בס"ד

Hasmonean High School for Boys

Guide to Sixth Form 2026 – 2027

HASMONEAN

אל תקרי בניך אלא בוניך

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Please note that all information contained in this booklet was correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change or amendment

HASMONEAN

אל תקרי בניך אלא בוניך

וכל בניך למודי ה׳ ורב שלום בניך אל
תקרי בניך אלא בוניך

ברכות סד.

And all your children will be the students of Hashem, and your children will have peace. Do not read 'your children', but 'your builders'.

At Hasmonean High School for Boys, we pride ourselves on instilling within students' attitudes and values that will serve them well throughout their adult lives. In accordance with our ethos of Torah im Derech Eretz, we deliver a combination of inspirational Jewish and secular studies in an inclusive, warm environment.

We feel that it is imperative that our students develop an appreciation of the roles and responsibilities that each of them has as an Orthodox Jewish member of British society. We educate Sixth Formers to become leaders themselves and to act as role models to younger students. Enthused by their teachers, Sixth Formers develop a passion for learning which enables them to progress to the next stages of their lives, whether this be yeshiva or seminary, university or employment. Students enter the Sixth Form as teenagers and leave it as young adults who are well-prepared for all that life has in store for them.

Students, if you want a school that will enthuse, educate and challenge you, and you are willing to work hard to realise your potential, then there is no better place for you to study. Hasmonean's Sixth Form offers you the opportunity to grow as individuals, broaden and deepen your studies, take on leadership roles and to make a positive contribution to your community and the wider community.

We look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form.

Mrs M Langdon
Interim Headteacher

WELCOME TO OUR SIXTH FORM

SIXTH FORM LIFE

Sixth Form life is different to that experienced lower down the school; students choose to be here and to specialise in subjects they wish to pursue for personal and career reasons. Alongside their academic subjects, students have an extensive Jewish Studies programme.

When students enter the Sixth Form, they learn to take more responsibility for their own work, researching set topics, reading widely, making presentations in class, completing extended essays or investigations and meeting deadlines. This requires guidance from teachers; they are there to help.

Sixth Form students play an important role in helping staff, supporting extra-curricular activities and representing the school at public events, distinguishing them from other year groups.

Many Sixth Form students run clubs and societies for the younger students at lunchtimes, organise tzedokoh activities and help to run the walking tours and camps. They are encouraged to broaden their studies with extra-curricular activities such as recreational art, technology projects, self-defence and first aid courses. Opportunities for students to develop new personal skills are built into the Sixth Form curriculum wherever possible and appropriate.

Sixth Form students do not wear a uniform; instead, they are required to dress smartly and within the ethos of the school.

WORK: WHAT TO EXPECT

The Head of Sixth Form oversees and monitors the academic progress of each student and liaises with parents and outside agencies where necessary.

Students will be taught for the majority of the week, leaving free time in their timetable for independent study. Independent study is an important and integral part of A Level courses and will be the most noticeable change for students entering the Sixth Form. It demands considerable self-discipline and the proper use of study time. It is an extremely important factor in determining the degree of success achieved by students, whatever type of course is being followed. It is important that good study habits are established early in a students' Sixth Form career.

During Years 12 and 13, students' progress is closely monitored, and support and guidance is offered at regular intervals by the Head of Sixth Form. Towards the end of Year 12, mock examinations will be held in all A Level subjects. Failure in these examinations will provide strong evidence that a student is not coping or not putting in the necessary effort. In this situation, we will ask students and parents to discuss with the Heads of Sixth Form whether the student would benefit from repeating Year 12. Please be aware that all courses are now linear and we are only offering them as a full A Level.

Students must take 3 A Levels/BTECS in school. Students are permitted to take Further Maths, Biblical Hebrew or Modern Hebrew as a fourth A Level.

We are committed to providing a structured and positive learning environment for all our Sixth Form students, an environment which challenges them and prepares them for their future lives.

ENTRY CRITERIA:

- To enrol on 3 A-level courses at Hasmonean, 6 9-4 grades at GCSE are required, including a minimum of a Grade 4 in English Language or Literature.
- To enrol on BTEC only or a mixture of BTEC and A-level courses at Hasmonean 5 9-4 grades at GCSE, including a minimum of a Grade 4 in English Language or Literature.
- In addition to the above, A Level and BTEC courses have their own subject specific entry criteria that students need to meet in order to be allowed to take the course. Please see the subject pages for details.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND):

The School's SENDCO, Mrs R Sireling (r.sireling@hasmonean.co.uk) can be contacted regarding any SEND issues, especially where a student has an EHCP. Evidence of any diagnosis will need to be sent to the school when starting.

EXAMINATION ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Access arrangements for internal students are automatically continued, subject to teachers confirming the allowances are still required. External students joining will need to make sure their former schools send our SENDCO (Mrs R Sireling) copies of the Form 8 and additional evidence for a new application to be considered.

COURSE CONDITIONS

All courses offered in the booklet and by the school are conditional to funding continuing from the government, particularly in regards to the BTEC courses, staffing and the ability to attract staff to teach the courses and student uptake.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SIXTH FORM

- Participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Attend university open and taster days
- Organise and run Sixth Form and other school events
- Educational trips to Poland and various locations in the UK
- Acceptance to the best Yeshivot and Seminaries
- Develop and utilise your personal qualities. For example, you could join the mentoring programme and assist with lower year groups
- Volunteering Fair where students have the chance to sign up and help various charities
- Become a member of the Sixth Form Leadership Team
- Access a range of A Levels and Level 2/3 vocational courses

Students are prepared for further education and university entrance in a variety of ways:

- One-to-one help with personal statements
- One-to-one discussion with the Head of Sixth Form for help with university choices
- Access to Unifrog to assist with university choices
- Oxbridge preparation
- BMAT and UKCAT preparation for Medical School
- Visit to University of Cambridge and/or Oxford
- UCAS conference
- Guidance about UCAS online
- Higher Education Fair
- Higher Education Evening
- Lunchtime workshops with specific careers focus
- Interview techniques and mock interviews
- Careers advisors
- Internship opportunities
- JUMP – Jewish professional mentor placement scheme
- Wings of Hope Scheme – recognition of extra-curricular activities in the world of work
- Support and advice on results day
- General advice and guidance where needed

CAREERS SUPPORT IN THE SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form pupils have a careers programme that meets the requirements of the new Gatsby Benchmarks for careers provision.

Careers Interview in Year 12. Pupils will have a 10-15-minute interview with an unbiased careers advisor. The interview will discuss pupils' progress with their A Levels and the likely university courses that require specific A Levels as their entry criteria. The interview also covers pupil's careers aspirations and the areas of employment that they may be suitable for.

