

RHS

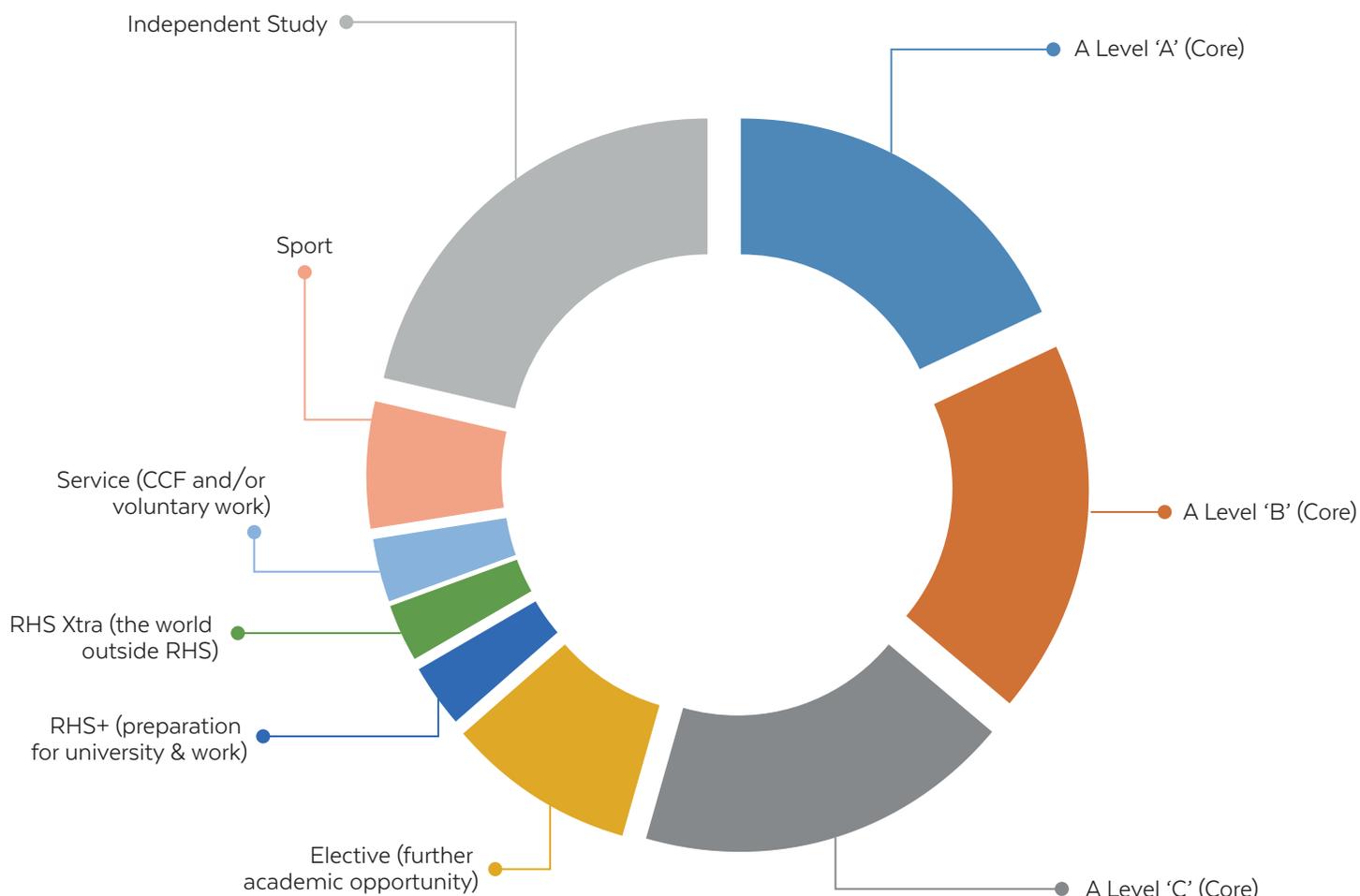


SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM



WHAT IS THE RHS SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM?

The RHS Sixth Form curriculum offers you a broad range of core academic subjects along with all that is both best and innovative to prepare you for university and the world of work after you leave RHS.



