



# LATYMER UPPER SCHOOL



## Sixth Form 2021 - 2023 Academic Programme

# DEAR PARENTS AND STUDENTS



The Sixth Form is a chance to try something new. Whether moving up from our own Year 11 or joining Latymer from another school, our students can look forward to an innovative curriculum and fresh experiences that will enrich their final two years of school. The privileges of

senior status in the School bring with them responsibilities too: service, leadership and co-curricular involvement are integral to Sixth Form life and are recognised and rewarded under our distinctive Latymer Diploma programme.

We offer an exciting curriculum that takes account of both the changes to A Levels and university expectations, and also the need to educate students for the complex, interconnected and ever-changing world beyond school. We want our students to be academic, rounded and grounded, to exemplify the Latymer Learner Profile through developing into independent, reflective learners who work as hard for others as they do for themselves.

Our Sixth Form curriculum gives students the chance to explore their passions in greater depth as well as investigate some new subjects. This is a time when students can spread their intellectual wings and explore new areas and ways of working that will help them in their transition to higher education and the world beyond studying. We offer a plethora of short courses to stimulate their curiosity, and provide plenty of opportunities to take on leadership roles that reflect their position in the School.

We want to help every student make the right choices as they think about their Sixth Form Academic Programme. This can be a daunting and demanding exercise, given the range of choice, which is why we have a careful process to support students (and parents) to enable them to make the right choices. This booklet, together with the online resource, sets out that process and serves as a key basic reference point for both students and parents.

**Ian Emerson**

**Deputy Head (Academic)**

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# THE LATYMER SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

Latymer Upper School offers an exciting and innovative curriculum that takes account both of the changes to A Levels and university expectations and also the need to educate students for the complex, interconnected and ever-changing world. We want our students to be academic, rounded and grounded. So the curriculum offers both depth and extension, alongside breadth and opportunity. In addition, the Latymer Diploma provides a way to acknowledge how students contribute to the wider life of the School.



## The Latymer Diploma

The Sixth Form curriculum comprises a number of elements, all of which contribute towards the Latymer Diploma, which is our equivalent of a leaver's certificate.

The elements that count towards the diploma are:

- The core
- Elective courses
- Co-curricular activities and leadership

Each element contributes a number of credits towards your Latymer Diploma, with the total number of credits at the end of Sixth Form determining your pass mark – Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction with Honours.

All of these will be addressed in this booklet to help you to understand how to make the best choices for your abilities and interests, and how to make the most of your two years in the Sixth Form at Latymer.



# THE CORE

All students must follow the core curriculum. At its heart lies the requirement for you to study three A Levels or Pre-U courses, as this is the academic minimum that universities expect. The subjects we offer at A Level and Pre-U are:

Art and Design  
Art History (Pre-U)  
Biology  
Chemistry  
Design Engineering  
Drama  
Economics  
English Literature  
French  
Geography  
German  
Greek  
History, Modern  
History, Early Modern

Latin  
Mandarin (Pre-U)  
Mathematics  
Maths with Further Maths (two A Levels)  
Music  
Philosophy and Theology  
Physics  
Photography  
Politics  
Spanish

**Note:** for those choosing Maths and Further Maths, you will be required to choose a fourth A Level or Pre-U as part of your elective programme.

You will also notice that some subjects offer an A Level course and some are Cambridge Pre-U courses. Full Pre-U courses are the equivalent of A Levels and are accepted as such by universities. We have a mixture of A Levels and Pre-Us as we make a decision for each subject as to the course and exam board that enables us to offer students the best educational experience.

In addition, you will take a ten week course on Knowledge and Research Skills, (unless you choose to take an EPQ in which case these skills will be taught as part of this course) to help prepare you for more independent ways of studying, and take part in a carousel of Life Skills classes, covering things such as cooking, money management, first aid and essential DIY skills.

