



BROMSGROVE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
THAILAND

YR 11 OPTIONS

THE SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

The Sixth Form Experience

When a student moves into the Sixth Form, the expectations upon them change. The courses that they study are more rigorous and demanding and they need to manage their time effectively, approaching their studies in a mature and organised manner. This 'step up' is not always easy, but in a caring and nurturing environment such as Bromsgrove, we are confident that each and every student can achieve their full potential and move on to suitable Higher Education courses.

It is our hope that each student who completes their Sixth Form education at Bromsgrove will leave with happy memories, deep subject knowledge, strong grades and the self-confidence needed for future success. This is achieved through strong academic and pastoral support, as well as an emphasis on the 'whole' student. We offer a broad extra curricular programme, that has been designed to allow the senior students in the school to develop their leadership skills. The Bromsgrove Learner Attributes remain an important part of the Sixth Form culture and ethos.

Sixth Form students are granted a number of privileges which include a Sixth Form Common Room, the opportunity to wear business attire rather than a uniform, and study periods which allow them to manage their own time and learning. In addition, there are a number of leadership roles for which our senior students can apply. These positions of responsibility afford the senior students the chance to communicate directly with the school leadership regarding improvement and innovation.

Sixth Form Entry

As Sixth Form expectations are far greater than in lower year groups, there is a minimum entry requirement. This requirement exists as it is not in the best interests of individual students to embark on the next level of study without the necessary building blocks. However, we are committed to supporting every student to reach their educational goals, and so we look to create individualised pathways for all our returning students.

For entry into the Sixth Form, we require a minimum of five IGCSE passes at grade C or above. To begin an AS subject a student needs a pass of at least a B grade and in some subjects, an A is recommended. The entry requirements for the Diploma programme are more specific, and we request that individuals interested in the programme liaise with the school for a bespoke offer.

Each student's case will be considered on its merits and advice will be given to individuals to ensure that their best interests are well served. Wherever possible, we will tailor options to individual needs but ultimately we reserve the right to not allow students to begin courses that, in our professional judgment, are not suitable for them.

The Sixth Form Curriculum

Students can take a maximum of four subjects in Year 12, from a selection of AS Levels and Diploma subjects. AS Levels and Diplomas Levels can be combined to form a Year 12 pathway. In addition to their core curriculum, all students take PE and BEAM lessons so that they can continue to develop healthy lifestyles and build an appreciation for their roles as Global Citizens.

Students also have study periods within their timetable with the number varying dependent on the subjects studied. During this time, students are expected to work independently. They have the option of working in the library or in the Common Room. This choice is one of the privileges bestowed on senior students, however, we do carefully monitor how they use their time, and offer advice and support to those who find this difficult. If a student is not fulfilling their academic potential, we may ask them to use specific study areas so that guidance can be offered.

Subjects Offered **A-Level**

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Chinese
- Computer Science
- Digital Media and Design
- Economics
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Music
- Music Technology
- Physics
- Politics
- Spanish
- Theatre Studies

Bromsgrove Diploma Subjects

- Business
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism

Art

What does the study of Art involve?

A Level Art is a project based qualification. At AS Level, students complete a coursework project (25%) and an exam project (25%). At A Level, students complete a Personal Investigation Project (50%), which involves practical work and written analysis - up to 1500 words. The study of Art involves experimenting, engaging and mastering a range of 2D, 3D, photography and printing media, also researching and analysing the work of artists.

What makes a successful student of Art?

Successful Art students should be creative, passionate, extremely self motivated and have a good grasp on the 'Formal Elements' of Art which are generally developed during iGCSE. They should be willing to experiment and master a range of 2D, 3D, photography and printing media as well as a range of other techniques. A Level Art students should show an active interest in the local art scene.

There will be trips and workshops for them to take part in during school time, but it is an expectation that they should also visit galleries and museums in their own time to help develop their own ideas. They must be able to research, analyse and critically appraise the work of others, showing evidence of awareness of other cultural influences in their work. Art students should be risk takers who are able to work independently with imagination and inventiveness.

Biology

What does the study of Biology involve?

The study of Biology involves looking at many aspects of cellular and anatomical animal Biology along with natural processes seen in autotrophic organisms. Students will channel their skills and learn to draw conclusions from practical investigations and explain their observations. The study of Biology at A Level will teach students to be independent across a series of topics and build their confidence delivering their findings to other group members. The range of Biology terminology studied will enable any pathway linked to Life Sciences to be followed at Higher Education.

