

A level Options Evening

Thursday 9th February 2024





Welcome!

This evening we will:

- Give an overview of the sixth form at TBS and all that it offers;
- Answer some frequently asked questions;
- Explain the options process.



Sixth Form Key Terms

Key Stage 5 (6th Form) = Years 12 and 13

AS = Year 12 course and examinations

A2 = Year 13 course and examinations

A Level = AS (50%) + A2 (50%)



Life in the TBS Sixth Form



- Increased independence;
- Rigorous A level curriculum;
- University preparation from day 1;
- Student leadership opportunities;
- Separate study and recreation spaces;
- Extra curricular activities.



Academic Excellence

- At TBS, students achieve excellent A level results.
- In the last five years, our average pass rate is 99% and 43% have achieved A or A* grades.
- Most of our students will eventually qualify with 4 AS Levels and 3 A Levels.
- This represents a greater number than normally studied in the UK, where students typically take 3 A levels maximum.



Why A Levels?



- Over 1,400 universities worldwide recognise A Levels and they are the most common global qualification.
- They are favoured by every UK university, and by all the Ivy League universities in the US, and in many other major student destinations, such as Australia, Canada, Singapore, and across Europe.
- The depth and rigour of A levels is why they receive such global recognition.
- Students specialise early compared to other systems, so are able to go into a level of depth often more common in first year university programmes.

Not IB?



- Like A levels, IB provides greater depth than GCSE or the Middle Years Programme they often follow.
- The content of each subject is less rigorous than A levels, but a broader range of subjects is studied.
- Choices must cover all six subject groups: Studies in Language and Literature; Language Acquisition; Individuals and Society; Sciences; Mathematics and Arts.
- This can be beneficial for students who do not yet know what specialism they would like to pursue.
- However, for those who are already more focused, it can leave a bigger gap to bridge between school and university study.

"Exemplary" Teachers



- All TBS teachers are UK qualified subject specialists, which is crucial for A level;
- Our 2022 BSO Inspection report highlighted teaching in KS5 as particularly "exemplary" and inspectors commented on teachers' excellent subject knowledge and the high quality of feedback students received;
- A level classes are small, which means that students are able to access more targeted teacher support and advice.

Independence & Leadership



- Sixth form marks a significant shift in expectations of independence, both academically and outside of the curriculum;
- It is expected that for each AS level, students will do around 5 hours of independent study per week, outside of lessons;
- We support this shift by providing tools to help ensure students make this transition well;
- At this age, our student leaders have an important role and voice in the school- both formally through the prefect system and more informally through club leadership and volunteering.

Pastoral Support

- Overseen by our Head of Key Stage 5, who monitors their wellbeing and responds to any concerns from staff or students;
- Sixth form mentor in vertical groups to enable strong peer to peer support;
- Mentor meets regularly with each student on a one to one basis;
- PSHE lessons weekly follow UK curriculum and adapt to our local context and student needs;
- Student support teacher, Ms Goldie, provides skills support and our counsellor, Ms Kydd, is available to support students too.



Academic Support



- Small classes mean students have tailored academic support from subject specialists;
- Year 12s begin the year with dedicated 'study skills' lessons, bespoke to their needs;
- Teachers direct students to wider study and revision resources;
- The Head of Key Stage and academic head monitor progress and provide support to teachers and students where concerns arrive.

Community Service

- TBS is a FOBISIA leader in community service projects and won International School of the Year for its work after the 2015 earthquake;
- Students, especially those in the sixth form, lead our community fundraising;
- All sixth form students will participate in at least one community service expedition over their two years in KS5;
- There are also service opportunities through D of E and other extra-curricular activities like the Zonta club.



Creative Arts Opportunities

- Creative arts hub, which includes a black box theatre space, art centre with dedicated sixth form room, photography dark room and a recording studio;
- All students can opt to pursue the arts as part of our extra curricular activities programme and are warmly encouraged to do so;
- Instrumental lessons are at the heart of our music programme, where students have the opportunity to master a wide range of instruments under the guidance of skilled instructors.



Sports & PE

- Physical Education lessons twice a week, taught by UK qualified PE teachers;
- We know from experience that young people who are fit and healthy are not only happier, but more successful academically too;
- Our key stage 5 students have the opportunity to select a PE pathway based on whether they would prefer a competitive or a more developmental group for their sports and activities;
- Outside PE, a broad range of clubs and teams are available, competitive and recreational.





Universities and Careers

Where in the world will A levels take you?



- Weekly university sessions advising on options and processes
- Talks by university representatives
- Careers talks
- Mentor time one-to-ones
- UniFrog
- University fairs