THE CORE CURRICULUM

In the core, from the start of Year 12 and extending over two years, you will take either three A Levels or two A Levels and the BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport (this has replaced A Level PE as Level 3 BTECs are the equivalent of A Levels). Each of these is taught over 12 periods a fortnight in Years 12 and 13.

At RHS we offer 24 A Levels and one BTEC. All of these are two year, linear courses with examinations at the end of Year 13.

We have based our core curriculum around three main subjects from the start of the sixth form rather than starting with four in Year 12 and dropping to three at some point. We are not advocating four or more A Levels in the sixth form (with the exception of further mathematics, which is a special case). This is for two reasons. First, universities only require three A Levels, but are likely to make offers on more than three if you are taking more. There is also no evidence that you are likely to get a better offer if you are doing more than three A Levels. The second and most important reason is that taking three A Levels gives you the time to excel and to read and study beyond the narrow confines of the specifications; universities value this greatly and it will enhance your UCAS personal statement and your chances at interview. With the time afforded to you beyond your three A Level subjects, you have so many more academic and educational opportunities which our new wider curriculum offers.

THE WIDER RHS CURRICULUM

At RHS, we want to offer you more than three main qualifications for university entry. As a result, we have developed a comprehensive, wider curriculum to ensure that your sixth form experience at RHS truly prepares you for where you want to be when you are 25 and have left school.

In addition to the three A Levels in the core curriculum, each of you will take an additional subject which you will choose from a list of six elective options. These will constitute six periods of your fortnightly timetable. They have been chosen to cover a range of qualifications which will set you apart from sixth form students from other schools/colleges. The wide range on offer should have something to appeal to everyone and to stretch your learning.

The sixth form curriculum continues to offer opportunities for sport (four periods per fortnight plus Saturday afternoons and squad training). There are also enhanced opportunities for service, including the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) as an option for two periods a fortnight, but with significant further options to help in the school and the wider community.

There are two further programmes to enrich your time in the RHS sixth form. The first of these is called RHS+ (two periods per fortnight), which prepares you for the world of university and work, and the second is called RHS Xtra, which focuses on the world beyond school (including talks and seminars by outside experts on up to two periods per fortnight). In addition, you will have independent study periods (up to 14 per fortnight, although you may elect to use some for additional service opportunities) when you can direct your own learning within the school day. This is a vital skill to learn for the world beyond school with no teachers to nag you!

In addition, we hope that you will take full advantage of all the many co-curricular activities on offer outside of the formal curriculum. There are also occasions when you can lead these for younger pupils.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Each member of Year 12 will take an additional qualification which you will choose from a list of six elective subjects. Each leads to a separate qualification in addition to your three A Levels.

A Level Further Mathematics will be the only fourth A Level usually allowed, although for some of you it will be one of your three core subjects. The **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** is designed to stretch you in preparation for application for competitive university courses. The government's curriculum changes abolished AS Level Creative Writing, but for those who wish to develop their skills in this area, we are able to offer it with the EPQ. The **IELTS course** is compulsory for all non-native English speakers who want to study at a UK university, but have not attained a GCSE pass in English. The **Level 3 Certificate in Higher Sports Leadership** and the **BTEC Level 2**



First Award in Performing Arts both have a practical application. They are designed to enable you to make realistic connections between the skills taught and the world of work served by the qualification in question. These courses have a vocational slant to them and have wider benefits too. Finally, we are excited to be able to offer **GCSE Astronomy** for the first time in September 2017. Further Mathematics, IELTS and Astronomy are two year courses, while the other three run for one year.

COMPARING QUALIFICATIONS: CORE CURRICULUM AND ELECTIVE SUBJECTS FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRY

There has been an enormous amount of fundamental change in examinations in the last few years, so it will help you to understand what the different qualifications in the core curriculum and the elective subjects mean by studying the table below.

Before you select your elective course, please consider what each qualification is worth in terms of UCAS Tariff points as that will reflect the amount of independent study required. Many universities simply make a grades offer (eg ABB) based on how impressed that university is with your GCSE grades, your predicted grades and your overall skills and experience profile. Other universities make points-based offers as all qualifications of a higher level than GCSEs have a UCAS Tariff. Please study the table below and read the detailed information about each elective subject to help you to make an informed choice.

