how to carry out research, explore and develop ideas, evaluate your work and take projects further. Observing and analysing the world around you is also critical and the response you make through your art can communicate ideas and change beliefs.

What skills will I gain from Art?

Transferable skills offered by the course, beyond becoming a better, more knowledgeable skilled artist, include:

Non-routine problem-solving Critical thinking

ICT literacy Communication Relationship-building skills Adaptability

Self-management and self-development

Students might progress to higher education. Courses might include: A Foundation course in Art and Design, A Degree in an Art related subject.

Possible Career Paths

Having a creative subject on your CV is highly valued. It shows that you have pursued a two-year intensive course. There may be opportunities to work, for example, in Graphics companies, Retail, Interior Design, Fashion Design and Illustration, Photography, Theatre Costume, Advertising, Web Design, Package Design, Fine Art and Teaching.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world. For the purposes of this qualification, fine art is subdivided into the following five disciplines: painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture (including textiles) and lens-based art. Students will be required to work in two or more of these disciplines to communicate their ideas and will be expected to work independently for much of the time.

Component 1 Personal Investigation - is internally set and assessed, and externally moderated. This component is weighted 60% of the total qualification and is made up of three main elements:

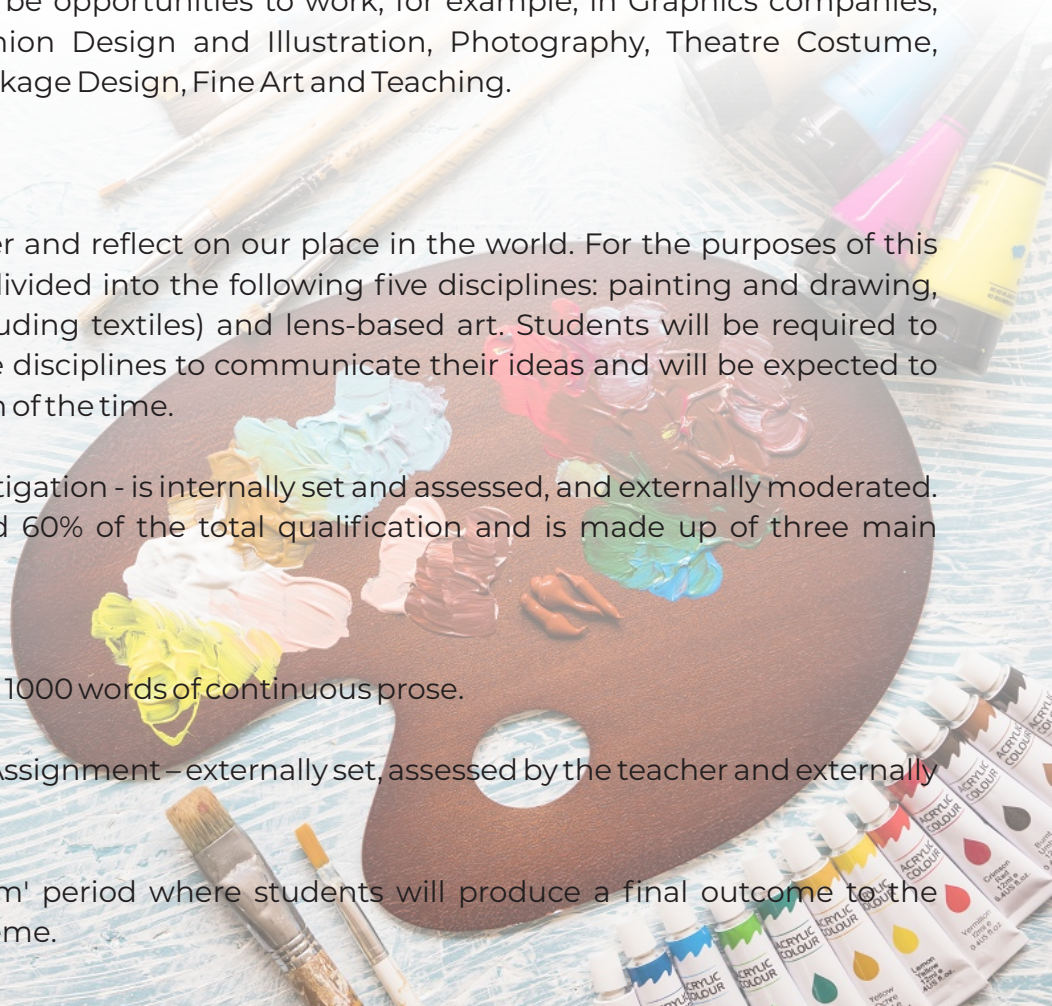
Supporting studies

Practical work

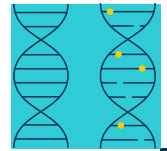
Personal study of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose.

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment – externally set, assessed by the teacher and externally moderated.

There will be a 15 hour 'exam' period where students will produce a final outcome to the externally set assignment theme.



Biology



Why Study Biology?

Biology is the study of life. Plant life, animal life and how they interact. By choosing A Level Biology, you're opening the door to the science which makes all the other subjects come alive! The A Level Biology course will build upon everything that you have studied in IGCSE, and then continue to develop your understanding of how living organisms function at the cellular level, and within whole ecosystems. The course contains an equal balance of human and plant biology.