What makes a successful student of Biology?

A good biologist would be someone who enjoys visualizing and solving problems in the living world. Investigative students who are independent thinkers and are both curious and insightful will be successful. A keen interest in both human biology and plant biology is essential, as is the ability to voice pros and cons of any ethical consideration. A strong willingness to discuss and evaluate their practice is a key feature to ensuring positive results. To help support you in this biology course, you are required to achieve a minimum of a B in both Chemistry and Biology in Triple Science or a BB in Co-ordinated Science.

Chemistry

What does the study of Chemistry involve?

Practical skills are essential in the study of Chemistry. In Year 12, practical work is carried out for most topics, leading to an examination of the skills developed at the end of the AS year. A wide range of topics are studied at AS and A2 level. In Year 12, topics include organic Chemistry, periodicity, atomic structure, rates of reaction and energetics. These topics are then built upon and studied in more depth in Year 13.

What makes a successful student of Chemistry?

A Chemistry student should enjoy the practical aspects of science, working with laboratory apparatus and being able to explain processes from the theoretical side. The role of a chemist requires someone who enjoys visualising and solving problems. They tend to analyse situations before making decisions. Investigative people are independent thinkers that are both curious and insightful.

Understanding and learning the rules and laws that govern the physical world are key to developing as a chemist. Students that can use their knowledge to explain the world around them do well in the course. To help support you in this Chemistry course, you are required to achieve a minimum of a B in both Chemistry and Biology in Triple Science or a BB in Co-ordinated Science.

Chinese

What does the study of Chinese involve?

The study of Chinese is not simple learning of the language, it involves the study of the culture, and traditions of China too. At the heart of Chinese civilisation is its rich heritage of novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and, more recently, film. The topics focus on knowledge and understanding of the culture of China while we explore the literature for analysis.

Students of Chinese will gain an understanding of how to use the language in a variety of situations. Through studying Chinese, students can expect to achieve greater fluency, accuracy and confidence in the language. They will also learn how to translate material between English and Chinese.

What makes a successful student of Chinese?

To be able to be a successful A Level Chinese student, students should have an insight into the culture and contemporary society of the different countries where the language is spoken. The skills developed within this subject can be used in other areas of learning, such as analysis and memory skills. More importantly, they should aim to be a lifelong learner who keeps seeking out new knowledge.

Computer Science

What does the study of Computer Science involve?

Both the AS and the A Level are split into two papers, the first being theoretical computing principles and the second based on programming, algorithms and pseudocode. Theoretical computing principles include the understanding of logic gates, assembly language programming, boolean algebra, computer architecture and system software. You will be using the Python programming language to solve computing problems and learning about algorithm design, computational thinking and problem solving as well as object-oriented programming.

What makes a successful student of Computer Science?

GCSE in Computer Science is preferred but not essential, although you are likely to have developed an interest in programming outside school. A tenacious approach to problem solving is an excellent quality to possess for this subject, as well as the motivation to self-study, as developing the knowledge and skills to embark on advanced programming techniques will require time and effort. The course is a strong foundation for university level study in any computing subject.

Digital Media and Design

What does the study of Digital Media and Design involve?

This syllabus is for students who want to explore a range of processes and techniques in digital media. Will be grouped into two areas of study; moving image and mobile and multimedia applications including games design.

Students develop the knowledge and skills that will prepare them for working in a collaborative industry. You will develop an awareness of the world of digital media and design and the factors and contexts that influence it. There are 3 assessed components of the course two at AS and one at A2 level where you can choose your own field of study to produce a personal investigation which includes a portfolio and written assignment.

What makes a successful student of Digital Media and Design?

It would be preferable if you had a keen interest in the media industries as well as a passion for the hands on side of media and IT. You would also need a motivation to self-study as the much of the project work is directed by you and your depth of knowledge and acquired skills throughout the course.

Economics

What does the study of Economics involve?

Whether you want to one day start your own business, work for a major international company or a government, become a teacher or a doctor, or even run a charity, the study of economics will provide you with the knowledge, understanding, critical thinking and skills you will need to succeed. The media often describes complicated economic problems such as inflation, unemployment, balance of trade deficits, anti-competitive behaviour, changes in exchange rates, recessions, speculative bubbles in stock market prices and supply shortages. It is sometimes difficult to understand these and what impact they could have on our daily lives without an understanding of economics.

What makes a successful student of Economics?