A Level	BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport	Extended Project (EPQ)	Higher Sports Leadership (HSL)	UCAS Tariff points
A*	Distinction *			56
A	Distinction			48
B				40
C	Merit			32
		A*		28
D		A		24
		B		20
E	Pass	C	Pass	16
		D		12
		E		8

The BTEC Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts course in the elective subjects is the equivalent of a GCSE and, therefore, while of significant intrinsic value, as well as adding to your number of GCSEs from Year 11, like the GCSE Astronomy course, it does not attract UCAS Tariff points for university entry. The IELTS course does not carry UCAS points either, but has a different application.

EDEXCEL A LEVEL FURTHER MATHEMATICS

This course is a full A Level taken over two years. It is only available to those of you who have already opted to take Mathematics A Level and who have attained an A* in GCSE Mathematics. It is a challenging qualification which both extends and deepens your knowledge and understanding beyond the standard A Level Mathematics. Students taking Further Mathematics overwhelmingly find it to be an enjoyable, rewarding, stimulating and empowering experience.

The Further Mathematics qualification is highly regarded and is warmly welcomed by universities. Students who take Further Mathematics are really demonstrating a strong commitment to their studies, as well as learning mathematics that is very useful for any mathematically rich degree. Some prestigious university courses require you to have a Further Mathematics qualification and others may adjust their grade requirements more favourably to students with Further Mathematics. If you are not planning to study for mathematically rich degrees, but are keen on mathematics, you will find this a most enjoyable course and having a Further Mathematics qualification identifies you as having excellent analytical skills, whatever area you are considering for a career.

This A Level course has pass grades of A* - E like any other A Level. These A Level grades are equivalent to 56 - 16 UCAS Tariff points (see table).

OCR LEVEL 3 EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

This qualification is a stand-alone course offering you genuine choice as to what your project will be outside of any other programmes of study which you may be undertaking. You will identify, design, plan and complete an individual or group project while applying a range of organisational skills and strategies to meet objectives agreed with your supervisor; very little of this course is teacher-led so you need to undertake independent learning. You will also need to meet deadlines; plan and manage a project; take decisions and solve problems; as well as learning presentation and communication skills.

The EPQ can take the form of a written essay, but it does not have to be presented in this format. It can be a scientific investigation, investigation of an hypothesis, the manufacture of an artefact or some other form of production, either singly or in a group. Those who want to specialise in creative writing can research a range of different genres and forms of writing to hone skills in both creativity and written accuracy before producing a piece of extended writing such as a novella, short story, poetry, piece of drama or screen-play.

Intrinsic to the EPQ is the keeping of a detailed log of the entire process from beginning to end with appropriate reflection, as well as a formal presentation to a non-specialist audience.

Universities are extremely supportive of the EPQ as it fosters essential skills required for a successful university career, such as independent study skills, researching and essay writing, as well as enjoyment and ownership of learning. Some universities give lower grade offers to those who have passed the EPQ.

This AS Level equivalent course has pass grades of A* – E, like an AS Level except that A*s are awarded. In addition, the EPQ grades are equivalent to more than an AS Level at 28 – 8 UCAS Tariff points.

LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATE IN HIGHER SPORTS LEADERSHIP (HSL)

This course is a nationally recognised qualification which enables pupils to lead groups of people in sport and recreational activities. The course teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport. The awarding body is Sports Leaders UK. The course is both practical and classroom based and involves you working with children of primary school age, older people and/or disabled people. The course is delivered in eight units. Throughout the course, you will complete your learner evidence record and will be assessed on your leadership skills in a variety of practical situations.

Unit 1 involves evaluating your own leadership skills and looking at the qualities and skills of a good leader. Unit 2 looks at the provision of sport within the community; we will look at the health of the nation, community integration and barriers to participation as well as some practical hours within the community. The third unit looks at fitness and involves some anatomy and physiology; it investigates the active involvement of learners as well as some fitness testing. Unit 4 involves the organisation and leading of a sports event or competition from event promotion to evaluation and feedback afterwards. You will work on this unit in the Summer Term.