All students participate in an afternoon of sport each week, for which there are a number of choices, and everyone must carry out a term of service in the community as well as maintaining a Learning Journal.

## Service in the Community

Service in the Community is an integral part of the core Lower Sixth curriculum and sees all students take part in voluntary service in the local community. The programme exists to develop an awareness of, and involvement in addressing, societal issues whilst giving back to others. It is a fun, rewarding and popular part of the Sixth Form experience and every year the feedback we receive from students is positive.

You will have the opportunity to choose from a wealth of opportunities with trusted charity and local partners to find a placement that suits you best. For example, you might opt to support refugees and asylum seekers at a drop-in centre or support primary school children with their education through (remote) homework clubs. Our placements cover arts and sports, children and young people, the elderly, project work and the environment and sustainability, so there should be a suitable placement for all passions and interests. Latymer also runs a range of outreach programmes with the local community and you can get involved with one of these as part of Service in the Community, too.

## Summary of core:

- **Three A Levels or Pre-U subjects**
- **Knowledge and Research Skills course (10 weeks)**
- **Games option**
- **Service in the Community**
- **Life Skills carousel**
- **Keep a Learning Journal**

# THE ELECTIVES

In addition to the core, you will have the opportunity to take a number of elective courses. We are keen for students to extend their academic studies beyond their three A Levels. We especially recommend that students undertake an Extended Project (or Latymer Research Report) and take advantage of the opportunity to follow one or more Latymer-designed short courses that will add breadth and interest to a Sixth Former's academic diet.

## ***Latymer-designed courses***

These are designed to offer intellectual stretch, challenge and breadth to your core programme, and to introduce you to new areas of knowledge and thinking and to subjects you may wish to consider for study at university.

Apart from the Latymer Research Report, the Latymer-designed courses are taught as one or more ten week units each of around 23 hours of teaching and a related assessment.

You will have the chance to opt for at least two and up to four Latymer-designed courses. The subject matter of these courses is wide-ranging and they provide a real opportunity for students to broaden their studies and interests and explore less familiar areas or aspects of knowledge. It is an opportunity for intellectual adventure. Adding electives to the A Levels and Pre-Us being studied will enrich and broaden a student's programme and will be attractive to universities.

Some examples of the courses offered are:

Anthropology	Creative Writing
Psychology	Jack the Ripper
From Beatles to Brexit	Effective Altruism
Black Cultures and their Impact	Robots, Doughnuts & Democracy
How to Set up a Small Business	Sports Psychology
Mathematical Computing	International Development: a global perspective
Medical Ethics	Proteins and Neurological Disorders

We strongly recommend that every student takes advantage of the opportunity provided by these electives in putting together their programmes of study for the Sixth Form. They form a key element of the Latymer Diploma.

## ***How long are the Latymer-designed courses?***

Each Latymer-designed course is based around one or two self-contained 10 week units of study. They will be offered in all three terms of the Lower Sixth and in the first term of the Upper Sixth. It is unlikely that the full range of electives will be available in each term. We will, as with the publicly examined courses, seek to develop the timetable for these in accordance with student preferences.

## ***How will I fit them into my timetable?***

Electives will be taught in six periods per two-week cycle over 5 cycles (10 weeks).

## ***Will there be additional homework for the short courses?***

Homework will be limited, but for successful completion of the course there will be an assessed assignment.

## ***Will I get a grade for the short courses?***

On completion of the unit you will be allocated a grade of Distinction, Merit, Pass (or ungraded). Your assignment will form part of that assessment as will engagement, interest and attendance throughout the course.

You can find out more about each of the courses here: <https://www.latymer-upper.org/academic/sixth-form/academic-programme/>

# THE ELECTIVES, CONTINUED

## *Latymer Research Report*

This is designed for those students who do not wish to take the Extended Project, to offer them a chance to demonstrate their own academic passions and ability to research, analyse, synthesise and report on a question of their own choosing. This would be done in a student's own time, usually over the Summer Term and summer holiday and commonly would take the form of a 3000 word research essay.