What skills will I gain from Studying Biology?

Biology helps you to build up your research, problem-solving, organisational and analytical skills. It's an ideal course if you plan to study other science-based subjects at university. Biology acts as a great compliment to humanities-based subjects, linking in with the impacts on human health and how humans interact and impact upon our environment.

Possible Career Paths.

A Level Biology is a course which lends itself to a wide range of career paths. The obvious ones include those in the medical industries (Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Psychiatry, Pharmacology) where students will inevitably be studying at least one other science at A Level.

However, the broad scope of the curriculum and the skills which are developed throughout, means that it is a useful course for people pursuing a wide range of career paths.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Unit 1:
Molecules, Diet,
Transport and Health

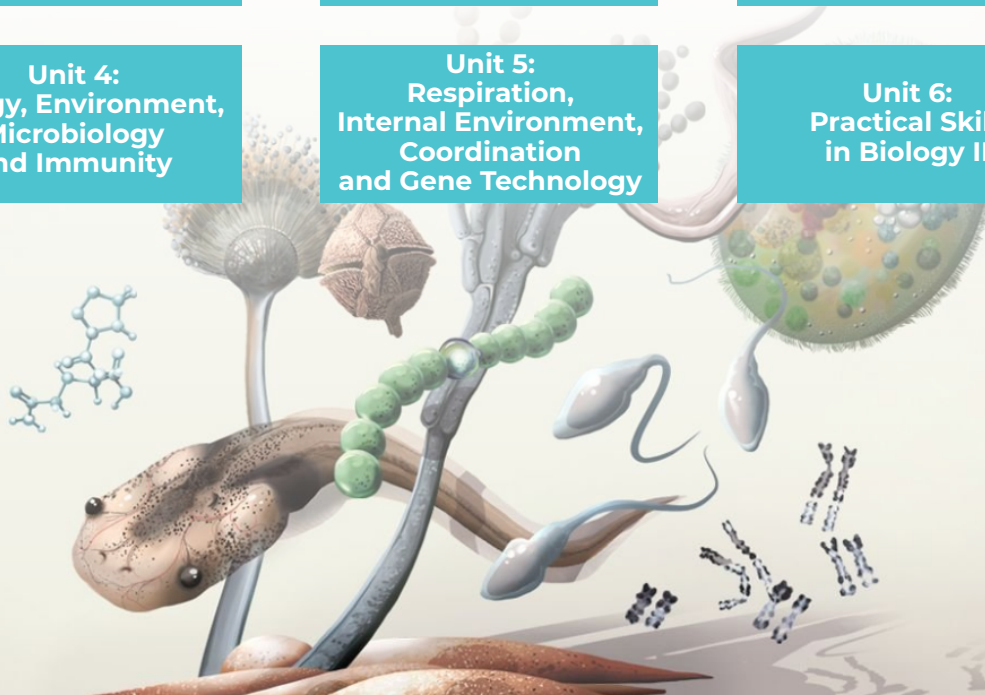
Unit 2:
Cells, Development,
Biodiversity
and Conservation

Unit 3:
Practical Skills
in Biology I

Unit 4:
Energy, Environment,
Microbiology
and Immunity

Unit 5:
Respiration,
Internal Environment,
Coordination
and Gene Technology

Unit 6:
Practical Skills
in Biology II



Business Studies

Why Study Business Studies? Business Subjects have become immensely popular today and attract students with all varieties of backgrounds and aims. A very large proportion of students go on to universities and colleges to study business subjects and related degree courses - by far the biggest single subject area within higher education. Advanced Level enables students to develop a strong foundation for further management studies and enable them to seek various career prospects. These include Master of Business Administration, Professional Law Degrees, Public Administration, Chartered Accountants.

What skills will I gain from Studying Business Studies?

Business Studies A Level will give you a thorough grounding in the skills required for today's rapidly changing business world. Employers are always keen to employ individuals with a good understanding of business and this course will provide you with exactly that. You'll gain skills in all aspects of running a business and we even cover the skills required to start your own.

Students will develop a broad understanding of the range of activities businesses undertake to compete and be successful in the local, national, and global economy. In addition, students will learn to analyse various business scenarios, identify the key issues facing different business and make recommendations as to what approach the business should take to achieve its objectives.

Possible Career Paths

Direct applications of the subject are in degrees offered by university business schools, through management-related courses in specialist areas such as marketing, finance or retailing. The discipline also fits well with social sciences and Politics. It is an ideal basis for a career in business as an entrepreneur or in a senior corporate role. It is also an excellent means of gaining a better understanding of current affairs.

Exam Board: Cambridge International Course Summary

Paper 1 (AS / A):

Short answer and essay

Course Overview
Business and its environment
Human resource management
Marketing
Operations management
Finance and accounting

Paper 2 (AS / A):

Data response
Course Overview:
Same as above

Paper 3 (A):

Case Study Course Overview:
Same as above, plus
Strategic Management

Paper 4 (A):

Case Study Course Overview:
Same as above



Chemistry

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is an incredibly fascinating field of study. Because it is so fundamental to our world, chemistry plays a role in everyone's lives and touches almost every aspect of our existence in some way. Chemical technologies enrich our quality of life in numerous ways by providing new solutions to problems in health, materials, and energy usage. Thus, studying chemistry is useful in preparing us for the real world.