Legal and ethical responsibilities when working with others form the basis of unit 5, looking at duty of care, child protection and recognising maltreatment. Units 6, 7 and 8 all involve spending time with three groups (children aged 4 – 11, older people and disabled people) and planning, leading and evaluating a number of sports sessions with each group.

This qualification is pass or fail and is worth 16 UCAS Tariff points (see table).

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST SYSTEM (IELTS)

IELTS is a rigorous examination designed to test the ability of non-native speakers in academic English in four skill areas: writing, reading, listening and speaking. A high score (usually 6.5 or over) is required for university entrance, usually demanding success in each skill area. If you are an EAL student planning to go to university in the UK and you do not have a grade C or above in GCSE English or a B or above in IGCSE English, then you need to take this course.

The course will enhance these four skills and build up the essential vocabulary and grammar competencies needed to ensure a high grade. As the examination demands a wide vocabulary, you will be exposed to a wide variety of texts, videos and audio clips on a diverse number of subjects which will then be discussed and written about. This course will recycle vocabulary, improve pronunciation and fluency, as well as developing ideas in writing ready for the examination before the university application process begins.

This qualification does not carry UCAS points, but is a necessary UK university entry requirement for those EAL students without the required grades in GCSE or IGCSE English.

EDEXCEL BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN PERFORMING ARTS

The BTEC Performing Arts course is designed to help pupils gain knowledge and experience of the Performing Arts industry. This will encompass auditions, presentations and performance, as well as the production side of the business. More widely, the course will cover a range of skills, techniques and personal attributes which will be of benefit in working life more generally.

The course consists of three units, one of which is carried out in controlled conditions. The first unit is 'Individual Showcase', an exploration of different careers, training and education opportunities in the Performing Arts world. You choose one of them to demonstrate your skills practically. You will present a letter of application and two performance pieces, each of two minutes' duration for an audition style performance.

The second unit is 'Preparation, Performance and Production'. Working as part of a company, you will explore, rehearse and prepare for a group performance. You will keep a detailed diary style log of rehearsal notes, plans and developments, while the final performance will display your performance skills. The last unit is 'Acting Skills'. You develop your performance and/or production skills through study and workshops, culminating in a final performance. You will take part in acting workshops that cover a range of performance styles and the skills needed for them. You will maintain an assignment folder to record the development of your practical, physical and mental acting skills.