The requirements for the Latymer Research Project are limited:

1. Students who wish to take advantage of this opportunity submit a proposal (including a clear evaluative question) about their proposed investigation
2. Students research and present their findings in a Research Report of no more than the equivalent of 3000 words (the exact form of the report will depend on the investigation)

The topic for the investigation may be inspired by a student's A Level /Pre-U courses, by a desire to extend their work on a Latymer-designed course, by the subject they are considering for study at university, or by a personal interest outside these options.

The Latymer Research Report will be undertaken in the student's own time and should take place after completion of the Knowledge and Research Skills course. It is envisaged that most would undertake the project in the Summer Term and complete over the summer holiday. The deadline for submission will be in the September of Upper Sixth, so that reports can be assessed in time for students to include this in their university applications. The reports will be assessed, like the Latymer-designed courses, at Distinction, Merit and Pass levels.

## *Publicly examined electives*

Essentially there are three options:

1. **The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**
2. **Two year AS courses in Maths, English or Modern Languages**
3. **A fourth A Level or Pre-U**

### **1. Extended Project Qualification**

We strongly recommend that all students consider including the Extended Project in their choices, which is essentially a dissertation of around 5,000 words, or the research and creation of an artefact. Our aim has always been to develop thinking skills and to encourage academic stretch and creativity. The Extended Project allows for this and we want all Sixth Formers to have the opportunity to study for one. The Extended Project counts as half an A Level, and, unlike AS, it is possible to achieve an A\* grade. Our approach to the Extended Project is to offer breadth to students' Sixth Form studies by teaching them skills, approaches, presentation and research methods. It is a broad-based course that exposes you to new disciplines and areas of thinking and subject, before you are helped to choose and then research a question of your own choosing. The Extended Project will not only provide a rigorous academic training, but will be a source of great personal achievement and pride for students. The Extended Project is timed so that students can write about it in their UCAS personal statements and the course is complete by the December of Upper Sixth so that students can then focus on their three or four A Level subjects examined the following summer.

Some examples of previous subjects chosen include:

Should one uphold and prioritise political correctness over freedom of speech?

Was Sierra Leone's civil war made inevitable by its possession of diamonds?

Will the benefits of workplace automation outweigh its negative effects on society?

Extended Projects have been greeted very positively by universities; they see it as a good differentiator between candidates with similar A Level profiles.

# THE ELECTIVES, CONTINUED

## AS Courses

For those who wish to maintain a Maths element to their studies in the Sixth Form we offer an AS course in Maths. It is primarily aimed at those who wish to support the core A Levels/Pre-Us that require some mathematical literacy beyond GCSE. AS Maths may also suit those students intending to study three Arts based A Levels, or to add to a combination including one or two sciences. Similarly, for those who wish to continue to study a language, but not take it at full A Level, we offer courses in Spanish, French and German. We also offer English Literature as an AS.

### 3. A fourth A Level

Some students may wish to add a fourth A Level or Pre-U to their programme. All subjects are available as a fourth A Level or Pre-U. The taking of a fourth A Level is a requirement for those studying Maths and Further Maths. The decision to take a fourth A Level or Pre-U should not be taken lightly but it will be a realistic option for some. Those wishing to consider a fourth A Level should bear in mind the workload involved and the limitations there will be for them in adding other elective elements.

#### Summary of electives:

##### Students take one or more of the following:

- Extended Project Qualification
- Latymer Research Report
- A choice of two to four short courses, internally created and certificated
- A fourth A Level or Pre U
- Maths, English or Modern Language AS Level
- Extra service in the community

# BUILDING A PROGRAMME

**O**ver the coming weeks and months our aim is to help you put together a balanced programme for your Sixth Form studies that will provide depth and breadth in your studies and form a firm foundation for achieving the Latymer Diploma.