Chemistry is often referred to as the central science because it joins together physics and mathematics, biology, as well as the earth and environmental sciences. Knowing something about chemistry is worthwhile because it provides an excellent basis for understanding the physical universe we live in. For better or for worse, everything is chemical.

What skills will I gain from Studying Chemistry?

This, incredibly practical based course (40% of the assessment is based on your understanding of the practical nature of chemistry) provides an excellent basis on which to build at university level.

In addition, the logistic, organisational and analytical skills required to succeed in A Level chemistry will be valued in any field of study.

Possible Career Paths.

A Level Chemistry lends itself directly to many career choices.

Chemical Engineering
Laboratory Management
Chemical Health & Safety
Toxicology
Forensic Science
Medicine
Environmental Health
Dentistry
Pharmacology



Exam Board: Edexcel Course Summary

Unit 1:
Structure, Bonding
and Introduction
to Organic Chemistry

Unit 2:
Energetics,
Group Chemistry,
Halogenoalkanes
and Alcohols

Unit 3:
Practical Skills
in Chemistry I

Unit 4:
Rates, Equilibria
and Further
Organic Chemistry

Unit 5:
Transition Metals
and Organic
Nitrogen Chemistry

Unit 6:
Practical Skills
in Chemistry II

Drama

Why Study Drama?

Studying Drama allows pupils to develop a different skill set which will make them stand out from a wide range of future employers. Studying Drama will allow pupils to develop a variety of skills suitable for multiple professions.

Pupils who study Drama will develop their presentation skills which are needed in various fields of employment. These skills include; confidence, self- presentation, teamwork and collaboration, ability to express various different ideas and being able to learn from feedback.

What skills will I gain from Studying Drama?

By studying Drama at A Level pupil will gain:

The ability to recognise and understand the relationship between performer, designer and director.

The understanding that texts and extracts studied may represent a range of social, historical and cultural contexts.

The ability to analyse and evaluate their work and the work of others.

The ability to understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed.

Possible Career Paths

Drama - Actor, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama Therapist, TV Production.

Other Careers - Teaching (Primary and Secondary), Business, Sales, Law, Journalism and any career involving public speaking.

Exam Board: Cambridge

Course Summary

Component 1 Written exam

2 hours 60 marks

Candidates answer two questions:
one question from Section A and one question from Section B.
Open-book exam
Externally assessed
50% of the AS Level
25% of the A Level

Component 2 Practical drama

Coursework 60 marks

There are two compulsory parts: devising and performing.
Candidates work in a group to devise and perform a play based on the stimulus prescribed in the syllabus.
There are two parts to the devising coursework:
-10-15 minute devised piece
-3 minute self-evaluation
Candidates work in a group to prepare and perform an extract from a published play of their own choice.
There is one part to the performing coursework:
- 10-25 minute scripted performance
Internally assessed and externally moderated
50% of the AS Level
25% of the A Level

Component 3 Theatre-making and performing

Coursework 60 marks

There are two compulsory parts: devising and performing.
Candidates work in a group to devise and perform a play inspired by one of the theatre practitioners, traditions or styles prescribed in the syllabus.
There two parts to the devising coursework:
-15-20 minute group devised performance
-800 word analysis and evaluation
Candidates individually create a programme of thematically linked materials and perform it.
There is one part to the performing coursework:
- 6-8 minute individual performance
Internally assessed and externally moderated
25% of A Level

Component 4 Theatre in context

Coursework 60 marks

Candidates explore performance texts, a theatre genre, a theatre practitioner's work or a performance style.
There is one part to the research coursework:
2500—3000 word research essay
Externally assessed
25% of the A Level

English Language

Why Study English Language? English Language is the gateway to studying many other subjects and to success in universities in many parts of the world. Advanced English training can not only prepare you for studying English at degree level but can also equip you to produce academic writing of the highest quality. It will also allow you to communicate highly effectively in the world of work and business in the future.

Prerequisite: Any student opting for this course must have completed IGCSE First Language English. Students who pass their IGCSE English as a 2nd Language can opt for the English General Paper, which is offered at AS only.

What skills will I gain from Studying English Language?

By studying English Language at A Level, you will develop your reading and writing skills. You will also analyse, discuss and produce your own texts. You will study how language develops and how it is used now. You will have the opportunity to study independently and to hone your communication skills.



Possible Career Paths

The A Level English Language course encourages students to think critically and analytically. It also encourages them to think beyond the obvious and to look at the impact of communication and language.

It is a good choice for students considering any career involving effective spoken and written communication. Good communication skills are essential in every career.

A Level English Language is a good choice for students considering higher education in English based courses including the History, Geography, Theology, Business, Management, Languages and Psychology as well as vocational degrees and Arts subjects. Career opportunities for students who study A Level English Language include: Business, Media, Journalism, Law, Education and any career where good communication is paramount.