In Year 12, pupils will undergo a week-long period of work experience during the July Activities Week session. Pupils will be expected to arrange their placements within a work sector that complements their A Level or future degree studies.

Pupils will be granted authorised absences to visit universities during their open days to discuss undergraduate courses with admissions tutors. Pupils will also be encouraged to attend Careers Fairs such as at Olympia when these are publicised in Hasmonean's eNews. Pupils will also be taken off-timetable to research university degree and careers options on Unifrog and to prepare for Medical-related BMAT admissions tests.

Many pupils will also get academic and careers support from the JUMP programme.

In Years 12 and 13, pupils will be invited to attend the Yashar guest speakers' programme to listen to employers and employees from various sectors to talk about their working life. Both Year 12 and 13 pupils will be invited to the biennial Careers Convention where pupils can spend the evening discussing careers and university options with a range of school alumni, careers and HR advisors from business and university admissions' tutors from London-based universities.

Year 12 pupils will also have a UCAS day where they discuss writing their entry statements for university as well as discuss the general university applications process with representatives from UCAS.

INFORMAL EDUCATION

Informal Education is a very exciting feature of Hasmonean Sixth Form, which includes trips, shabbatonim, activities, and more. Students are encouraged to challenge, to ask questions and to think innovatively. The aim of the department is to inculcate a love of Judaism through its activities. Working in conjunction with the Jewish Studies Department and the school as a whole, we aim to achieve this goal through experiential learning, relationship building and fun activities.

The many cross-curricular activities that the Informal Education Department run are consistent with the school's ethos of "תורה עם דרך ארץ". The department works with external organisations to enhance the quality of its offerings by using resources available in the community, such as guest speakers.

An important objective of the department is to promote the benefits of residential trips, providing students with the opportunity to experience and explore Judaism and its rich history in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Students are also given the opportunity to work on their leadership skills by assisting with school trips for lower year groups in the school.

In addition to residential weekends, the school organises a landmark trip to Poland, giving students an understanding of their past and an appreciation of the role they can help play in shaping the future.

Involving students in their own education is a main focus of the Informal Education department. All of the clubs and societies that are run by the Sixth Form are facilitated by the Informal Education Department. Very often, Sixth Form students will act as madrichim or mentors.

Sixth Formers are active throughout the school and are involved in societies such as the Israel Society, Tzedakah Department, Living Torah newsletter, Daily Nach Consortium, Chessed Society and the Davening Society. In addition to leading all of these clubs, students are active in organising initiatives such as Mishna Munch and Learn to Lead. Students also assist with programmes for the lower years such as on Chanukah and Tu b'Shvat, as well as the highly successful Rosh Chodesh programmes.

Informal Education supplements the formal curriculum. Its activities are designed to add "something special" to the school day. In addition to being wonderful character builders, these extra-curricular activities are exactly what universities want to see on a UCAS form and make for good interview material as well!

THE BEIS

The Beis has rightly earned an internationally acclaimed status as a bastion of excellence in Torah learning and is what Ofsted called “the jewel in Hasmonean’s crown”. But it has just got better and now has three exciting options for your son. We hope that he will thoroughly enjoy whichever programme he joins.

3 great programmes

Next year we are running 3 programmes for boys in year 11:

1. Beis
2. Beis Chadash
3. Beis Chazak

1. Beis

This internationally acclaimed programme run by Rabbi Hartman offers a choice of shiurim, each with a different flavour. The programme starts with shacharis at 7.20am and aspires to educate and inspire boys to high levels of learning and prepare them for yeshiva. The Beis programme is exciting and varied. In addition to the core Gemoro classes, we offer all boys daily halacha, parsha thoughts as well as hashkafa with Rabbi Daniel Rowe every Sunday. Attendance at shacharis and on Sundays are essential for this programme.

2. Beis Chadash

This is a new and exciting programme run by Rabbi Daniel Fine, assisted by Rabbi Yossi Fachler and Rabbi Danny Fisher. Beis Chadash is a warm, more personalised programme that will focus on practical Jewish living and skills alongside the Gemara learning. The programme will commence with shacharis at 8:30am, followed by breakfast. Shiur will be Gemara-focused but with elements of philosophy and Jewish growth and then structured chavrusa time. This programme runs on Monday to Friday.

3. Beis Chazak

Ably led by Rabbi Avrumi Lichtig, assisted by Rabbi Amram Landau and Rabbi Barry Lerer, this programme is off site and starts at 8.45am with shacharis and involves less text based material and more discussion about all matters Jewish. The goal is to engage students who have not always flourished in Jewish Studies and give them an opportunity to challenge, debate and be inspired. Like Beis Chadash, this programme runs on Monday to Friday.

COURSES

ART & DESIGN

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL 9FAO/01 and 02 (FINE ART) 9GCO/01
CONTACT:	MR L. BAZEN

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The A Level begins with a thorough introduction to assessment objectives, exam board marking schemes and exemplar work. Studying A Level Fine Art gives students, the opportunity to complete a personal study portfolio in which they will develop their own ideas and practical skills in a wide range of media using a variety of techniques. They will study the work of artists or designers, analysing their work and studying it in its wider historical context through a written essay. Students will reflect on their own work and refine it in order to complete a final piece using all knowledge gained from their studies. Teachers will guide the students in selecting to study Fine Art. An emphasis is placed on complex ideas from the start of the course. Students are taught to develop their project in a highly personal and original way, resulting in very high-quality work. Students keep a working journal in the form of a sketchbook as well as working on a larger scale as appropriate.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students' work is assessed by the Art Department and then the department is assessed by an Edexcel moderator.

Component 1 (Internally Set Coursework)
12% Personal Study / Essay
48% Personal Investigation / Coursework

Component 2
40% Externally Set Assignment / Exam

Students are required to produce evidence of the following assessment objectives:

- Develop
- Explore
- Record
- Present

Students will receive regular individual tutorials with teachers and detailed feedback explaining how to improve their work and meet assessment objectives. Students will receive a combination of whole class and individual skills lessons based on their projects throughout the course.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 6 in GCSE Fine Art
- Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or Literature.

Decisions will be made on the basis of the portfolio presented and work ethic.

BIBLICAL HEBREW

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 7677
CONTACT:	RABBI A. LANDAU

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Biblical Hebrew is a unique subject which will give you the opportunity to develop and apply advanced analytical and evaluative skills by studying of a range of Biblical texts.

You will study four set texts; two prose and two poetry. The four set texts are taken from I Samuel, II Kings, Jeremiah, and Psalms. Through your study you will develop your knowledge of the complexities of Biblical Hebrew grammar and your ability to analyse and evaluate ancient literature. You will also read some additional texts in order to understand the context from which the set texts have been taken.

Throughout the course, you will develop your ability to translate and understand unfamiliar Biblical Hebrew texts, both prose and prophetic poetry. You will also work to gain a greater understanding of Biblical Hebrew form, style and pointing in order to translate short prose texts from English into Biblical Hebrew.