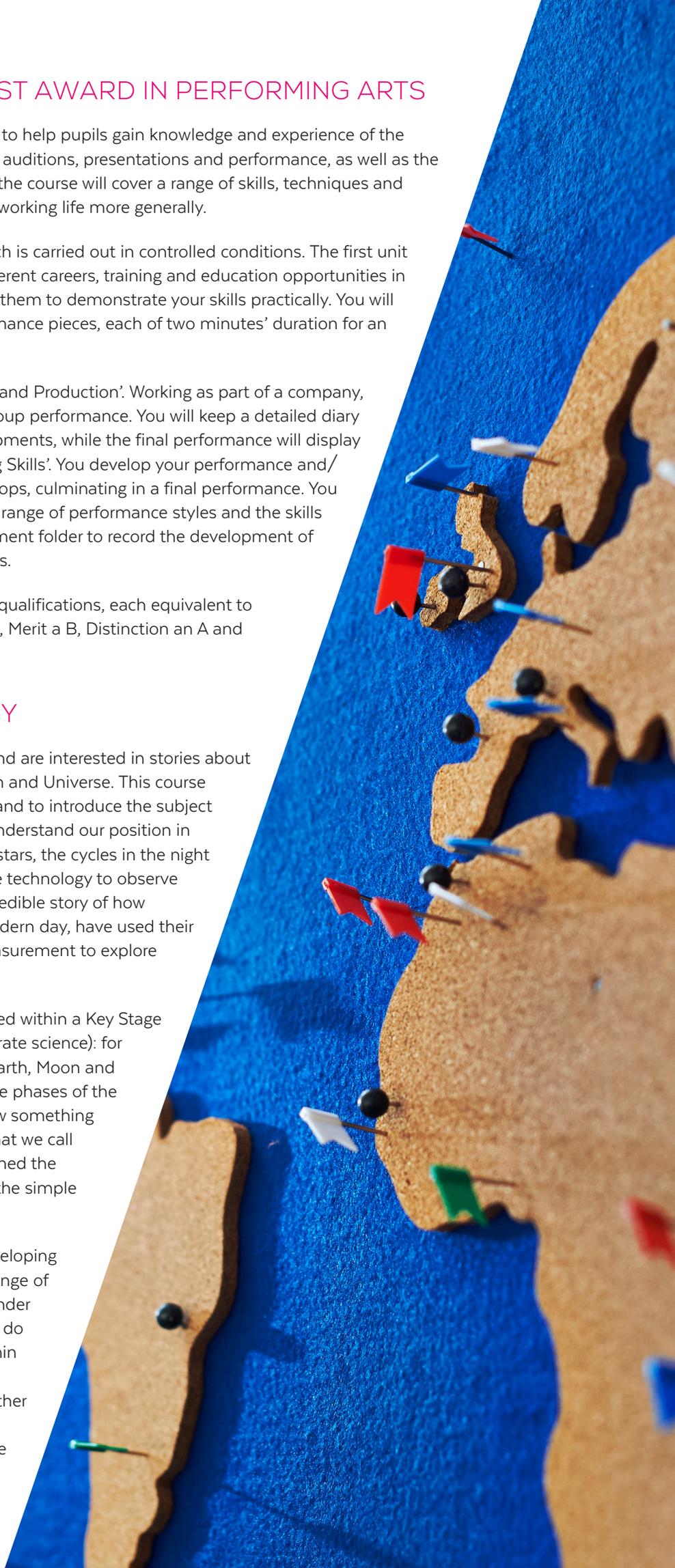
There are four levels of pass for BTEC Level 2 qualifications, each equivalent to a GCSE grade. A basic Pass is set at a C grade, Merit a B, Distinction an A and Distinction* translates into a GCSE A*.

EDEXCEL GCSE ASTRONOMY

Most people are fascinated by the night sky and are interested in stories about our continuing exploration of our Solar System and Universe. This course has been developed to build on that interest and to introduce the subject of astronomy. The course will enable you to understand our position in the Universe, the movements of planets and stars, the cycles in the night and daytime sky, and the way in which we use technology to observe and interact with space. You will follow an incredible story of how scientists, from ancient civilisations to the modern day, have used their imagination and carefully recorded visual measurement to explore the Universe in which we live.

All you need to know should have been covered within a Key Stage 3 or GCSE science course (dual award or separate science): for example, how the basic arrangement of the Earth, Moon and Sun produce effects such as night and day, the phases of the Moon and the seasons. You will probably know something about the group of planets orbiting the Sun that we call the Solar System. Moreover, you will have learned the basic mathematical skills needed to perform the simple calculations involved in GCSE Astronomy.

By studying GCSE Astronomy, you will be developing important investigative skills, extending the range of your thinking, as well as inspiring awe and wonder at the Universe around us. Parts of the course do link closely with the astrophysics sections within A Level Physics. However, it is an excellent accompaniment to any A Level subject - whether you are studying predominantly arts subjects and seek a contrast, or wish to study alongside sciences and maths.



RHS+

To complement the core curriculum and the elective subjects, we have devised a coherent programme for Year 12 aimed at preparing you for the independence of university and the world of work. This is RHS+. Each of you will take six modules lasting about half a term, each taking two periods a fortnight. These six modular courses will be run as a carousel throughout the first five-sixths of the year.

The six modules focus on higher education and career applications; managing personal finances; healthy eating on a budget; study techniques for the 21st century; and communication skills. There is also time to consider the challenges that you face when you leave school. It is supported in Year 13 by having all of the year living and working together in Nelson House.

SECURING YOUR FUTURE

The introduction to careers and higher education module of RHS+ will focus on the following areas. The first is 'Introducing...me! Or how to write the perfect CV'. You will then consider what is important at home and at work to consider what sort of career you are looking for. The third aspect of this module focuses on the online consequences and online opportunities with respect to social media and applications (Facebook v LinkedIn). You will then explore the world of apprenticeships and consider the pros and cons of going to university before researching higher education options and learning how to apply online.