Examination Board: Cambridge Course Summary

Paper 1: Passages

Texts will be drawn from a range of English language sources such as advertisements, brochures, leaflets, editorials, news stories, articles, reviews, blogs, investigative journalism, letters, podcasts, (auto) biographies, diaries, essays, scripted speech (e.g. a speech by a politician) and narrative/descriptive writing.

Paper 2: Imaginative Writing

Questions require a narrative or descriptive piece of continuous writing of 600–900 words (or two shorter linked pieces of 300–450 words).

Paper 3: Language Analysis

Section A: Language Change
Section B: Child Language acquisition.

Paper 4: Language Topics

Section A: English in the world
Section B: Language and the self.

Geography

Why Study Geography?

So many of the world's current issues, at a global scale and locally, involve geography, and they need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. They include climate change, food and energy security, the degradation of land and soils from over-use and misuse, the spread of disease, the causes and consequences of migration, and the impacts of economic change on places and communities.

How will studying Geography help me in my future career?

According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data.

Possible Career Paths

Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: tourism, town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, travel writing, weather forecasting and of course teaching. The army, police, government and research organisations, together with the law and business world also love the practical research and communication skills that geographers develop.

As geographers learn about development issues, geography can be useful for jobs in charities and international relations too.

Exam Board: Cambridge International

Course Summary

Paper 1:

- Core Physical Geography
1. Hydrology and fluvial geomorphology
 2. Atmosphere and weather
 3. Rocks and weathering

Paper 2:

- Core Human Geography
1. Population
 2. Migration
 3. Settlement dynamics

Paper 3:

- Advanced Physical Geography options
1. Tropical environments
 2. Coastal environments
 3. Hazardous environments
 4. Hot arid and semi-arid environments

Paper 4:

- Advanced Human Geography options
1. Production, location and change
 2. Environmental management
 3. Global interdependence
 4. Economic transition



History

Why Study History?

Cambridge International AS and A Level History is a covers modern history, starting with the impact of imperial expansion at the end of the nineteenth century and going into depth into international relations throughout the twentieth century. At AS level students will also study a unit on the development and politics of East Asia in the first half of the twentieth century. At A level, as well as the Depth Study, students will learn to interrogate different schools of thought and interpretations of historians.

The course will appeal to those with an enthusiasm for the study of the past, especially in an international context. It is recommended that learners who are beginning this course should have previously completed a Cambridge IGCSE in History or the equivalent.

What skills will I gain from Studying History?

The syllabus builds upon skills gained at Cambridge IGCSE and develops lifelong skills including understanding issues and themes within a historical period. The emphasis is on both historical knowledge and on the skills required for historical research. Considering events from different perspectives is necessary throughout all assessment in History. Learners develop an understanding of cause and effect, continuity and change, similarity and difference, and the use of historical evidence as part of their studies.

Possible Career Paths

It is suitable for students intending to pursue careers or further study in Arts, Humanities and Social Science related areas, such as Law, or as part of a course of general education. Career paths can also include Journalism, International Relations, Local and National Government, Archaeologist, Historian and Archivist.

Exam Board: Cambridge International Course Summary

Component 1: Document question (source-based)

The Search for International
Peace and Security, 1919–1945

Component 2: Outline study International Relations, 1871–1945

Component 3: Historical Interpretations (source-based) Origins of the Cold War

Component 4: Depth study International History, 1945–1991



Computer Science

Why Study Computer Science?

“Everyone should learn how to code; it teaches you how to think.” - STEVE JOBS.

“Computers are going to be a big part of our future...and that future is yours to shape.” - BARACK OBAMA

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science as well.

What skills will I gain from Studying Computer Science?

The aim of the Cambridge International AS and A Level Computer Science syllabus is to encourage learners to develop an understanding of the fundamental principles of computer science and how computer programs work in a range of contexts.

Learners will study topics including information representation, communication and Internet technologies, hardware, software development, and relational database modelling. As they progress, learners will develop their computational thinking and use problem solving to develop computer-based solutions using algorithms and programming languages.

Studying Cambridge International AS and A Level Computer Science will help learners develop a range of skills such as thinking creatively, analytically, logically and critically.

They will also be able to appreciate the ethical issues that arise with current and emerging computing technologies.

Exam Board: Cambridge International AS & A Level Computer Science (9618) Course Summary

AS Level paper 1 and 2 content overview

Paper 1: Theory

Information representation
Communication Hardware
Processor Fundamentals
System Software Security,
privacy and data integrity
Ethics and Ownership
Databases

Paper 2: Practical

Algorithm Design
and Problem-Solving
Data Types and structures
Programming
Software Development

A Level paper 3 and 4 content overview

Paper 3: Advanced Theory

Data Representation
Communication and internet
technologies Hardware and
Virtual Machines System Software
Security Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Computational thinking and
problem-solving Further
Programming

Paper 4: Practical

Computational thinking and
problem-solving
Further Programming



Mathematics

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a powerful tool with many applications. Advanced mathematical training can lead to many career opportunities, including business, finance, medicine, engineering and basic sciences. At the same time, Mathematics is a self-contained subject that is worth studying simply for its elegance. While challenging at times, the study of Mathematics can bring a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Mathematics is an ideal subject for people who enjoy abstract thinking. Students can only embark on Mathematics A-level with a minimum grade B therefore any students who have sat Core IGCSE will be unable to select this as an option.

