

Marling Sixth Form Programme of Study

The programme of study for students at Marling School Sixth Form is an academic one, based on three or four subjects started in September of Year 12 and completed to A Level in the summer of Year 13. In addition to A Level study, students will be required to select a 'breadth' option which is followed in Year 12. Breadth option subjects include, Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, Developing Player Programme, Classical Civilisation, Core Mathematics, Creative Writing and Geology. In Y12 students also complete the Marling Diamond Programme, developing skills outside and beyond the A Level curriculum.

Choosing your Programme of Study

Deciding which A Levels to take is not a decision to be taken lightly. You will need to think carefully about your interests, skills and about possible directions post 18.

Different skill sets are required for different subjects and you should consider the skills involved in each and compare them with your current abilities based on performance at GCSE level. Remember that the skills required at A Level may be very different or significantly higher than those at GCSE.

Some subjects require practical skills such as using laboratory equipment, others benefit from having the confidence to debate and discuss controversial issues. Some may involve significant background reading and essay writing or require independent reading, others a lot of creativity. The way a subject is assessed might also be important to you, particularly if assessment involves a lot of project work. These are all factors to be considered before making your final choice.

Things to bear in mind when choosing A Level subjects

If you have a clear idea of the course you wish to study at university, research the course entry requirement carefully. Universities will require certain subjects for particular courses and some have GCSE requirements too. For example, you will need to take at least two science subjects to apply for medicine and dentistry or a drama course might require that you have at least one essay-based A Level. Remember that different universities will have different policies, so research a wide range of providers to ensure that you have made informed choices.

You should have a real interest in the subjects you intend to study. Ensure you have researched the content and detail of the course beforehand. Being motivated to explore your subjects in full and in depth will ultimately play a key role in determining eventual success.

Prior knowledge of a subject is not always a prerequisite – you may however be required to show an aptitude in another related subject. Some subjects are also very different from what you experience at GCSE. Beware of taking a subject just because it sounds interesting. If you wish to study a subject that you have not studied at GCSE level it is essential to find out more about the course content. Ask lots of questions of the students and teachers in that subject.

Remember it is worth investing time and effort to research your intended subjects to keep your options open and enable you to make a well-informed decision about which subjects to take.

WHAT WE NEED ON YOUR APPLICATION FORM

When completing your application form **please choose 3 A levels and a breadth option**. Some students may choose to study 4 A Levels, typically when taking both Further Mathematics and Mathematics A Level. Please note that higher education institutions will generally expect students to have studied 3 A Levels and will base their entry criteria on this.

For full details about the subjects on offer, see the Prospectus Curriculum Guide.