FINANCE FOR THE FUTURE

At RHS we understand the value of personal financial education. This introduction to personal finance will empower, equip and entertain, while building confidence in your financial decision-making. This module will enable a basic understanding of money-management fundamentals, including introductory content on income, expenses, savings, investment, credit, debt, insurance, planning, budgeting, student finance, home buying and even pensions and retirement! Becoming more financially literate will help you make sounder personal choices. This module (a form of Dragon's Den meets The Apprentice) aims to re-enforce the values of individual initiative, innovation, accountability, and personal responsibility, laying the foundations for you to start developing your long-term independence and personal freedom.

GOURMET COOKING AND HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

As part of the transition to university or independent living, this module will explore some all-time favourite student recipes. Budgeting, menu planning, frugal shopping and bulk cooking are all essential for your survival when you leave RHS. The course will also cover food hygiene, safety in the kitchen and basic culinary skills. Sessions will conclude with a MasterChef style judging after which you will then enjoy consuming your dish!

PRODUCTIVITY AND EFFECTIVENESS IN THE DIGITAL AGE: BLENDING THE OLD WITH THE NEW

There is a greater expectation in the sixth form and beyond school that you develop your independent learning skills to underpin the concepts and knowledge covered in classes. Educational research shows that the students who achieve their potential and who gain the highest marks are those who take the greatest responsibility for their own progress. This module will blend traditional practices with a well proven track record of success, along with techniques to harness the power of digital technology. This will enable you to become autonomous learners which will lead to huge benefits at A Level and beyond into higher education, vocational training or employment.

The old recipe for success can be seen as "study while others are sleeping; prepare while others are playing; and dream while others are wishing" (anon). This component of the module will look to instil key skills such as effective note-making, powerful memory techniques, time-management and self-productivity. It will focus on both attitude and actions in order to secure achievement.

The new focus for success can be summed up as follows: "One of the great challenges of our age, in which the tools of our productivity are also the tools of our leisure, is to figure out how to make more useful those moments of procrastination when we're idling in front of our computer screens" (Joshua Foer). In this component of the module, you will explore the emerging social and educational landscapes in order to develop a set of digital study skills which will enhance learning



and allow you to stay safe in the cyberworld. It will look at the core uses of the iPad and technology at RHS and introduce you to workflows, apps and functions that will increase your productivity. Core to digital literacy is e-safety and navigating some of the hazards and dangers of online spaces, many of which are far more subtle and complex than initially perceived.

PRESENTATION SKILLS FOR YOUR FUTURE

The ability to communicate and present are vital in most career areas. This short course will take you from nervous beginner to launching your own TED talks.



PSHE FOR YOUR FUTURE

In the same way that your PSHE lessons have worked below the sixth form, your lessons in Year 12 will be mainly discussion-based. In an ever-changing world, it is vitally important for you to be prepared for what life may throw at you. By continuing with PSHE, you will be armed with different positive ways of dealing with life

beyond school and, most importantly, the opportunity to discuss these issues in a safe environment.

This module will look at the following issues, in addition to any that you may wish to raise. We will explore coping with stress and how to overcome anxiety both at university and in the workplace, as well as considering mental health and mindfulness, in conjunction with the power of gratitude in order to significantly improve your happiness. The module will also discuss drugs and alcohol. We will focus on relationships, including how to recognise an abusive relationship and what to do about it, before considering equality in today's society. The module will finish by looking at parenthood, including some hands-on experience with visiting parents and babies!