Students who study economics are good at problem solving because they learn to identify problems, to suggest alternative solutions, to determine what information is relevant, and to weigh up different costs and benefits in decision making.

English Literature

What does the study of English Literature involve?

The study of English Literature is a lot more than “reading books”. Although there is coverage of a number of exciting texts in the subject, English Literature will complement many other subjects offered at Bromsgrove through the development of analysis, critical thinking, and inferential and creative skills, as well as extended written practice in preparation for university applications and further study. Indeed, top universities in the UK stress the success of applicants who have a range of subjects at A Level, especially essay-based subjects complementing more Science and Mathematics-based subjects.

In English Literature you will learn about historical, social and psychological contexts; develop a deeper sense of empathy; access a number of critical readings of texts before developing your own critical analysis; and engage with a range of authors, characters and literary text-types. Texts and genres taught at the moment in English Literature are Dystopian Fiction in Science and Society; Contemporary and Victorian poetry; Literature from Other Cultures; 20th century Drama and Shakespeare.

What makes a successful student of English Literature?

A successful student of English Literature should be passionate and self-motivated to read outside of lessons. They should place value on the communication of meaning and inference through language and recognise the importance of English Literature and Language when accessing other subjects. They should be able to make links between social, historical and religious contexts and the texts they read and should be able to research independently. They should be opinionated and be able to develop their own critical evaluation of texts and author’s message. They should therefore be keen to discuss and debate interpretations by scholars, others in the class and themselves.

Students are required to have a minimum of a ‘B’ in GCSE Literature in order to take this qualification.

Geography

What does the study of Geography involve?

Geography is inherently a multidisciplinary subject, covering a wide variety of sciences. Geography is unique in that it is a link between the social sciences and the hard sciences. As well as subject knowledge, A Level Geography teaches students a wide range of skills which both universities and employers look for, from data collection, analysis and evaluation to decision making and debating local, national and global issues. Students will be able to interpret and read maps, photographs and written text and be aware of different peoples' perspectives and views on a wide range of international issues. The course covers a range of Physical and Human Geography topics in Year 12 including; rivers, rocks and weathering, weather, population change, migration and settlement dynamics. In Year 13 there are a variety of advanced options including environmental management and global interdependence.

What makes a successful student of Geography?

Geography students need to have a genuine curiosity about the world and the current issues facing the planet and its people. A successful geographer is able to make links between the physical and human world. They will enjoy discussing the issues and be able to contribute their own ideas to the debate. Careers using Geography and geographical skills would include accountancy, cartography, engineering, law, town and government planning, conservation, architecture, geology, geophysics, foreign correspondence, volcanology, oceanography, teaching and many more. Ideally to undertake AS Level Geography, students should have already studied the subject at IGCSE level to a grade B or above.

History

What does the study of History involve?

By taking History at A-level, you will develop the sophisticated critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation skills that modern Universities and employers are looking for. Over the two years of your study, you will develop deeper thinking skills that will support your broader development and enhance your abilities in other A-level subjects.

The course covers a wide range of possible topics, covering events like the growth of British imperialism, the Holocaust in World War II through to the impact of the Cold War on modern society, and you will have some control over what we explore. By diving together into the topics, we will develop a deep understanding of the motivations and events that shaped the world we live in today.

By investigating the last 200 years of international history, you will develop a mature and insightful style of writing all while extending your understanding of the world around you. A good grasp of modern history is essential to become a true global citizen and the capabilities you develop will provide a firm foundation for your future career.

What makes a successful student of History?

To be a successful Historian, you will have a keen interest in the people and events that have moulded our modern world. You will enjoy reading, have a genuine curiosity about the causes of change and the tenacity to root out the truth from multiple conflicting sources of information.

You will be able to build strong arguments and will enjoy debating why things happened as they did; both in your written work and through class debate. You will want to develop effective research skills and have the ability to effectively apply that research in your work.

Because the study of problems in the past is important to understanding the issues of the present, the study of history opens you up to a very broad range of careers and is particularly useful for students keen to explore a path involving Business, Law, Politics, Marketing, Media, Teaching or Research.

Mathematics and Further Mathematics

What does the study of Mathematics involve?

Both the Mathematics and Further Mathematics AS and A2 courses are made up of modular units, including pure, applied, statistics and mechanics. The units have been designed to develop a student's understanding and increase their breadth of Mathematical expertise. This would include understanding of mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment, developing abilities to reason logically, constructing mathematical proofs, extending students range of mathematical skills and techniques to use them in unstructured problems, helping the students to develop an understanding of coherence and progression in Mathematics and of how different areas of Mathematics can be connected together to solve problems and scenarios in 'real life' situations.