The three A Levels will take up 39 of 70 periods in the two-week cycle and students will be expected to undertake around 5 hours of private/homework study per subject per week in addition.

A further 7- 9 periods will be taken up with: Games options (4), Tutor/Lecture period (1), Life Skills (2) and Service (2).

For those not doing the Extended Project, there will also be a ten-week session in one of the elective blocks where they will take the Knowledge and Research Skills course.

As a general rule we would expect you to be occupied for at least 54 out of 70 periods in the Lower Sixth, but no more than 61 periods.

## Stage 1: Choosing three A Levels

### Adding depth

The most immediate and important element in building this programme is to get the choice of **three** A Level or Pre-U subjects right. This requires you to think very carefully about your intellectual passions, interests and talents. It may also require you to take account of any university requirements for courses you may be interested in – such as medicine and engineering.

We ask for **three** A Levels/Pre-U for these reasons:

1. Because universities give their offers on three A Levels. Except in a very few cases (e.g. certain medical schools) there is no expectation of a fourth publicly examined course. There is evidence that universities welcome the EPQ and a few, eg Bristol, may adjust offers in light of this.
2. Because a core diet of three A Levels provides opportunities for students to deepen their core studies further, to add breadth to their programmes without the pressures of public examinations and to pursue a range of interests beyond A Level subject areas.

## Stage 2: Choosing possible electives

### Enrichment: Adding breadth

The second stage in building a programme is to consider which of the elective opportunities you wish to add to the core to provide breadth of study. There is a range of options here and a good deal of choice, so this stage may not be straightforward.

We offer a number of elective options that will give you the opportunity to explore a variety of exciting areas – these Latymer-designed courses are generally organised in single 10 week units. There is an opportunity here for you to develop real breadth in your academic programmes. Students can take up to four of these.

You may opt for the Extended Project Qualification – a chance to explore an issue or question of particular interest to you that may support university applications and show you can apply the study and research skills valued at degree level.

The Latymer Research Report also offers this opportunity and is undertaken in your own time.

Students can opt for a two year AS course (in Maths, English or a Modern Language). Students can also opt for a fourth full A Level/Pre-U.

Once you have made some initial choices, you should spend time discussing these with your form tutor or Chris Couch (Head of Careers).



# BUILDING A PROGRAMME

## Making Core Choices:

### Selecting A Level/ Pre-U courses

Latymer Upper School's Sixth Form offers you an exciting choice of courses. Many of these courses are new to the curriculum and even those that continue from GCSE may develop in unexpected ways.

### How are you to choose for the best?

Start by looking at all the courses that are available. Read the relevant sections online, written by the Heads of Department, to see what might suit you. **Remember you will be choosing courses that you intend to study for two years.** Such choices are not to be made lightly and require careful thought and research. Check closely to see what qualifications and skills are needed and where different subjects and combinations might lead you in future. Take time, don't rush to decisions and above all seek advice. The full subject choice booklet online and the Sixth Form Information Evening are the start of a long process of consideration and reflection before choices have to be made.

### How can we help?

The School offers lots of advice and information to help you with this important decision. Heads of subject departments, Mrs Collier (Head of Sixth Form), Mr Emerson (Deputy Head (Academic)), and Mr Ben-Nathan (Director of Studies) will be able to assist with your individual questions about courses, qualifications and subject combinations.

Example of a two week timetable for a Lower Sixth student:

Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Friday	Weekend	Monday	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
EPQ	Geography	Tutor time	Psychology		Match		Psychology	History	Geography	History	Match
EPQ	Geography	History	Psychology	Art History	Match		Art History	History	Geography	Geography	Match
Geography	Psychology	History		Art History	Match	Art History	Art History		EPQ	Geography	Match
History	Art History	Art History	Geography				History	Psychology	History	Art History	
History	Art History	Art History	Geography				History	Psychology	History	Art History	
	Prefect duties	Club		Rehearsal	Lunch time		Prefect duties	Club		Rehearsal	Lunch time
Service	EPQ	Games	History	Geography		Geography	EPQ	Games	Art History	Life Skills	
Service	EPQ	Games	History	Geography		Geography	EPQ	Games	Art History	Life Skills	
Sport		Sport	Extra Service		After school	Sport		Sport	Extra Service		After school