RHS XTRA

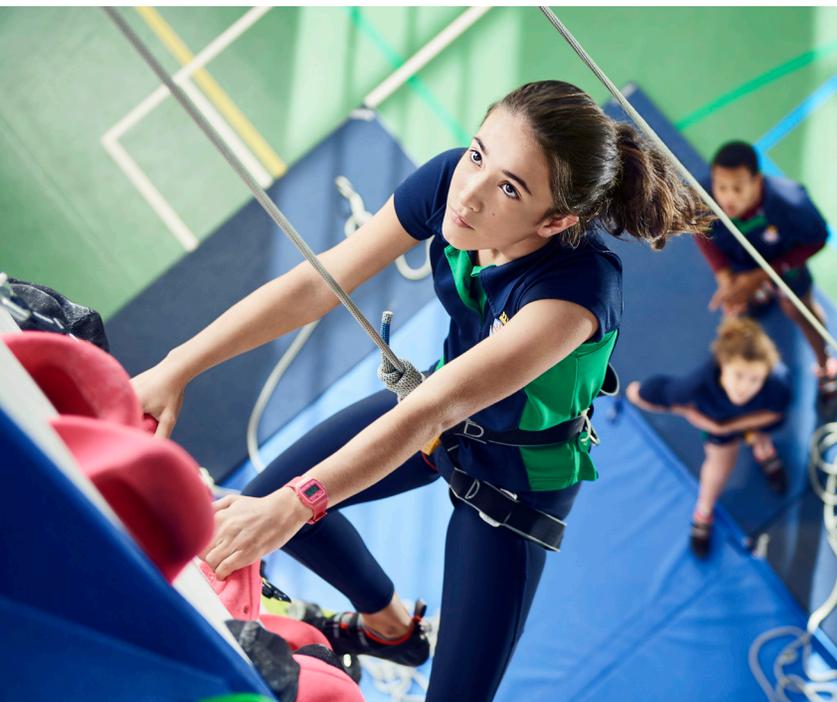
There is still a great deal more that a well-rounded sixth form education gives its students. With two periods a fortnight, the Head of Sixth Form and Careers organises a series of talks and seminars led by staff and outside experts on a wide range of topics in order to broaden horizons and inspire curiosity about the world. Lectures this year will include external speakers such as John Parker on 'Dawkins, Darwin and God', inspirational speaker James Shone, an ex-headmaster who overcame a serious cancer diagnosis, and Peter Tatchell, famed human rights campaigner. A leading provider of educational skills, Elevate Education, also runs sessions within RHS XTRA, providing study, revision and interview skills workshops to prepare our sixth formers for the all-important public examinations and life beyond school.

SPORT

Our sixth formers have a wide range of sporting options to choose from. These include team sports such as rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, but there are also opportunities in individual sports such as swimming (including lifeguarding qualification), tennis, kickboxing, golf, training in the School's brand new, state-of-the-art gym, kayaking, table-tennis, trampolining, cross country, athletics, sailing, use of the new indoor climbing wall and horse riding.

For elite sportsmen and women, RHS provides strength and conditioning coaching with qualified coaches, in addition to tailored coaching in their sport of choice.

A summer programme of cruising the local rivers on our keelboats is also available, and many have leapt at the chance to attempt their Silver DofE expedition on-board these boats.



SERVICE

CCF

The Combined Cadet Force aims to enhance the qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, endurance and perseverance and to offer opportunities to develop leadership and resourcefulness. The School has a long-established CCF and membership amongst sixth form pupils is high, even though this is not a mandatory activity. There are four sections: Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army and Royal Air Force.

Cadets meet every Friday afternoon and there are termly field training days, leadership courses and adventure training camps in the UK and overseas. Pupils develop teamwork and leadership skills, as well as acquiring proficiency in map reading, first aid, navigation, shooting, field craft and safety skills. There are also opportunities for sailing, flying, sub-aqua, rock-climbing, power-boating and many other outdoor pursuits.

The CCF offers opportunities for personal development and pupils can work towards becoming a Non-Commissioned Officer after some additional training. They will also have the opportunity to pass on the skills they have learnt to younger cadets and to exercise leadership skills.

Through the CCF, senior pupils can work towards a BTEC First Diploma in Public Services, join the Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathon squad, compete as part of the CCF equestrian team at the Windsor Horse Show or be part of the Royal Marines Pringle Trophy.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

Other opportunities for service include volunteering to help run children's swimming sessions in the School's indoor swimming pool, or volunteering to teach younger year groups in a student's chosen A Level subjects, or helping them with prep, which will improve communication skills and show a commitment which can be detailed in the UCAS personal statement or on a CV. The School runs one of the biggest Duke of Edinburgh's Award schemes in the country, and many sixth form pupils go on to receive either Bronze, Silver or Gold awards. Pupils may also choose to audition for the School's choirs, numerous bands or the Guard, leading Divisional parades.