What skills will I gain from Studying Mathematics?

By studying Maths at A Level, you'll develop a number of skills, including: Problem-solving, Analytical Skills, Research Skills and Logic.

Maths allows you to hone your ability to solve mathematical problems as well as abstract and scientific ones too.

You'll also learn how to analyse patterns, structures, and problems, which will in turn, help you to develop a critical eye. Maths at A Level will leave you with research skills that will allow you to find solutions to problems, investigate theories, giving you the ability to find new information more effectively. Finally, your logical abilities will be developed so that you will have the tools needed to tackle several diverse areas, from managing your finances to planning projects.

Possible Career Paths

Throughout the AS and A Level Maths, students are encouraged to think logically and analytically. These fundamental mathematical skills are useful across all kinds of disciplines and careers.

A Level Mathematics is a good choice for students considering higher education in any science or mathematic-based course. Career opportunities for students who study A Level Maths include: Business, Accountancy, Finance, Economics, Healthcare, Medicine, Veterinary Science and Engineering.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

Students are encouraged and expected to take responsibility for their own learning and mathematical development. They will use their knowledge and skills to apply mathematics to real-life situations, solve unstructured problems and use mathematics as an effective means of communication.

Pure Mathematics

Surds and indices
Quadratics
Coordinate geometry
Inequalities
Functions and graphs
Binomial and remainder theorems
Differentiation and some of their applications
Integration, and some of their applications
Sequences

Statistics

Measures of location and spread
Probability
Correlation and regression
Discrete random variables
Normal distribution

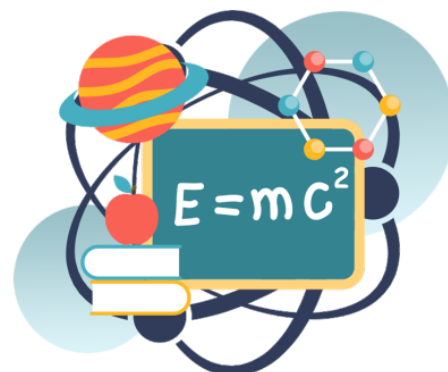


Physics

Why Study Physics?

Physics is the only subject that encompasses the study of the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest subatomic particles. Physics has its origins in the irrepressible human desire to explore and understand the natural world. It explores questions like how did the universe start? How will it end? What is a black hole? Is time travel possible? If you have an enquiring mind and are always asking why things happen, then Physics will help you find the answers. It forms the basis of most modern technologies and holds the future to global well-being.

Prerequisite: Any student opting to do Physics at A-level must also do A-level Mathematics.



What skills will I gain from studying Physics?

Physics helps you to develop research, problem solving and analytical skills. It helps to challenge ideas and demonstrate methodology through logic and step-by-step reasoning. Physics often requires teamwork and communication skills too, which is a key requirement for project management.

Possible career paths.

A Level Physics is a challenging course and highly respected by universities and employers. The fundamental knowledge and understanding gained, plus the skills of analysis and problem solving, are highly desirable in many fields. This subject is an excellent preparation for university entry in subjects such as Science, Engineering, Architecture, Computer Science, Robotics, Accountancy, Business, Law and Medicine.

Course:

This is a demanding A Level subject. It requires a genuine interest in Physics and how the world around us works. A strong mathematical ability and a good grasp of English are both essential. These abilities, as well as good study skills and motivation, will make the course more enjoyable and, ultimately, successful. Ideally, students should have attained a good grade (not less than B/6) in IGCSE Physics and Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel Course Summary

Unit 1:
Mechanics
and Materials

Unit 2:
Waves and Electricity

Unit 3:
Practical
Skills in Physics I

Unit 4:
Further Mechanics,
Fields and Particles

Unit 5:
Thermodynamics,
Radiation,
Oscillations
and Cosmology

Unit 6:
Practical Skills
in Physics II

French

Why Study French?

The first and main reason for learning the French language is that it is spoken by more than 80 million people around the world as a first language and used daily by up to 300 million people on all five continents. It is not only the official language of France, but of a further 28 countries in Europe, Africa and across the globe. As a country soaked in culture and heritage, France has always been highly esteemed, and the language has been one of the languages most used by international organisations such as UN, EU and UNESCO. Learning French gives a myriad of opportunities and is a great stepping-stone to learning other romance languages such as Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.



What skills will I gain from French?

If you study A Level French, you will not only be studying the language, but also literature, film and cultural topics in that language.

You will undertake grammar work, taken largely from contemporary sources, especially from French media – magazines, newspapers, TV programmes and printed material. You will be encouraged to link the learning of language with learning about the culture, society and French way of life.

Possible Career Paths

In general, the skills that you acquire during a French A level course (communication, the ability to form independent judgements and to write a well-organised essay, for example) will be useful to you whatever you go on to do. Knowledge of French language can greatly extend your employment potential and improve your prospects of success.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

AS level

This exam is taken in Year 12 and consists of two papers, Spoken Expression/Response and Understanding/Written Response. These constitute 50% of the total A level.

A level

This exam is taken in Year 13 and also consists of two papers, Understanding/Spoken Response and Research/Understanding/Written Response, which constitute the remaining 50% of the total A level. For part of the latter, you will research one of the prescribed literary texts and films or an aspect of geography or history relating to a francophone country.