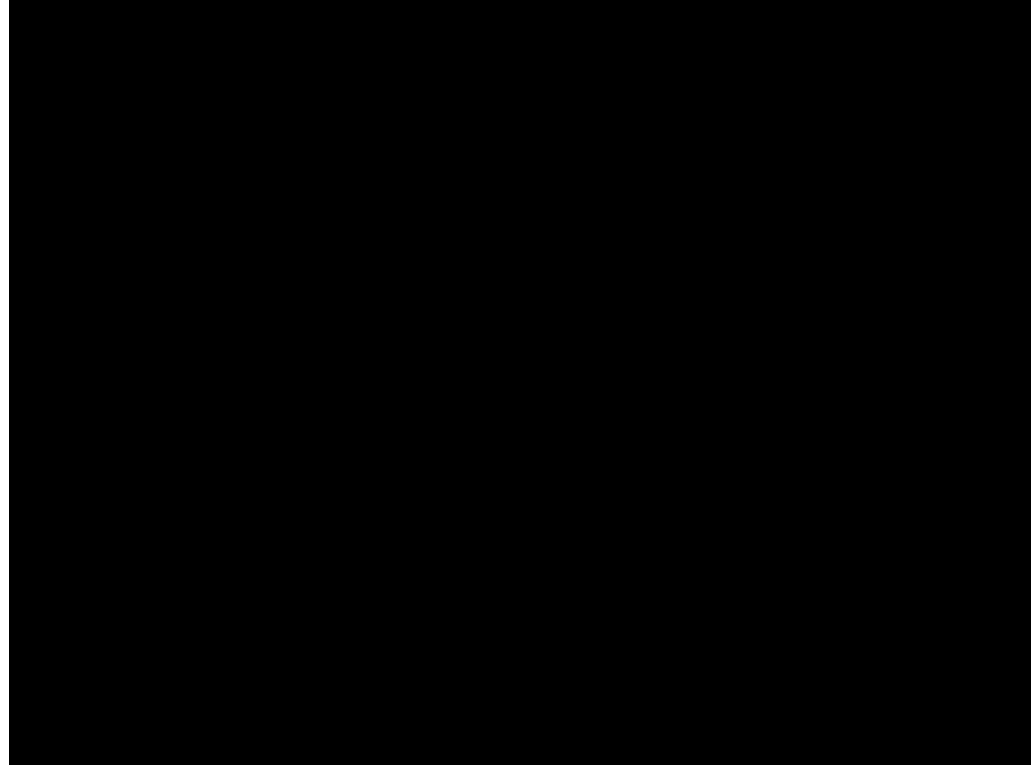


Ms Emma Sheldon: Head of KS5 & Universities Coordinator 2025

Universities Coordinator, Repton
International School;

Student recruitment and support
roles at Goldsmiths London, Cardiff
University, Abertay University,
University of Cumbria;

MSc in Chemistry.



Entry Requirements & Pathways

- 5 grade Cs or equivalent and above at GCSE;
- C equivalent or above in English language, maths and science;
- Entry requirements for individual subjects.

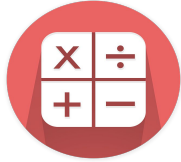
We endeavour to ensure that all students can access appropriate courses for them and, depending upon the application, can create individual pathways if GCSE results are required.



Choosing Your Subjects



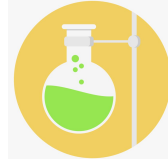
ENGLISH
LITERATURE



MATHEMATICS



PHYSICS



CHEMISTRY



BIOLOGY



DRAMA



PHYSICAL
EDUCATION



HISTORY



GEOGRAPHY



FRENCH, SPANISH,
CHINESE



COMPUTER
SCIENCE



MUSIC



DT



ART & DESIGN



MEDIA STUDIES



SOCIOLOGY



PSYCHOLOGY



ECONOMICS

Choosing Your Subjects

Questions to ask yourself:

- What do I enjoy studying?
- What subjects might help me access university courses I'd like to take?
- What subjects might help me develop skills I'll need for my future career?
- What combinations or ranges of subjects might help me in the future?





Specific Pathways

Many degree courses do not specify which A level subjects you need, but some more technical subjects do. For example,

Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Medicine: Chemistry, Biology + Maths or Physics

Engineering: Maths essential; they may ask for Physics or Chemistry

Computer Science: Maths usually required

Other degree courses may not have specific requirements, but some A levels will be more welcomed by universities than others.

For example,

Architecture: Maths, Physics, Art and Design

Law: History, English, a foreign language

Do your research!



The Options Process

Over the next few weeks, there will be lots of support to make your choices.

Ask questions, read all the guidance carefully and do some research into university courses.

	What we will do:	What you should do:
February 2024	Options Evening will take place on our school campus. The options booklet will be shared with both students and parents.	Read the booklet carefully and speak to the teachers of the subjects you may wish to study. Begin to discuss as a family which options might be right for you.
March 2024	Initial options form is shared with existing TBS students.	Fill in the subjects you think you want to take. These may not be your final choices as they will need to be discussed by teachers and you will need to gain the entry requirements.
April 2024	We will check over your subject requests and begin to plan a timetable of offerings for next year.	Speak to the Higher Education Coordinator (Ms. Florence Gurung) if you have any questions about future university pathways and prerequisites (eg. SAT examinations).
March/ April 2024	During one-to-one conversations, your mentors may discuss your options choices with you.	Talk openly with your mentor about your choices and be prepared to change your subjects if recommended to do so by your teachers.
May 2024	We will send out a final options form. We will finalise option blocks and timetables and send out letters to your parents to confirm the choices you have made.	Complete your final options choices, following discussion with your mentor and teachers. Your parents will sign and return the final options letter.
August 2024	We will publish your IGCSE results and your mentors will discuss these with you to check entry requirements.	You will collect your IGCSE results and prepare to begin your Sixth Form courses.



Any questions?



Thank you