Studying Biblical Hebrew at A Level will give you a completely new perspective on Biblical texts, while also helping you to develop the textual and critical thinking skills that are essential for both seminary/yeshiva and university.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through three examination papers.

Paper 1: Translation, comprehension and composition (50%)

- Unseen prose (translation, comprehension and pointing)
- Unseen poetry (translation and comprehension)
- Composition from English into Biblical Hebrew

Paper 2: Prose literature (25%)

- Set text comprehension, translation and analysis (set texts 1 and 2)
- Set text essay (set text 2)

Paper 3: Poetry (25%)

- Set text comprehension, translation and analysis (set texts 3 and 4)
- Set text essay (set text 4)

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE Biblical Hebrew
- Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature

BIOLOGY

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 7402
CONTACT:	MS I. ORDMAN

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Biology is one of the most popular A Level subjects in the country, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of the students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching. So, whatever field of work you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

In the first year the main topics you will study are: Biological Molecules, Cells, Organisms exchange substances with their environments and Genetic information, variation and relationships between organisms. Practical work is at the heart of Biology, with six required practicals embedded into the year.

In the second year you will be building on the firm foundation of year one by consolidating and expanding that knowledge. The topics covered during this year are: Energy transfers in and between organisms; Organisms respond to changes in their internal and external environments; Genetics, populations, evolution and ecosystems and the control of gene expression. Practical work again features heavily with another six required practicals spread throughout the topics. During this section of the course students are required to show competency in all areas of practical skills in order to gain a pass in the practical endorsement section of the qualification that universities will be looking for.

The Biology A Level course helps students develop a number of skills:

- How to collect data and evaluate it
- How to investigate facts and use deduction
- How to put over your point of view effectively
- How to take responsibility for your own learning

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are three, two hour written paper:

- Paper 1 covers just the Year 1 Biology topics and practicals, is 91 marks and makes up 35% of the A Level.
- Paper 2 covers the Year 2 Biology topics and practicals, is 91 marks and makes up 35% of the A Level.
- Paper 3 covers all Biology topics and practicals from the two years, is 78 marks and makes up 30% of the A Level.

The required practicals will make up 15% of the written exam papers.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grades 7 & 7 in Double Science

Or

- Triple Science: Grade 7 in Biology and also in one other science.
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature.

BUSINESS

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL 9BS0
CONTACT:	MRS P. KLINGHER

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Many of the topics covered in Business will be familiar to people who have gone shopping or are aware of businesses in our local high street. These include how companies meet customer needs, market their products and how entrepreneurs develop business ideas such as in 'The Apprentice'. Areas such as business finance and business growth and competition will also be covered as well as wider themes such as globalisation and international trade practiced by large firms such as Nike and Apple.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be taught four themes over the two years. There will be 6 hours of exams over three papers of 2 hours length each covering all four themes.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 5 in Mathematics
- Grade 5 in English Literature or English Language
- You do not need to have studied GCSE Business, although this would be an advantage
- If you wish to study Business A Level, it is not recommended that you combine this with A Level Economics. The Business exams require numerical and essay writing skills with an ability to analyse a business case study. An undergraduate degree in Business often leads to careers in marketing, finance and banking, human resources, as well as management in most business organisations.

All four themes are studied for the A Level and will be assessed at the end of Year 13:

Year 12
Theme 1: Marketing & People
Theme 2: Managing Business Activities

Year 13
Theme 3: Business Decisions & Strategy
Theme 4: Global Business

CHEMISTRY

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL 9CH0
CONTACT:	DR A. WHYTE

WHY STUDY CHEMISTRY?

"A qualification in Chemistry opens doors to a wide range of careers".

As well as practical knowledge of the subject, chemistry students develop many other skills prized by employers such as problem solving, numeracy, communication, creativity and data analysis.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

A-Level Chemistry enables students to:

- Develop an understanding of fundamental concepts of Chemistry including abstract ideas, chemical synthesis and chemical analysis
- Develop practical laboratory skills through a rigorous course of core practical experiments

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A Level Chemistry is a linear qualification; assessments will take place at the end of the two-year course. Students will be expected to carry out practical activities. Although the actual practicalS do not contribute to the final grade, questions within written examination papers will aim to assess the knowledge and understanding that students gain while carrying out practical activities. At the end of the course, based on successful completion of core practicals, a Teacher Assessed Competency Grade will be reported alongside the final grade.

The A Level exam consist of 3 papers.

Paper 1: (9CH0/01) Advanced Inorganic and Physical Chemistry

Paper 2: (9CH0/02) Advanced Organic and Physical Chemistry, each of these papers is 1 hour 45 minutes (90 marks each), and is 30% of the total qualification.

Paper 3: (9CH0/03) General and Practical Principles in Chemistry.
This paper is 2 hours and 30 minutes (120 marks), is 40% of the total qualification. Half of the questions will test students' knowledge and understanding of practical skills and techniques.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Double Science: Grades 7 & 7

Or

- Triple Science: Grade 7 in Chemistry and also in one other science.
- Grade 6 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or Literature

COMPUTING

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA
CONTACT:	MR N. HEDDLE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This course has been designed for students who wish to go on to higher education courses or employment where knowledge of Computing would be beneficial. You can study Computing and go on to a career in medicine, law, business, politics or any type of science.

The course is not about learning to use tools or just training in a programming language, although you will learn how to programme. The emphasis is on computational thinking which is a reasoning used by both humans and machines. Thinking computationally is an important life skill and requires the use of abstraction and decomposition. The study of computation is about what can be computed and how to compute it.

Computer Science involves questions that have the potential to change how we view the world. For example, we may be computing with DNA at some stage in the future, with computer circuits made of genes. This leads to the question, does the natural world 'compute'? Experimental Computer Science can be done with computers, where we can learn more about the natural world by observing the emergent behaviour of a colony of interacting software agents in a simulation.

Computing/Computer Science is about designing new algorithms to solve new problems. In this sense, Computer Science is no more about computers than astronomy is about telescopes. Many great challenges lie in the future for Computer Scientists to solve. This course, with its emphasis on abstract thinking, general problem-solving, algorithmic and mathematical reasoning, and scientific and engineering-based thinking, is a good foundation for understanding these future challenges.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

On screen exam: 2 hours 30 minutes 40 % of A Level. This paper tests the students' ability to programme and their theoretical knowledge.

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, 40 % of A Level. This paper will test the students' knowledge of the subject content.