Travel and Tourism

Course Outline

The A Level Travel and Tourism (T&T) course builds on the GCSE syllabus, as students are encouraged to extend their knowledge and pragmatic thinking from Key Stage 4 into a deeper and even more dynamic syllabus at AS level. Students are also expected to offer informed opinions on various T&T issues perhaps for example on balancing sustainability with progress, and reacting to major events, such as the recent pandemic.

Research and planning are key elements in the A Level Geography course, which is hoped to be supported by an external Iceland trip in Year 12 (AS) which can help with their coursework piece on planning and managing a T&T event, as well as supporting key topics in the syllabus such as tourism types, destination types, global tourism flows and sustainable tourism in practice.

Students study the following topics

The course objectives are to establish an understanding of the dynamic nature of Travel & Tourism in the modern-day world, with regards to global involvement, environmental concerns, sustainable approaches to travelling, customer relations and importance and marketing and destination management.

Method of assessment

There are four external examination papers: Paper 1 (AS)- Themes and Concepts; Paper 2 (AS) (Coursework) - Planning and Managing a Travel & Tourism Event; Paper 3 (A2)- Destination Marketing and Paper 4 (A2) - Destination Development and Management. All 4 papers together comprise the full A2 level, each at 25% weighting.

Progression and careers

A-Level Travel and Tourism students are well-versed and skilled in aspects of modern-day tourism and gain a unique perspective into how this industry works, the practical and pragmatic day-to-day nature of the profession and the future of the industry with regards to sustainable practice and eco-tourism. Hotel management, business, travel engineering, catering are some examples of attractive career options for students, or continuation of the travel and tourism industry studies at Higher education level.



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Russian

Why Study Russian?

The first and main reason for learning the Russian language is that it is spoken by more than 260 million people around the world. It is not only the official language of Russia, but also of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. As a country soaked in culture and heritage, Russia has always been highly esteemed, and the language has been one of the most coveted languages of the world. Learning Russian Language gives you a myriad of opportunities as well as appreciating the unique Russian environment and how its history has impacted modern society.

What skills will I gain from Russian?

As a student of Russian A Level, you will not only be studying the Russian language, but also literature, film and cultural topics in that language.

You will undertake grammar work, taken largely from contemporary sources, especially from Russian media – magazines, newspapers, TV programmes and printed material. You will be encouraged to link the learning of language with learning about the culture, society and Russian way of life.

Possible Career Paths

In general, the skills that you acquire during a Russian A level course (communication, the ability to form independent judgements, to write a well-organised essay) will be useful to you whatever you go on to do. With broadening economic, political and cultural contacts between Russia and other countries, knowledge of Russian language can greatly extend your employment potential and improve your prospects of success.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Summary

AS level

No AS examination available.

A level

The A Level qualification is made up of three parts and is taken in the second year: listening, reading and translation from Russian (40%); written response to works of literature and films, and translation into Russian (30%), a paper which draws upon your study of one literary text and one film.

The third part of the exam program is an internally conducted and externally assessed oral exam, which consists of two tasks (30%). For Task 1, you will discuss one theme from the specification, based on a stimulus containing two different statements. You will have 5 minutes to prepare, after having chosen one statement. Task 2 consists of two parts. In Part 1 (independent research presentation), you should present a summary of at least two of the written sources you have used for your research and give a personal response to what you have read. In Part 2 (discussion on independent research), you answer questions on your presentation and then have a wider discussion based upon your research.



Independent Study

Independent study time is a period when you do not have a timetabled lesson. You should be consolidating what has been learned during teaching time. Research and in-depth study, reading around a topic, note making, organising notes, and writing essays are all tasks best carried out at school, where there are resources and teaching staff available to you.

Independent study is an essential skill that students must master to be completely successful at A Level. It is the major difference between study at IGCSE and A Level. Students will be expected to complete this independent study, which could be in the form of reading or researching, in addition to any homework that is set by teachers.

Good use of private study requires a self-disciplined approach. Take the initiative by developing your use of this time. Plan a schedule of things to do and where to work. Your subject teachers will set you work on a regular basis, to be done without their supervision. If you regard your study time as 'homework time' and not as 'free time', then you will start to use your time more effectively and successfully.

Those students who understand the importance of effective independent study have benefited greatly in their progress and achievement. Use of study time will be the greatest challenge to many of you and those of you who do not use study time properly may struggle to meet deadlines for work or, produce work of lower quality than they are capable of.

Changing Subjects

It is not unusual for students to change their minds about their course choices during **Term 1 of Year 12**. This may be because they find the course content too difficult; because the subject is not what they were expecting; or because their long-term ambitions have changed. Whilst we acknowledge the need to be flexible, it is also important that students receive the right information, advice, and guidance before making a change of course.

Students wishing to switch courses are strongly urged to do so as early **as possible during the first few weeks of Term 1**. Staff will seek to support students in any such changes during the first two weeks and will not oppose such requests on principle. However, the further into the course, more and more learning has been missed in the 'new' subject, making it progressively harder for students to make a successful transition. For this reason, we strongly discourage switching after the first 3 weeks; transfers after October will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Before transferring, students must discuss the move with the teachers in both the subject they are dropping as well as in the new subject. Students will also be asked to discuss the move with their parents, giving them an opportunity to contact the school if they have any questions about the move. As with regular admissions to the Sixth Form, the entry requirements must be met – students will not be allowed to transfer to a subject for which they lack the required IGCSEs.

