

Year 12 Parents' Information Evening

17 Sept 2024

Questions and responses



AS Levels at the end of Year 12

Why do most students do four subjects in Year 12?

This is to allow students as much flexibility as possible, and to give them a broad experience. Doing four subjects in Year 12 allows them to defer their final choice until later in the year, as they might be surprised by how well they get on certain subjects. Most students do four subjects through Year 12, but will tell us in the Spring term which one they are most likely not to continue into Year 13. We then enter them for an AS examination in that subjects so they gain a qualification from that year of study.

Sometimes students change their mind about which subject they want to drop – for example if they do rather better in the AS examination than they expected. If this is the case, we do allow them to change their mind and drop another subject instead.

Some students do take all four subjects through - not many, but it is possible if they want to. However, universities only ever want 3 grades, so it is usually better to aim for quality rather than quantity!

Is the AS level grade expected to be lower as they are sitting the exam a year early?

The AS is essentially just a 1 year course which forms the 'year 1' content (around 40%) of the full A Level course. The end of Year 12 is therefore the right time to take an AS exam. Usually, students take the AS in the subject they do not intend to take through to Year 13.

We've heard that everyone takes the AS if they are doing Further Maths?

Further Maths is a very challenging courses which can only be taken as a fourth subject in Year 12. Because it is difficult, the Maths department require **all** students to take the AS examination at the end of Year 12, even if they are intending to carry on with Further Maths into Year 13. Students are allowed to take an AS examination in one of their other subjects – usually the one they will drop if they carry on with Further Maths.

Questions about the A Level courses

Where can we find details of the study /reference books that we need to purchase ?

We use a whole mixture of resources, depending on the subject. Some resources are web-based and we purchase the licences in school. Some subjects supply essential textbooks, and others recommend additional textbooks which are not essential but which may be helpful. Students will find out from their subject teachers what mixture of resources they are expected to use.

If we have any questions regarding subject resources, a student's progress etc. can we email the subject teachers?

If you have a question/query, please email the school using the main school email address school@lgs.slough.sch.uk. Your query will then be passed on the best person to deal with it, and you can then get into an email or telephone conversation with that member of staff.

I understand some art students aren't able to do their enrichment course due to a timetable issue. Is there a plan in place to address this?

The teaching staff of the art department all work part time. This imposes some constraints on the timetable, and some other constraints elsewhere in the system mean that some Year 12 Art lessons have had to be scheduled in the slot for enrichment. Unfortunately this does mean that students taking A Level Art will not be able to do an optional enrichment subject this academic year. They are of course able to partake in other opportunities throughout the year such as the wider enrichment talks and the 'Passport for life' programme. We apologise for this unavoidable issue.

When do we find out if our child is selected for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, as they have been told there are limited numbers

Hopefully in the next 2 weeks. There are still students changing their minds about their enrichment options.

Careers/university applications etc.

When do the applications for universities open and close?

Essentially it is in the autumn term of Year 13 - early in the term for some courses like medicine, later in the term for others. Students start the preparation process in the summer term of Year 12.

When is the deadline for applying for Russell group University?

There is no specific deadline as there is for Oxford, Cambridge or medicine applications. Students have to apply by the final UCAS deadline of 31 January, but our experience shows that it can be advantageous to send applications earlier on in the process if they are applying to particularly competitive courses or universities. We therefore usually suggest students submit their applications to the school by early October; we arrange our own internal deadlines to be much earlier than the UCAS national ones to give our students the best possible chance of offers.

How do students apply for degree level apprenticeships?

Degree level apprenticeship application processes and deadlines are specific to each company. There is a government website where they are all advertised: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. However, our subscription to CTM Pathway makes this process much simpler for our students. This system will remind students of the deadlines for apprenticeships in their chosen area of interest, invite them to employability days which prepare them for the selection process and offer a mentor.

When will the students get access to CTM Pathways?

Students will be introduced to the website during the wider enrichment programme later this half term, via the 6th Form newsletter and also as a follow up form time activity.

When do you give students more information about applying for medicine courses?

Normally after October half term. We have a 'Medicine Pathway' programme which helps students do the right preparation for medicine applications.