Core

Electives

Extracurricular

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

## Independent Learning and Research

The curriculum in the Sixth Form is designed to give you greater freedom of choice in the subjects you study, allowing you to pursue those subjects that motivate you, and also to give you the chance to manage your time in the way that best suits your needs. The style of study in the Sixth Form is more intellectually demanding and requires you to take more responsibility for your own learning.

Your timetable will include a number of 'free' periods that can be used for private study, and you have the fantastic resource of the library to use at these times as well as before school, during break, lunch and after school.

### The library

The library offers Sixth Formers the exciting opportunity to discover their own interests and to develop the independent learning skills needed at university and beyond. The library is there to support your taught courses, research and reading for pleasure. The collection includes: books, DVDs, newspapers and journals, as well as electronic resources.

Sixth Form students may borrow up to 10 items at a time, at the discretion of library staff. The loan period is a fortnight for most books. A team of professional librarians is always on hand if you need help. They are happy to help support your studies and are receptive to suggestions for books and other resources.

### Sixth Form privileges

In addition to the space in the library for study, there is also the Sixth Form work room, a quiet space designed exclusively for use by Sixth Form students. This is adjacent to the Sixth Form common room where students can relax with their friends during breaks and other non-lesson times. Students can also make use of the Atrium café for drinks and snacks, or just as a place for a quiet chat.

### Leadership and Sixth Form responsibilities

Being in the Sixth Form brings privileges but also responsibilities and many of our students relish the opportunities offered in this area of School life. Taking on a leadership role such as becoming a prefect or running an extra-curricular club is an excellent way to learn some new skills and develop your own influencing style.

There are many opportunities to take on responsibility both internally and in the wider local community, and part of the core curriculum is to undertake some community service for a number of weeks, such as reading with primary school children or visiting elderly residents nearby.

### Extracurricular activities

There is a huge number of extra-curricular activities open to our Sixth Form students, from a wide variety of sports, musical groups and orchestras, drama and art clubs right through to Duke of Edinburgh Gold and World Challenge. In the Lower Sixth you are invited to take part in Activities Week, along with the rest of the School, when everyone goes on a trip either in the UK or further afield. As a Lower Sixth student you can choose to help lead one of the trips for younger students, or simply go as a participant.

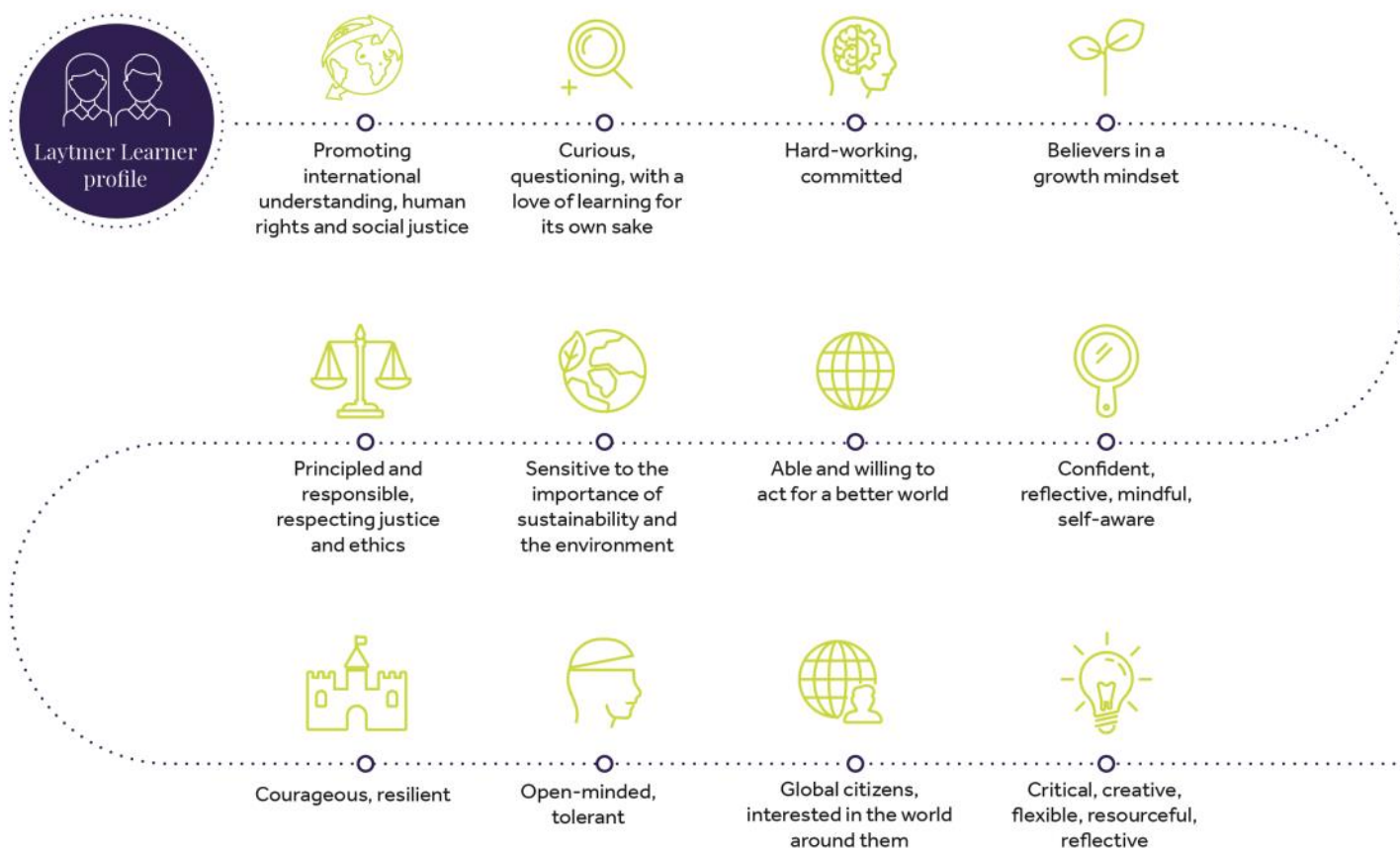


# THE LATYMER LEARNER PROFILE

The overarching aims of a Latymer education are:

- to provide our pupils with a life-changing education that equips and inspires them to excel in the wider world
- to enable all our pupils to flourish as human beings in an ever more complex and connected world
- to have the dispositions and skills to be the best that they can be
- to be a positive influence on the world around them

Our aim is that, on graduating from Latymer Upper School, each Latymerian will have developed the necessary dispositions and skills to be a lifelong learner, a global citizen and successful in adult life.



## OVERSEAS UNIVERSITIES

Studying abroad is an increasingly popular option for Latymerians choosing universities. The US is the most popular destination, but others include Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Ireland, and Australia. Outside of the UK, there is a wealth of exciting universities and programmes offering a different kind of undergraduate experience. If you are targeting particular international universities, it's a good idea to find out about course prerequisites and recommendations as you make decisions on your A levels. For instance, some Architecture and Psychology programmes and most Business programmes in North America require Mathematics at A or AS Level, and particular universities such as MIT and Harvey Mudd require Letters of Recommendation from both a maths/science and an art/humanities/social science teacher.

Our Head of International Applications, Mr Simon Lewis, can help you to understand A Level choices in the context of international university options. He can be contacted via email: [sel@latymer-upper.org](mailto:sel@latymer-upper.org)





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