Having received approval from both subject teachers, the student must meet with the head of Sixth Form. This meeting will be documented as a record of the guidance they have been given. The school will write to parents informing them of the change and if parents wish to discuss this decision, they can book an appointment to do so. Only after this process will the transfer take place.

Attendance

The British School of Tashkent takes attendance in the Sixth Form very seriously, good school attendance plays an essential part in academic development for post-16 students. All post-16 courses are intensive, and students cannot afford to miss valuable teaching and study time.

Sixth Form students should strive to achieve consistently good attendance as poor attendance will affect academic attainment. **Students should therefore aim for at least 95% attendance for the year.** An exemplary record of attendance says a huge amount about you as a person: that you are dedicated, well-motivated, organised and someone who takes their responsibilities seriously. Good attendance also plays an important part when applying to higher education establishments or employment.

Students must attend tutor time each morning from 8:00am and are expected to attend all lessons punctually. Students should make every effort to make medical/dental appointments out of school hours; if this is unavoidable, then you must contact reception and make the school aware.

School should be contacted by a parent or guardian on the first day of absence (or where part of a day is to be missed). If you fail to make school aware of your absence, then this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Upon your return you will be expected to collect and catch up on any work that was missed.

It is understood that there are occasionally reasons why you need to be absent from a lesson or registration. In such cases of known absence, you must seek permission from the Head of Sixth Form and notify your form/subject teachers at least 2 days in advance. Holidays during term time will not be authorised.

The minimum attendance expected is 95%. Attendance below 95% could result in the following:

- **Students may be asked to pay for their own exam entries**
- **Students are not entered for examinations**



Uniform

One of our aims at The British School of Tashkent is for our students to carry themselves with pride and confidence. As role models and leaders of our student community, Sixth Form students are expected to set an example to the rest of the school through their high standards and the way they present themselves as serious and respectful young adults.

The standards of uniform expected in the Sixth Form is smart office wear and the requirements are as follows:

Male dress code

- Tailored trousers
- Shirt, tucked in with a tie
- Smart shoes (not trainers or other casual shoes)

Female dress code

- Smart skirt, tailored trousers or dress
- Smart shoes (not trainers or other casual shoes)
- Discreet make-up

All students

- Hair; conventional in style and length
- Jewellery; small items suitable for a school environment permitted
- A jacket must be worn for assemblies and other formal occasions
- For practical lessons, students may need to bring in appropriate clothing to change into for that lesson.
- Outdoor coats and scarves must not be worn in school. Casual trousers or jeans are not appropriate.



The Head of Sixth Form will ask students to go home and change into suitable attire if it is not deemed suitable for a professional environment.

Academic and Pastoral Support

The emphasis in the Sixth Form is focused on helping students find their own direction. We believe that it is a time for young adults to really think about who they want to be.

Life in the Sixth Form will be very demanding and stressful. For students to flourish in their final years at school it is important that they are happy, safe and motivated within school and at home.

All students are a member of a form group, and their form tutor will meet with them every day. They are their first point of contact for information sharing, answering queries, monitoring and dealing with issues that may arise.

Besides the Sixth Form tutors, the team also includes the Head of Sixth Form and the Head of Secondary. The team monitors students' welfare and progress and intervenes whenever issues occur. Monitoring takes place through academic performance, attendance and punctuality data and teacher feedback.

If intervention is required, students will meet with the Head of Sixth Form and a plan of support will be put in place. We value the supportive role that parents play in their child's education and we will involve and inform parents where appropriate.

UCAS and Careers Advice

UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. It is the organisation which handles applications to universities in the UK. Sixth Form students who want to go to university in the UK will have to go through the UCAS process, which is composed of the following steps:

- **Research**

Students need to research what courses to apply for and which universities to apply to. Form tutors will help with this phase of the process, and this should be complete before the summer holidays at the end of Year 12.

- **Write your application**

This is done online. It is partly a record of who you are and what qualifications/experiences you have had, along with your choices of five universities and courses you would like to study. The application contains a personal statement which is approximately a page of writing describing yourself in the best possible way. It is one of the hardest parts of the application process so you will receive help with the personal statement from Form Tutors and the head of Sixth Form. There will be strict deadlines for personal statement drafts during Year 12.

- **The reference**

This is written by subject teachers and form tutors; students do not contribute to this part of the process. References provided by the school will always be honest.

- **The offers**

Each university receives applications from students and decides whether to make an offer. The offer is usually in the form of A Level grades, such as 'AAB' or 'ABC'. Universities can also reject a student application or request a formal interview with the student.

- **The acceptance**

Once all responses from the universities have been received (a student might get five offers, five rejections, or any mix of offers and rejections), the student must then choose their 'firm acceptance' and 'insurance acceptance' (assuming they have been given at least two offers). Throughout this process, BST will do everything to provide students with the best information, advice and guidance possible. Students will be given plenty of notice regarding deadlines and help From Tutors and the Head of Sixth Form when writing their applications.