What makes a successful student of Mathematics?

Good Mathematicians should have an adventurous spirit, be able to focus on detail, have a natural tendency towards acquiring language and communicating well with others, as well as be Mathematically curious to readily investigate ideas that previously they had not even considered, to be humble and most importantly, have a strong work ethic. AS Level Mathematics students should have already studied the subject at IGCSE level to a grade A or above. To study Further Maths, students should have followed the Further Maths course at IGCSE level.

Music

What does the study of Music involve?

A Level Music is a two-year course comprising of three components. Component 1, Appraising is worth 40%. This part of the course is designed to further develop your listening and appraising skills. At the end of the second year there is an exam where you listen to familiar and unfamiliar music and answer questions relating to the extracts.

Component 2, Performing, is worth 35%. This component involves creating a programme of music lasting for at least ten minutes. The performance can be on any instrument and of any style and can involve any combination of solo performing, ensemble performing or production via music technology. For solo and ensemble performing the level of difficulty is expected to be equivalent to Grade 5 or above.

Component 3, Composition, is worth 25%. Students will learn how to develop musical ideas and learn to compose music that is musically convincing through two compositions. One must be in response to an externally set brief by the exam board and the other a free composition which can be in any style. The combined duration of the compositions should be a minimum of four and a half minutes.

What makes a successful student of Music?

If you have a keen interest in creating and listening to different styles of music, and if you wish to further your appreciation and understanding of music, then this is the course for you. There is a strong emphasis on performing and you can perform in any style, whether it's jazz, classical, folk or heavy metal. It is highly recommended that you have tuition on an instrument or voice in order to progress to the level expected in performance. You will also need a grade 5 or above in GCSE Music or grade 5 or above in Music Theory.

Music Technology

What does the study of Music Technology involve?

A Level Music Technology is a two-year course comprising of four components. Component 1, Recording, is worth 20%. Students will learn to use a professional level recording studio to capture audio, learning how to use a range of microphones and capture techniques, use processing techniques effectively to produce a balanced final mix and develop competence as a music producer and sound engineer.

Component 2, Technology Based Composition, is worth 20%. This component involves developing skills in creating, editing and structuring sounds with increased sensitivity and control to develop a technology-based composition. Methods will include sampling, synthesis, sequencing, drum programming, a range of audio manipulation techniques and an exploration of more traditional music composition skills.

Component 3, Listening and Analysing is worth 25%. This part of the course will assess your knowledge and understanding of recording and production techniques, through a series of commercial recordings, and will require a combination of short and long written responses. Component 4, Analysing and Producing is worth 35%. This part involves a practical exam where students are required to use their knowledge of recording and production techniques to edit, mix and produce material set by the exam board.

What makes a successful student of Music Technology?

If you have a keen interest in how professional music is written and produced, how recording studios work and how to gain employment working within the music industry, then this is the course for you. The course is grounded in Popular Music covering all styles from Rock and Soul to EDM and Commercial Pop. You will be expected to have good keyboard skills and a sound understanding of music notation. A grade 4 or above in GCSE Music is beneficial but not essential.

Physics

What does the study of Physics involve?

The study of Physics involves looking at many aspects of how things interact in the world. Students will channel their skills and learn to draw conclusions from practical investigations. The study of Physics at A Level will teach students to be independent across a series of topics and build their confidence delivering their findings to other group members. Major topics in Physics will explore the way that forces, fields, matter and energy interact.

What makes a successful student of Physics?

A good physicist is skilled in the application of logical concepts to deal with higher order levels of real world problems, applying the rules of the physical world in order to develop an understanding of the outcomes of given situations, within the construct of specific variables. Students need to be keen investigators who are independent thinkers, and be both curious and insightful. A keen interest in using mathematics to predict processes in the real world is essential, as is the ability to voice advantages and disadvantages of any ethical consideration. A strong willingness to discuss and evaluate their practice is a key feature to ensuring positive results. To help support you in this Physics course, you are required to achieve a minimum of a B in both Physics and Maths at IGCSE.

Politics

What does the study of Politics involve?

The study of Politics requires students to appreciate and understand the systems of governance used in the UK and globally. Students will be introduced to political philosophy and ideologies, giving them the scope to analyse current affairs and compare major political events of the past with more recent developments internationally.

What makes a successful student of Politics?

Politics students need to have an interest in the world around them, and be willing to read the news and current affairs on a regular basis. They will be called on to draw comparisons and use evidence to enhance their ideas and arguments. Politics will support students to develop their written and verbal communication skills, and so confidence in the English Language would be beneficial. It is recommended that students wishing to study Politics gain a B grade or higher in GCSE English Language.

Spanish

What does the study of Spanish involve?

A-level Spanish helps students develop confident, effective communication skills in Spanish and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context.

What makes a successful student of Spanish?

In order to be successful at A-level, students must be independent and engage with Spanish outside of the classroom. They must seek out written and aural input of different styles and from a variety of sources. They must not be afraid of making mistakes and take every opportunity to practise and produce Spanish by speaking and writing in different registers. Finally, and most importantly, they should enjoy learning, discovering and having fun with this dynamic, fascinating and essential modern language.

Theatre Studies

What does the study of Theatre Studies involve?

Theatre Studies has two examinations: one practical and one written. Both are assessed in Year 13 as this is a linear course. For the practical element, students perform a monologue and a group piece from a published play. Students also devise an original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus from a play text. All aspects of the practical examination are influenced by a specific Theatre Practitioner, with students applying their theory to the practical work. For the written examination, students study two texts: one contemporary and one classical. They are required to write about their vision for the design, performance and direction in the exam. Students also watch a range of live theatre throughout the course and analyse this in the examination.

What makes a successful student of Theatre Studies?

A successful student of Theatre Studies is one who is passionate about all practical and theoretical aspects of Drama and Theatre. Theatre students need to have the confidence to perform onstage, both on their own and as part of a group. A successful student will also have an analytical and creative mind to ensure that they can achieve success in the written paper. The theory side of this course is essay based so students need to have the confidence to express their ideas in written form.

Bromsgrove Diploma Subjects

Business

What does the study of Business involve?

Diploma students have the opportunity to prepare for their next step of university study or going into employment because they are able to carry out research effectively, write reports with bibliographies, present confidently and appreciate the fundamentals of running a business in today's global economy. Topics covered include: The Business Environment, Teamwork, Resources, Marketing, Communication and Starting a Small Business. The assessment methods range from coursework to presentations and role play.

What makes a successful student of Business?

To be successful on a Diploma course, students need to be able to meet deadlines comfortably, communicate effectively and demonstrate a team player attitude. They must be able to work independently and be genuinely inquisitive about the business world.

Sport

What does the study of Sport involve?

The Sport Diploma course involves examining all aspects of the world of sport. The theoretical aspects of the course range from analysing the anatomy and physiology of the human body and how it is affected by individual lifestyle choices, to evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of individuals following health monitoring and fitness tests. The practical areas of the course give students a little more freedom to select sports and activities where they excel with the end goal being a detailed performance analysis of themselves, their peers and elite performers.

What makes a successful student of Sport?

To study Sport, you must have a genuine interest in Sport and PE. Whilst a strong physical sporting ability will be beneficial for some aspects of the course, more importantly, you must show commitment and a genuine interest in keeping up-to-date with the ever changing world of modern day sport. You must be able to keep to deadlines for all work, especially your assignments, which begin after one month of study on the course. You must be well organised and remember to bring your PE kit for practical lessons, as well as demonstrating the necessary communication and leadership skills that are required in a number of group assignments. Perhaps most importantly, you must be independent; most of the assignments you will complete in the Sport Diploma will be done independently, so you must be able to demonstrate that you are resourceful in order to complete tasks, whether that is by researching specific topics, referring back to your own notes in order to complete tasks, or seeking advice if you are unsure. It is desirable for students wishing to take BTEC Sport, to have achieved a C or above in IGCSE PE.

Travel and Tourism

What does the study of Travel and Tourism involve?

Travel and Tourism students prepare effectively for their next step to either university study or going into employment. They are able to carry out research effectively, write reports with bibliographies, present confidently and appreciate the significant impact the travel and tourism industry has on a country's economy. Topics covered include: investigating the sector, The UK as a destination, customer service, long-haul destinations, business and preparing for employment. The assessment is coursework, presentation, role play, and small test based.

What makes a successful student of Travel and Tourism?

To be successful on the Travel and Tourism course, students need to be able to meet deadlines comfortably, communicate effectively and demonstrate a positive attitude as a team player. They must be able to work independently and be genuinely interested in the travel and tourism industry.

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