Non-exam assessment (coursework): 20% of A Level. This is an opportunity for the student to demonstrate their skills and knowledge, investigating and solving a practical problem.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 6 in GCSE Computing
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics for students who did not study the GCSE
- Grade 4 in English Language or Literature

ECONOMICS

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL 9EC0
CONTACT:	MR J. GRAHAM

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Much of the language of Economics is familiar to all of us. Economists discuss issues such as interest rates, inflation, unemployment, the exchange rate and international trade. During the course, students will investigate issues including the financial crisis and EU membership. We also cover micro-economics, looking at demand and supply, how markets work/why they fail and business behaviour.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Six-hour examination with three papers covering all four themes

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

We strongly recommend that at least one of these other A Levels are studied if choosing Economics: English, History, Geography or Mathematics.

If you want to study Economics at university, it is highly recommended you also take A Level Mathematics. An undergraduate degree in Economics most commonly leads to a career in areas such as law, banking, accountancy, politics, journalism, public administration e.g. as a statistician and, of course, economics.

All 4 themes are studied for the A Level and will be assessed at the end of Year 13.

First Year	Second Year
Theme 1: Introduction to markets and market failure	Theme 3: Business behaviour and the labour market
Theme 2: The UK economy – performance and policies	Theme 4: A global perspective

ENGLISH LITERATURE

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA A LEVEL SPECIFICATION B
CONTACT:	MR. B LABRON-JOHNSON

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study units on 'Aspects of Tragedy' and 'Elements of Crime Writing'. In Year 13 you will also prepare a folder of coursework on texts of your choice. Your studies will include Shakespeare, novel and poetry, with writing from different periods including a post-2000 text.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Two exams (80%):
Paper 1A: Aspects of Tragedy (40%)
Paper 2A: Elements of Crime Writing (40%)
and a coursework submission of two essays (20%)

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 6 and 7 in English Language and English Literature in either order.

RECOMMENDED CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 7 or above in English Literature and English Language.

Students should genuinely take pleasure in reading and responding to literary texts and be willing to read independently, including other fiction texts and literary criticism and theory. Students should be both eager and able to respond to texts verbally and in written form. Independent reading and research is integral for attaining success in the subject.

When choosing between A-Level courses, please note that the English Literature course, although fully reviewed in line with the school's ethos, occasionally includes some themes which are broader than some families and students may feel is right for them.

FRENCH

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	FRENCH A LEVEL - 7652
CONTACT:	MME R. GER

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Travel - so the saying goes – broadens the mind, and never more so than when you can speak the language. This course has been designed to give you a profound understanding of your chosen language and its cultural underpinnings. Not only will you know more about the mechanics of the language – like grammar and vocabulary – but also about how people live and use language on a day-to-day basis.

The new specification has been developed in close consultation with universities and in particular the Russell Group. Universities and employers place a high value on languages, and it aids entry into a wide range of degrees. You will develop your analytical, critical and comprehension skills, as well as your global awareness and essay writing, which are highly sought after and well recognised by the top universities.

You will:

- Develop and build on skills learned at GCSE.
- Achieve a sound basis for further study.
- Gain an insight into another culture and society.
- Widen your degree and employment prospects.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Translation from and into target language
- Paper 2: Written paper on one book and one film or two books
- Paper 3: Speaking on your chosen research area and one theme

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4, including:
- Grade 7 in GCSE French
- Grade 4 in English Language or Literature

French
Aspects of French Speaking Society: Family; cyber-society; voluntary work **Multiculturalism in French Speaking Society:** Diversity; the marginalised; law and order **Artistic culture:** Heritage; contemporary francophone music; cinema. **Aspects of political life:** Teenagers; demonstration; immigration.

GEOGRAPHY

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL 9GEO
CONTACT:	MS R. CHALLICE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Geography is a highly regarded traditional academic subject, recognized by universities and employers for the wide range of transferable skills it teaches, including giving presentations, data and map analysis completing research and essay writing. A wide range or careers are open to Geography graduates in the technological financial, legal, environmental, social and public sector.

The A level examines relevant contemporary issues such as coping with climate change and other global hazards, globalization, superpowers, health and human rights, managing water and energy resources with knowledge-based answers and more extended evaluative and analytical answers. Geography combines well with most subjects, bridging the gap between humanities and science. It is often studied alongside subjects such as Biology, Politics, Maths, Economics, History and Psychology.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

A level consists of four units:

Paper 1: (30%) examination based on all the physical themes of the course

Paper 2 (30%) examination based on all the human themes of the course

Paper 3 (20%) examination based on the synoptic elements of all three theme

Coursework (20%) The student will independently conduct a research project on a theme of their choice and produce a written report on these using skills that will help them learn about producing and managing large scale, regional and local areas and will help students learn about producing a dissertation in preparation for university. It will help you to better understand the world today and consider the different approaches to managing these challenges.

ENTRY CRITERIA

5 GCSE Grade 9 – 4 including:

Grade 6 in Geography

Grade 5 in Maths

Grade 5 in English Language or Li

You can take Geography A level WITHOUT having taken Geography GCSE. You'll need to have attained:

Grade 6 in English Language or Literature

Grade 6 in Maths

LAW

LEVEL OFFERED:	BTEC
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL
CONTACT:	MR. N. HEDDLE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This qualification is for post-16 learners who want to continue their education through applied learning and to progress to higher education and ultimately to employment, possibly in the legal sector. It aims to give a coherent introduction to study of the legal sector. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. It provides the basis of an excellent route for learners to pursue a career in the legal sector. This can be through higher education (degrees in business and law) or through an Advanced Apprenticeship in Legal Services.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

4 units of which 3 are mandatory and 2 are external.
Mandatory content (83%).
External assessment (58%).

ENTRY CRITERIA

Essay writing and literary ability are necessary skills.
5 9-4 with Grade 4s in GCSE English Language or Literature

HISTORY

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL - 9HIO1
CONTACT:	MS S. JOFFE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

A wide range of British, European and World History will be studied. This includes Modern Russia from the Revolution to the end of Communism, Post World War II China and the Communist Leadership, Nazi Germany and the War of the Roses in England.

Many students who choose to study History do so because they enjoy the subject, but there are sound practical reasons too for choosing History.

Students who study A Level History have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. By the end of your course, you will have learnt how to evaluate and analyse information, how to weigh up evidence and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. These skills are recognised and valued by employers, universities and colleges.

History combines very well with other essay-based subjects such as English, Government and Politics, Geography, and Economics.

History A Level provides an excellent foundation for a number of popular careers including Journalism, Law and Business. An A Level in History commands respect in interviews for the best universities as it is considered a challenging and worthwhile qualification.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Three exams (80%):
Paper 1E, Russia 1917-91 (40%);
Paper 2E, Mao's China, 1949-76 (20%);
Paper 3O, Lancastrians and Yorkist's and Henry II
A coursework submission of one 4,000-word essay (20%)

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 6 in GCSE History
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

An aptitude for writing essays and coursework is needed as well as to further develop your evaluative and analytical skills.

MATHEMATICS

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	9MA0
CONTACT:	MS M. SUCHAK

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Mathematics at A Level is a subject worth studying for its own sake as well as being a sought-after qualification in the workplace and in higher education. It is divided into three branches:

Core (Pure) Mathematics
This extends knowledge of such topics as Algebra, Trigonometry and Geometry as well as learning some new ones such as Calculus. The ideas in Pure Mathematics are interesting in their own right, but they also serve as a vital foundation for other branches of mathematics, especially mechanics and statistics.

Mechanics
This involves learning how to describe, mathematically, the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them. Many of the ideas form an introduction to modern fields of study such as robotics and biomechanics, as well as the more traditional ideas of engineering and physics.

Statistics
Students will learn how to analyse and summarise numerical data in order to arrive at conclusions and predictions about it.

Students will extend the range of probability problems that they studied for GCSE by using the new mathematical methods studied in Pure Mathematics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be three exam papers at the end of Year 13. They are two hours each and have equal weighting. All papers will allow the use of a calculator.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

RECOMMENDED CRITERIA

- Grade 8 in GCSE Mathematics

An interest in Mathematics and analytical thinking is needed.

MATHEMATICS FURTHER

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL 9FM0
CONTACT:	MR M. MUNTEANU

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Further Mathematics A-Level will put students in an excellent position to study Mathematics or a subject with a very high mathematical content at university.

Areas of study are similar to that of Mathematics. However, Further Mathematics takes students further into the field of Pure Mathematics (Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus) as well as developing their knowledge of Mechanics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Year 12 students will study A Level Mathematics in Year 12 and Further Mathematics in Year 13. They are taught in a separate group from students taking only Mathematics A Level.

There are four exams lasting an hour and 30 minutes' end of Year 13, of equal weighting, for the Further Mathematics A-Level as well as the three exams for Mathematics A-Level.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics
- **OR** a Grade 9 in GCSE Mathematics OR GCSE Further Mathematics
- Grade 5 in English Language or Literature

The ability to work at a quick pace and develop a high level of understanding is needed.

MEDIA STUDIES - BTEC

LEVEL OFFERED:	BTEC LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE 601/7467/5/BTEC NATIONAL FOUNDATION DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION 601/7468/7
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	PEARSON NQF
CONTACT:	MR S. WOOD

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This exciting vocational course is aimed at those students who have an interest in television and film and who may wish to pursue a career in the media industry. The exciting practical element will allow students to gain or develop creative and technological skills in video production using new media facilities to research, plan, shoot and edit a range of video projects. It will help students to understand a very powerful force in our society, and is a good introduction for a variety of higher education courses. Students also study advertising techniques for the creative media industry, media research and film and video editing techniques.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED? (National Award)

One unit will be assessed with an external examination, one unit will be in the form of an assignment which is constructed and marked by the exam board, and two units will be internally assessed project work which incorporates practical assessments and demonstrations.

The units are based on 58% exam, 42% coursework:

- 1 Media Representations (90 credit) - exam
- 4 Pre-Production Portfolio (90 credits) - coursework
- 8 Responding to a Commission (120 credits) – controlled assessment style exam
- 10 film production – fiction (60 credits) – coursework

ENTRY CRITERIA

- A desire to learn about the media industry
- Creativity and an interest in film
- Single/1.5 qualification
- 5 Grades 9-4 with Grade 4s in GCSE English Language or Literature

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATION

The BTEC National Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level.

MODERN HEBREW LISTENING, READING, WRITING

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 7672
CONTACT:	MRS R. WOLGROCH

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Studying A Level Modern Hebrew will enrich students' knowledge of the language beyond GCSE level. Learning Modern Hebrew will enable students understand, read and write in Hebrew, as well as converse. Many of our A Level MH students who go to Yeshivot and Seminaries, are able to enter the 'Hebrew-speaking' streams.

COURSE OVERVIEW

The course is divided into large themes, covering Israel; social issues and trends and political and cultural. Each of these areas of study will delve into the past and present of Hebrew- Speaking society, investigating political, social, technology and immigration trends. The A Level will also develop students' knowledge of Israel.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1 Reading and Writing: 2 hours and 30 minutes and will be 37.5% of the overall grade.

Paper 2: 2 hours Writing Hebrew Literature Exam

Paper 3 Listening, Reading and Writing:
2 hours 30 minutes. This will include a translation from English to Hebrew.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 7 in GCSE Modern Hebrew
- Grade 4 in GCSE English Language or English Literature

Social issues and trends

The Israeli

Marginalisation in Israeli Society and

Political and artistic culture

Israeli festivals and customs and Israeli art and architecture

Democracy in Israel and Israeli politics and young people

Israeli Literature

Watching an Israeli film, discussing topics and writing essays regarding film content and cinematic affects.

Reading short stories - looking at different sides of Israeli society and writing about it.

MUSIC

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL
CONTACT:	MRS C. ALGRANATI

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This qualification will support students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills, including performing, composing and appraising. Students will be encouraged to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

Candidates will be expected to:

Interpret musical ideas through performing, with technical and expressive control and an understanding of style and context. You will be given opportunities to develop your performing skills as a soloist and in ensemble, in the classroom and in public concerts.

Create and develop musical ideas with technical and expressive control and coherence. You will study traditional harmony and develop your own compositions to a wide variety of briefs.

Demonstrate and apply musical knowledge and comment perceptively on the structural, expressive and contextual features of music. You will study a wide range of set works covering instrumental and vocal music, traditional and modern.

Use analytical and appraising skills to make evaluative and critical judgements about a very wide range of music. You will evaluate music from the Renaissance to Hip-Hop, from avant-garde classical to Jazz & Blues.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1 Performing – Coursework assessment: externally assessed 30% of A Level
Component 2 Composing – Coursework assessment: externally assessed 30% of A Level
Component 3 Appraising – Written examination: externally assessed 40% of A Level

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 5 in GCSE Music, grade 5 award in your musical instrument and/or grade 5 theory.

A Level Music students will be expected to contribute fully to the extra-curricular ensembles and performances in our school.

PHYSICS

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 7408A
CONTACT:	DR. A. WHYTE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

First year

Students will start to unravel the universe starting with how to effectively investigate the world before plunging into the mysteries of the subatomic world and the weird nature of light. Students continue their GCSE learning to a greater depth with forces and motion and broaden to new topics such as waves that are stationary as well as the properties of materials. Students also learn how electric circuits really work and have those amazing Physics questions students have always wanted to ask, answered.

Second Year

Students will continue their progression into understanding the very fabric of how our universe is constructed. They will learn the first levels of some of the most fundamental concepts in Physics such as simple harmonic motion and thermal energy transfers. Students will also learn how gravitational, electrical and magnetic fields are constructed along with their properties. The fun continues into deepening their understanding of radiation and radioactive decay. The course will end with students learning about how to look into space and then a (metaphorical) trip into space and to see how it moves and how stars change in their life cycles.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The assessment is three externally assessed written examination papers, each lasting 2 hours. The first two are worth 34% each and the third being 32% of the course.

Paper one has content taught in the first year with paper two having content taught in the second year. The third paper includes the Astrophysics topic as well as the experimental and investigative techniques and skills which students will be learning throughout the two years.

Certificate of Practical Competency

Students will be expected to complete 12 core practical experiments. These will lead to an endorsement of practical skills in Year 13. This endorsement does not count towards the A Level grade. It is based on the skills developed, including planning experiments, collecting data, analysing experimental results and making conclusions.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 7 or above in GCSE Mathematics
- Grade 5 or above in GCSE English Language or English Literature
- Double Science: Grades 7 & 7
- Or
- Triple Science: Grade 7 in Physics and also in one other science.

POLITICS

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	EDEXCEL ADVANCED GCE IN POLITICS (9PL0)
CONTACT:	MS S. JOFFE

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will be able to read about the current political affairs of the UK and the USA and be able to apply their knowledge and skills to gain an in-depth understanding of events and political processes.

Importantly, students will be able to apply their learning to countries and governments not included in these studies and evaluate them in terms of western democratic principles.

Component 1 - UK Politics

- Political Participation - students will study democracy and participation, political parties, electoral systems, voting behaviour and the media.
- Core Political Ideas - students will study conservatism, liberalism, socialism.

Component 2 - UK Government

- UK Government - students will study the constitution, parliament, Prime Minister and executive relationships between the branches.
- Optional Political Ideas - students will study Feminism and the differences within the ideology.

Component 3 - Comparative Politics

- Students will follow the USA option.
- For USA (3A) - students will study the US Constitution and Federalism, US Congress, US Presidency, US Supreme Court, democracy and participation, civil rights.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Component 1: Written examination of 2 hours – 33% of the total mark
- Component 2: Written examination of 2 hours – 33% of the total mark
- Component 3: Written examination of 2 hours – 33% of the total mark

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 5 in English Language and English Literature

RECOMMENDED CRITERIA

- Grade 6 in GCSE History/Geography/RS

A willingness to read the newspaper, follow current events and the ability to understand both sides of a political argument in the context of the UK and the USA are needed. This provides examples to back up points made in assessment essays. Whilst the provided textbooks are good, strong knowledge of real-life politics adds a lot more detail.

PSYCHOLOGY

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA PSYCHOLOGY 7182
CONTACT:	MRS E. MAURER

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Through their science-based approach to the study of Psychology A Level, students develop knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories, research studies, research methods and ethical issues in key areas of Psychology. Students develop skills of analysis, evaluation and interpretation in these areas as well.

Areas for study in Year 1 are:

- Social Influence – Conformity, obedience and minority influence
- Memory – Models of memory, explanations of forgetting and eyewitness testimony
- Attachment - Explanations of attachment, types of attachment and influence of early attachment on relationships
- Approaches in Psychology - Assumptions of the learning approach, cognitive approach and biological approach, biopsychology
- Psychopathology - Definitions of abnormality, mental disorders and treatments
- Research Methods - Methods, scientific process, data handling and analysis

Areas for study in Year 2 are:

- A Level Year 1 content as above
- Issues and debates in Psychology - including gender and culture bias, free will and determinism and the nature-nurture debate
- Cognition and development - theories of cognitive development, theories of social cognition
- Schizophrenia - classification and diagnosis, explanations and treatments
- Addiction - risk factors, explanations and theories
- Research methods - inferential statistical testing

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Three papers of 2 hours, each of which provides 33.3% of the A Level, including multiple choice, short answers and extended writing

Paper 1: Introductory Topics in Psychology
Paper 2: Psychology in Context
Paper 3: Issues and Options in Psychology

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature
- Grades 5 & 5 in GCSE Double Science or a 5 in Biology and a 5 in Chemistry or Physics
- Grade 5 in Mathematics GCSE

An interest in and aptitude for science, an interest in research-based approaches to the working of the brain and mind, and a proven ability to write structured essays are all important.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES - JUDAISM

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA JUDAISM & THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION - 7062/1E JUDAISM & ETHICS 7062/2E
CONTACT:	RABBI D. FISHER

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Students will examine a number of key philosophic and ethical issues that have challenged mankind both historically and currently. They will observe the conclusions of the secular world and gain an understanding of how Jewish scholars have responded to these issues.

In Year 12, they will study different philosophies concerning the nature of G-d, life after death, the source of religious authority and the nature of religious experience. They will also consider the ethical issues of justice, honesty and the nature of morality. Modern issues such as medical ethics, capital punishment and animal rights will be examined in light of these ethical approaches.

In Year 13, they will go on to examine the relationship between science, religion and religious responses to the continuing secularisation of society. They will compare different understandings on the nature of belief and how this is manifest today in the Jewish world, the nature of miracles and the use of language in religious expression. In Judaism & Ethics, students will study the ethical responses of different groups within Judaism, as well as issues of identity, relationships, community and moral responsibility.

The qualification is linear. Students take two 3-hour exams at the end of Year 13.

Each exam counts as 50% of the A Level.
All units are examined in English and the ability to translate is not required.

ENTRY CRITERIA

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 5 in GCSE English Language or English Literature
- Preferred Grade 7 or higher in GCSE Religious Studies
- Students cannot take A Level RS without taking RS GCSE unless they chose to do BH in school.

An interest in developing skills in analysing philosophical and ethical issues and how they impact on Jewish identity and a willingness to work independently is important.

SPANISH

LEVEL OFFERED:	A LEVEL
SUBJECT CODE/EXAM BOARD:	AQA 7692
CONTACT BOTH SCHOOLS:	SRA. VALENCIA

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The British Council has made Spanish its top priority language for Britons. Essential for work and travel in the US, Spanish is also a language that opens up a window to the past and widens our opportunities for the future. This is your opportunity to delve into the culture, ask questions about its diversity and learn to discuss your point of view. The perfect course to complement a science heavy course or to enhance your humanities combination. Languages at A Level are highly regarded by universities due to its balance between linguistics and a wide breadth of knowledge.

The course is divided into four themes which are tested in the reading and listening papers.

- Aspects of Hispanic Society: Modern and traditional values; cyber-space; equal rights
- Multiculturalism in Hispanic society: Immigration; racism and integration
- Artistic culture: Modern day idols; Spanish regional identity; cultural heritage
- Aspects of political life: Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens; monarchies, republics and dictatorships; popular movements.

Film and literature - the essay aspect of the course will focus on one film and one text which we will investigate and learn to write about themes, cultural relevance as well as evaluating how enjoyable the pieces are.