UCAS – Personal Statements

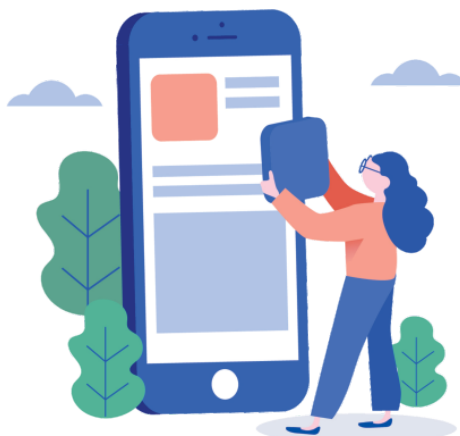
When applying to UK universities, students need to complete a 4000-character document, the Personal Statement. This is where they state why they deserve a place in a specific course at a higher education institution. In this document, students need to be specific about why they want to study their course, the skills they have gained throughout their years at school, and what sets them apart as valuable potential members of the university community.

Students will be given support at every stage of writing of their personal statements, as well as at the time of the submission of their UCAS application. The first line of support will be the Form Tutor, who will review and suggest improvements in two initial drafts. During the formal review of drafts, students should also ask for support and suggestions from subject teachers in the area they would like to pursue.

If students do not meet the deadlines set for reviews, they will be expected to submit their personal statement without the support staff.

Mobile Phones

Unlike the rest of the school, we treat Sixth Form students with a greater level of autonomy – as such, students are permitted to use their mobile phone in the Sixth Form block only. Under no circumstances are students permitted to have their mobile phone switched on during any lessons or whilst walking around the school. The rest of the school are not allowed to use mobile phones at all and as a role model it is critical that they act accordingly and follow the principles below around the rest of the school site.



Sixth Formers' mobile phones should

- Be kept somewhere safe during the school day - preferably locked away.
- Be switched off in all lessons.
- Be kept safe by the person owning the mobile phone.

The school will not take responsibility for the loss of a mobile phone. Students bring them into school at their own risk.

Mobile phones may be used in all public areas of the Sixth Form Centre at any time. Mobile phones should never be used outside the Sixth Form Centre.

How to Apply

The application process begins at our Sixth Form Open Evening: the evening provides an opportunity to find out more about our A Level courses, enrichment programmes, assessment methods and future career opportunities. Subject leaders will be available to discuss course choices.

Enrolment Process for Entry in September 2024

Student intentions February - March	All students interviewed by Head of Sixth Form, with initial support and guidance for post-16 studies.
March	Open/Options Evening
30th March	Application form deadline. Please return all applications to Head of Sixth Form.
May 2024	Discussions regarding choices
August 2024	6th Form Induction days: final confirmation of subject choices based on actual GCSE results.
August, 2024	Start of Term

Note that if your application is received after the above deadlines, your options cannot be considered in the creation of the option blocks, this could lead to restrictions in the subjects that you are able to choose.

Useful Websites

Universities in the United Kingdom

The official universities and colleges admissions website. A massive site to keep coming back to. Students use Apply and Track to make and monitor their online applications.

www.ucas.com

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-international-and-eu-students>

European Universities

For details of courses taught in the English language across mainland Europe, including application procedures and entrance requirements, see the Eunicas website (<http://www.eunicas.com/>).

Universities in the USA

For higher education in the USA, visit the College Board website (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>). Many universities use the Common Application portal for online applications, but some university applications are made direct to the individual institution.

Exchange programmes <https://exchanges.state.gov/non-us>

Universities in Canada

For higher education in Canada, a good place to start researching universities and courses is the University study website (<http://www.universitystudy.ca/>). Typically, university applications to Canada are made directly to the individual institution.

Other Websites

<https://www.allaboutcareers.com>

Career exploration, jobs & advice All good. All in one place. <https://universitycompare.com/>

A comprehensive university comparison site. www.direct.gov.uk/unistats

Use to make an informed choice about what University you want to go to. <https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/>

Loads of information for international students on applying to UK universities, visas, living in the UK etc. Also has info for UK students wanting to study overseas. Lots of helpful links.

www.ukcoursefinder.com

A questionnaire to help identify courses linked to a student's interests and ability. www.prospects.ac.uk

This graduate website is also a fantastic resource for sixth form students considering university courses. Start with the options with your subject section to research the type of careers that different degrees can lead on to. www.which.co.uk/university

An independent site from Which? to help students make informed choices. You can refine searches by subject, location, interests etc and it includes data on graduate salaries, number of applicants receiving offers and much more. www.applytouni.com

Includes information on university choices and applications, league tables, student finance and examples of personal statements.

www.futurelearn.com

Free online courses from leading UK and international universities. www.parentadviser.co.uk

Advice for parents on the range of post-18 options. www.russellgroup.ac.uk/informed-choices

Guidance from the Russell Group of UK universities aimed at year 11 students making appropriate post-16 subject choices for a wide variety of university courses.

www.getting-in.com

Offers school leavers a multitude of opportunities and information regarding their future careers. The site has comprehensive information on every UK University and the courses that they offer.

Notes



THE BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF TASHKENT

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL