



## WESTHOLME SIXTH FORM

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## WESTHOLME SIXTH FORM

# CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT IN THE SIXTH FORM

2010 – 2011



The following courses are offered in addition to the Advanced level programme.

## AQA BACCALAUREATE AWARD (AQA BACC)

- The AQA “Bacc” is an opportunity for students to significantly improve their further learning, education and employment prospects. It is an academic qualification which builds on a student’s core A Level subjects, adding value through wider learning and enrichment activities.
- It is composed of four essential elements, each developing key facets of the students’ all round education. These elements are:
  1. Academic in-depth study—students will study 3 or 4 subjects to A2 level.
  2. Broader study—students will study General Studies to at least AS level.
  3. Enrichment activities—students will take part in personal development activities (eg Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme) or community work.
  4. Independent learning—student will complete the Extended Project Qualification.
- By completing these four elements students will be awarded an “AQA Bacc” – there are 3 levels: “AQA Bacc”, “AQA Bacc with Merit” and “AQA Bacc with Distinction”. We expect that many Westholme students will gain this over-arching qualification award by skilfully combining their Sixth form options to meet the requirements.

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

### Why choose the new Extended Project Qualification?

- The Extended Project is a new qualification offered by AQA allowing students more control over their studies. Candidates can choose to explore a further aspect of a subject they are studying, or a topic in which they have a personal interest.
- The finished project can be a written report, a performance, a piece of art, a community project, a CD, a DVD or even computer software.
- The Project is graded A\* - E and is worth slightly more than an AS qualification. A Grade A carries 70 UCAS points whereas a Grade A at AS Level carries 60 points.
- Universities are in favour of this new qualification as it offers students the opportunity to develop essential skills for Higher Education and the workplace. By choosing to complete this project students become critical, reflective and independent learners.
- If you are applying for a competitive course at a prestigious university you may be asked about your Extended Project topic. An unusual and interesting topic may secure you a place!

### Teaching / Study time

- 2 one hour sessions per week in Year 13.

## AS / A2 GENERAL STUDIES

### Why study General Studies?

- \* General Studies is a useful Sixth Form qualification as it helps to broaden students' post-16 education and complements other studies.
- \* Students obtain a deeper understanding of important contemporary issues. The course provides useful preparation for higher education and life in general as students are encouraged to develop their thinking skills, their capacity to construct arguments and their ability to draw conclusions. By following the course students will improve their communication and presentation skills and learn to work both independently and with others.

### Course content

There are 4 modules – Modules 1 & 3 are devoted to Culture & Society. In these modules you will study the following topics:

- \* Artistic movements and artists
- \* The Arts – music, literature and theatre
- \* Beliefs and tolerance – living in a multi-faith society
- \* The power of language – spin and propaganda
- \* The power of the media
- \* Freedom, rights and responsibilities
- \* The British political system and the role of the Monarchy

Modules 2 & 4 are devoted to Science & Society. In these modules you will study the following topics:

- \* The origins of the Universe, natural forces and forms of energy
- \* Commerce and industry and the impact on the economy and the environment
- \* The work of scientists and inventors
- \* Moral dilemmas surrounding the work of scientists
- \* Research methods
- \* Solving world problems: co-operation and intervention

### Teaching time

- \* 2 one hour lessons per week in Year 12 for AS level
- \* 2 one hour lessons per week in Year 13 for A2 level

### Examinations – AS GENERAL STUDIES

- \* Module 1 – 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of the AS Examination (25% of full A Level) – objective test questions and questions based on source material.
- \* Module 2 – 1 hour 30 minutes – 50% of the AS Examination (25% of full A Level) - objective test questions and questions based on source material.

### Examinations – A2 GENERAL STUDIES

- \* Module 3 – 2 hours – 25% of total A Level marks – 1 question based on source material + 2 essays from a choice of 8.
- \* Module 4 – 2 hours – 25% of total A Level marks – short answer questions based on a pre-release Case Study + 1 essay from a choice of 4.

## COMMUNITY SPORTS LEADERSHIP AWARD

During the course, students are taught various leadership skills through the medium of sport.

There are 8 units which must be completed:

1. Organising and delivering a sports activity session
2. Establishing and maintaining a safe sporting activity
3. Understanding the structure of sport in the UK
4. Understanding and leading fitness sessions
5. Demonstrating principles and practice in running sporting events and competitions
6. Demonstrating principles and practice in adapting sports activities
7. Planning a series of appropriate sporting activities
8. 10 hours voluntary leadership experience in the community

It is important to note that candidates do not have to be expert sports performers. Students just need to have good communication skills, be organised and most importantly be enthusiastic.

We work quite closely with Beardwood Bank and CSLA candidates will be expected to organise and lead sessions with small groups of these younger students during the course (usually a highlight of the year for both Beardwood Bank girls and CSLA candidates!).

The course is ideal for students who want to improve their leadership skills, have an interest in sport and are looking into careers that would benefit from this sort of tuition, (e.g. teaching, management, sports development, event management etc.)

### Teaching time

- 1 one hour lesson each week in Year 12 plus practical assignments.

## ENGLISH SPEAKING BOARD EXAMINATION

One of the options available in either Lower or Upper Sixth is for girls to work towards the Advanced Certificate in Spoken English.

This is the highest level offered by the English Speaking Board and, when attained, it is worth between 45 and 65 UCAS tariff points depending on the level achieved.

The exam is externally assessed and, on the day, girls must give an oral presentation, discuss a newspaper article, give an evaluative recommendation of a book and participate throughout the day in discussion, listening and asking questions. Past results have been outstanding.

The English Speaking Board was founded in 1953 to promote and assess effective, confident and constructive communication skills, all qualities which we hope our Sixth Form girls will take with them to University and beyond.

### Teaching time

- 1 one hour lesson each week in either Year 12 or Year 13.