Speaking will be covered through an Independent Research Project which will be on a topic of your choice. You can spend some time investigating an aspect of the Hispanic world. Whilst this is done independently you will receive appropriate support.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Translation from and into target language
- Paper 2: Written paper on one book and one film or two books
- Paper 3: Speaking on your chosen research area and one theme

- You will develop and build on skills learned at GCSE.
- Achieve a sound basis for further study.
- Gain an insight into another culture and society.
- Widen your degree and employment prospects.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- At least 5 Grades 9-4 including:
- Grade 7 in Spanish

APPRENTICESHIPS

For some students, an Apprenticeship provides a positive, better-fit alternative to A Levels / BTECs following Year 11. Although you may be exploring Apprenticeships due to a concern that you may not meet the entrance criteria for A Levels' / BTECs, it is important to know that there are many potential positives that Apprenticeships have to offer:

-You have the chance to leave school at 16 and go straight into work so you can develop a valuable career path, gaining real on-the-job experience. Many young people leave school or university without any real work experience. An Apprenticeship gives you the experience that employers look for.

-Apprenticeships provide a way to earn a wage and learn at the same time, with at least 20% of your time set aside for learning – normally at a college, university or another training provider, including GCSE equivalents in Maths and English.

-Unlike A Levels/ BTECs, Level 2 Apprenticeships do not require any formal qualifications and you can usually embark on a Level 2 Apprenticeship without specific GCSE qualifications. Please note though, you will need to take functional skills as part of the Apprenticeship (which is an alternative to GCSEs) during your Apprenticeship.

Hasmonean Beis and Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships cannot be offered as a school pathway. Therefore, if you are interested in pursuing an Apprenticeship, you will need to 'leave the school' at the end of Year 11 and inform the school of this decision.

However, the school understands that you may want to continue with your Jewish learning during these important years. We therefore are offering you the chance to apply to the school to attend Beis (be that Beis, Beis Chadash or Beis Chazak), as a private student, who is committed to attending Beis on a daily basis.

This will necessitate finding an Apprenticeship relatively near to the school and which is supportive of this – as you would be starting your working day late morning. It may be the case that the duration of the Apprenticeship would need to be extended by a few months to make up for this.

If you are able to find a company willing to take you on in an job you are interested in - but which is not yet set up to take on an Apprentice, we can put you in touch with organisations that can help the company meet the statutory requirements.

Please note – the School can give you general information about Apprenticeships including suggestions as to how to go about finding an Apprenticeship, but you will need to take on the responsibility of finding and securing your Apprenticeship.

This School's offer is subject to a number of conditions, including (but not limited to):

-approval by the school of your application to study in Beis;

-your willingness to sign a contract between yourselves and the school regarding amongst other things, expected attendance/behaviour at Beis;
-Providing written confirmation from a registered, accredited Apprenticeship employer that you have secured an Apprenticeship with them;
-Your understanding that you will be required to pay an amount equal to the Beis voluntary contribution requested of families for students at the school;
-Your commitment to abide by the school's Behaviour Policy and other policies, albeit that you will be at the school as a visitor, not as a student;

For further information regarding apprenticeships, please email Mr Marcus, Director of School / Personal Development.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Hasmonean High School for Boys achieved excellent public examination results for many years. Almost all of Year 13 leavers proceeded to higher education, including Yeshivat and Seminaries. At A Level, examination results were consistently excellent for many years.

The OFSTED report of November 2012 commented that:

- "Students make outstanding progress in their learning, including those in the Sixth Form."
- "Students reach high standards in the Sixth Form."
- "Over three quarters of A Level students achieved A* to B grades; this is significantly above the national average."

The Pikuach inspectors noted that:

- "The Sixth Form is outstanding in all respects. Students have very mature attitudes to learning and are encouraged to do independent research and read widely. All are treated as individuals and their needs are recognised and met."
- "The Sixth Form provides students with two years of excellent teaching in Limmudei Kodesh combined with superb academic and personal care, guidance and support from their rebbeim and teachers. Standards are very high and students' achievement is outstanding. They develop into thoughtful and mature young adults and relish the numerous opportunities, in which they can take responsibility, and help people in the community."
- "The Beis and Chaburah programmes, focused mainly on Years 12 and 13 are the jewels in the crown of Hasmonean's Jewish educational provision."

Hasmonean's academic and career-based provision gives students of all abilities the opportunity to continue their studies in an Orthodox Jewish environment.

Roshei Yeshiva and Heads of Seminaries consider our Sixth Former students to be an asset to their institutions, and ex-Hasmonean students have earned an excellent reputation throughout the Torah world.

We encourage Sixth Form students to play a leading part in the many extra-curricular activities at Hasmonean, including overseas Jewish heritage trips such as our Year 12 trip to Poland, camps, walking tours, Shabbatonim, Melave Malkas, concerts, societies, sporting activities and the Young Enterprise Scheme, so that every individual can develop his or her character to the full in a rich Jewish atmosphere.

Hasmonean alumni cherish for life the friendships made at school through their contact with their peers and their teachers, which continue long after they leave.

YASHAR PROGRAMME

The Yashar Programme

Hasmonean High School for Boys is building on the success of Yashar Programme, which was launched last year as a careers and higher education programme dedicated to helping students secure their futures. We believe that every student should be given the chance to succeed and within this programme, students will be provided with apprenticeship and university guidance, as well as being provided information about alternative future pathways.

UCAS support will be provided on a regular basis, with our guidance being consolidated by external support, including visits from university admissions tutors and visits to universities. With the rise in the number of students undertaking apprenticeships once they have left school, we have formed new links with organisations that will provide expert guidance on how to get onto an apprenticeship scheme.

We are delighted to hold our biannual Yashar Futures Fair, an event which will take place in the winter term. It is a unique chance for Sixth Form students to speak directly to people from different fields of industry, admissions tutors from universities and alumni of Hasmonean at different stages of their studies and careers. The futures fair will help students currently at Hasmonean make crucial decisions which will affect their futures. It promises to be an exciting and informative event.

In addition to this, a range of speakers from a variety of professional fields are organised throughout the year to speak to interested students. We have speakers from a wide variety of professions, including engineering, finance, law, media, medicine, science and many more. This gives our students the opportunity to hear from people who work in industry about how they got to where they are now and what their work entails. There is no better way for students to be inspired to follow a certain career path than by hearing from people working in that career today.

In the coming years, the Yashar Programme will continue to grow and it will broaden to ensure that no Hasmonean student is left behind; every single student will be catered for and opportunities to learn about future paths, whatever they may be, will be available to everyone. Other avenues of support throughout the year includes entry to UCAS exhibitions, apprenticeship fairs and university taster days.

For more information about the Yashar programme, please contact Mr Simberg, Head of Sixth Form.

ETHOS

The school ethos of 'Torah im Derech Eretz' underpins the Sixth Form in every aspect of its life at Hasmonean. In essence, this means respect for each other and younger students, for all staff, teaching or non-teaching and for all the beliefs and practices of Orthodox Judaism.

In addition, we expect our Sixth Form students to act as role models for the rest of the school as younger students will often emulate their actions. It is therefore important, that positive behaviour is displayed at all times. It is expected that students will conduct themselves with dignity and courtesy, showing respect of each other as well as all staff. This applies to their behaviour both within and outside the school.

PROGRESS

An induction day for all Year 12 students is held on the first day of the new academic year.

Students will be required to choose their options whilst in Year 11. Prior to the beginning of Year 12, those who find it necessary to change their choices, or do not achieve the necessary grades, will need to meet with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss their options.

Students who have not achieved a Grade 4 in either English Language/Literature and Mathematics will be required to continue to study the relevant subject in the Sixth Form and attend all resit classes.

Subject staff are here to help in all academic matters. If for any reason a student experiences difficulties with a particular subject, they should approach their subject teacher and ask for help. Further help is available from the Director of Learning and Subject Leader.

Hasmonean students are expected to have a good attendance at all lessons, be punctual and work hard. Each students' work and progress is monitored throughout the Sixth Form. There is a rigorous tracking system designed to identify students who are underachieving and to implement strategies for improvement. Students across the Sixth Form will be offered student-teacher interviews at least twice a year in order to ensure steady progress and realisation of their targets. Furthermore, an academic progress report is produced once per term and the results are communicated to parents. If a student is found to be experiencing difficulties, an assessment is undertaken and all teachers concerned with the student are asked to write comments regarding work, progress, attitude, attendance, punctuality and behaviour. The student may be asked to discuss the assessment with the Head of Sixth Form. This may be followed up by a communication with parents, and they may be invited into school. Advice and help will be offered, in consultation with staff, will be helped to address the areas of difficulty. Students who do not conform to Hasmoneans expectations may be asked to leave.

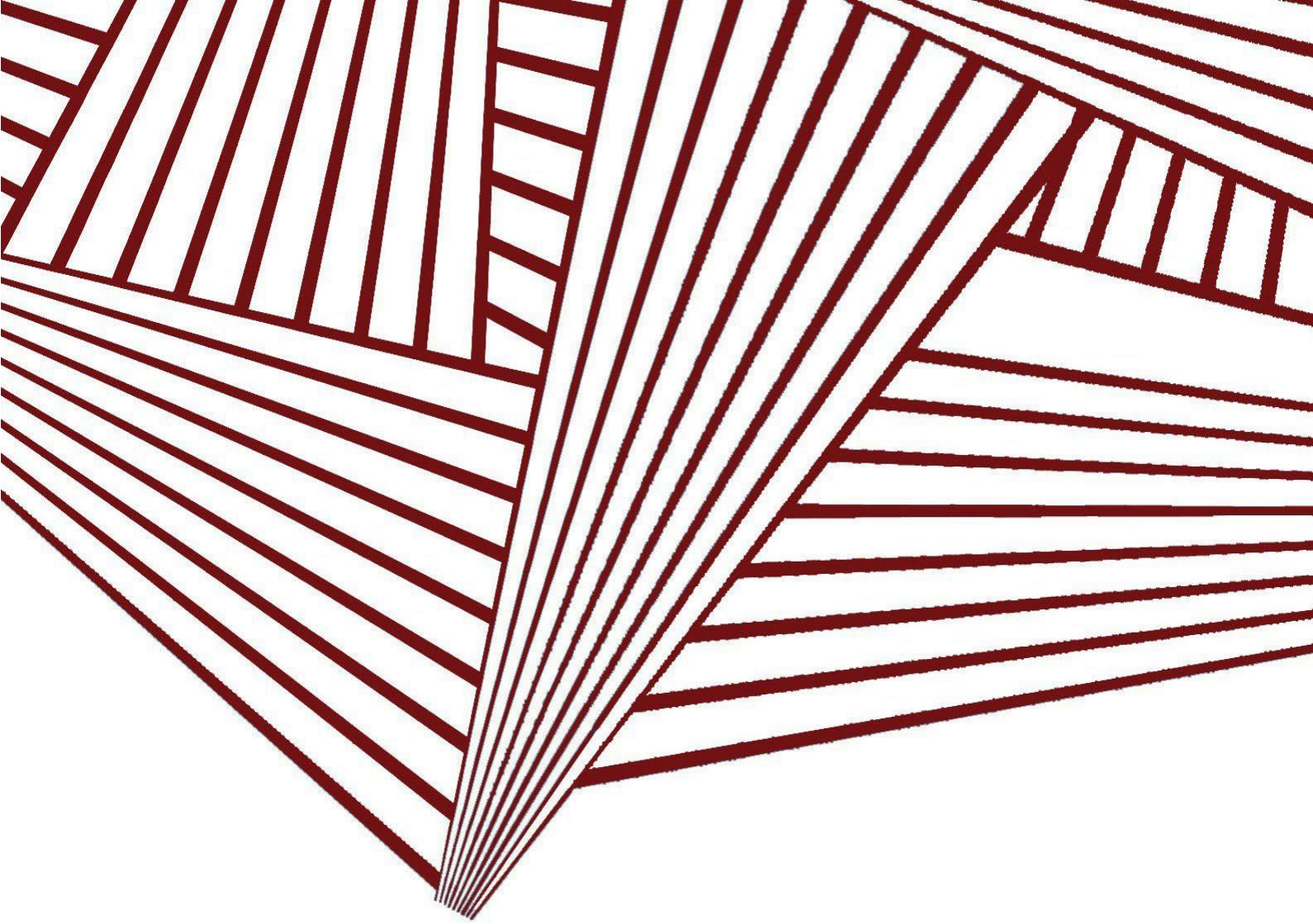
Regular assessments take place throughout the year, and in the third term of Year 12, mock examinations will be held in A Level subjects.

Subject Leaders and teachers will inform students of coursework requirements at the beginning of the academic year. Students will periodically be required to show the subject teacher evidence of progress. Extensions will only be granted if there is a valid reason and the extension should be agreed at least a week before the deadline.

Careers advice is available on the Hasmonean website, from the Head of Sixth Form and SLT. Please ask them about suitable A Level and BTEC combinations needed for university courses and careers or Mr Marcus about apprenticeships.

Please note that minimum numbers are required in order to ensure the viability of all courses.

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure the continuance of all courses, the school reserves the right to withdraw courses that are not financially viable. These may be withdrawn after the preliminary choices in Year 11 or in September 2025, if too few students sign up to the course.



Hasmonean High School for Boys
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