MARLING SIXTH FORM
SUMMER WORKBOOK 2026





Welcome to Marling Sixth Form

Congratulations on securing your place at Marling Sixth Form. We are delighted that you have chosen to continue your academic journey with us and are excited to welcome you into our Sixth Form community.

The transition from GCSEs to A Levels is an important and rewarding step, bringing greater independence, deeper subject knowledge, and new opportunities to develop the skills needed for university, apprenticeships, and future careers. To help you make the strongest possible start, our teachers have carefully prepared a small amount of bridging work for each subject.

This preparatory work is designed to be completed immediately before you join us and will introduce key concepts, skills, and ways of thinking that underpin A Level study. By engaging fully with these activities, you will build confidence, develop good study habits, and ensure that you can hit the ground running from your very first lesson at Marling Sixth Form.

We look forward to supporting you on the next stage of your educational journey.

Best wishes



Ms Louise Harris
Assistant Principal
Head of Sixth Form

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ART CRAFT & DESIGN

In a Nutshell

A Level Art, Craft & Design (all endorsements) allows you to develop an exciting and extensive range of creative and technical skills. It enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills.

It also provides you with a strong understanding of historic and contemporary visual art practice, through supporting contextual studies. Unique to studying Art at A Level, you build up a very personal and continually evolving body of practical work, guided and supported by your teachers. Individual exploration and development of your personal skills and creative directions is a special aspect of this subject.

The art industry is the third largest income generator in the UK and there are numerous possibilities for art-based careers. Many of our students go on to follow a diverse range of art-related courses as well as a number of non-related art subjects. What they take with them is a unique set of transferable skills as well as a greater aesthetic awareness of the world around us.

Work for September

Over the Summer, we would like you to continue developing your art practice, use of materials and techniques and knowledge and understanding of the work of others. The work produced should reflect the endorsement you have chosen for A Level e.g. Fine Art, 3D, Graphic Communication, Photography and Textiles.

You may wish to use IT to develop some ideas, as well as more traditional methods, this work is likely to generate 2D & 3D responses. You can present your work as a Power Point, in a sketchbook or on separate sheets. You have three tasks to complete:

1. Collect images of work by 2 artists (3d or 2d) /Designers/Photographers or Graphic Designers. Present the work in a suitable and interesting way. Research your chosen practitioner and provide written information about the work and their techniques e.g. personal comment, favourite bits, the style and characteristics, when it was produced, techniques/materials used and the name of the work.
2. Generate a photoshoot for each of the artists you have looked at; what is the subject matter of their work?

Responses may include one of the following headings:

- Skies - try to show different weather conditions
- People in different contexts - look at the shapes they make / interaction with others and their environments / shadows / silhouettes
- Animals
- Texture - close-ups of weathered surfaces - cut up vegetables, peeling paint, lichen & seaweed on rock, cracks, strata, flowers, leaves, fungi, shells & pebbles
- Land-/sea-/town-/city-scapes - consider interesting viewpoints / angles
- Structures - bones, trees, ruins, buildings, church towers, bridges, piers, gateways, arches, castle doors and other interesting focal & viewpoints

• Vehicles & transport - interesting focal & viewpoints
3. Choose a favourite image from each of the artist inspired shoots and generate a response for each, utilising appropriate techniques, materials and processes relevant to your chosen
endorsement. For example; this could be a pencil study, painting, 3d piece, digital piece of edited photographs.

You must bring all 3 tasks to the first lesson in September.

Useful Resources

JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES:

Aesthetic/the Art and Culture Magazine Art in America magazine, Art in Print, The Art Journal, ARTnews, Apollo Magazine, ART & CAKE-Contemporary Art, Fine Art Connoisseur, Magazine Dazed and Confused, Hi-Fructose Magazine

WEBSITES:

Tate, The National Gallery, London, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Royal Academy of Arts, National Gallery of Art





BIOLOGY

In a Nutshell

The world needs biologists like never before to solve many of the challenges it faces today, such as the battle against the coronavirus and the impacts of climate change. Are you ready to save lives and save the world? Join us at Marling School Biology department to start your journey as a biologist!

Work for September

1. Make an annotated diagram at A Level detail of the following cells (include details of the functions of all the organelles/parts of the cells):
a. generalised animal cell
b. generalised plant cell
c. prokaryotic (bacterial) cell

2. Make an annotated diagram of the fluid mosaic model of a cell membrane at A Level detail. Make sure you add details about the functions of all parts of the membrane.

Useful Resources

Khan academy:

https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/structure-of-a-cell
and
https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/membranes-and-transport

Crash Course via YouTube:
Seneca Learning (Biology OCR A level):
Free OCR A Biology A Level Revision | Seneca

CHEMISTRY

In a Nutshell

Chemistry is a blend of practical exploration with theoretical topics. You will develop essential knowledge and understanding of the atomic and material world and competence and confidence in practical, mathematical and problem solving investigation. A Level Chemistry is a challenge that requires an interest in the subject, an enthusiastic and inquisitive mind and a commitment to working hard. It is a compulsory choice for anyone wishing to pursue medicine, dentistry and veterinary science, as well as chemistry-based degrees, such as pharmacy, pharmacology and biochemistry

Work for September

COMPULSARY:

Join the interactive Seneca Class and embark on a comprehensive assignment. This assignment is designed to cover essential GCSE topics (quantitative and organic) that resurface at the A Level, making it crucial to have a solid understanding of these concepts. Aim to achieve a minimum score of 85% in each section. Access the assignment here:

https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/class/639ofygv3k/assignments/assignment/fe6025da-9323-4268-99fe-c26d86a9e196?suggestedProvider=google

SUGGESTED:

Immerse yourself in a practical titration experiment provided by the esteemed Royal Society of Chemistry. This hands-on activity will enhance your skills in conducting titrations, an essential technique in chemistry. Access the experiment here: https://virtual.edu.rsc.org/titration/experiment/2

COMPUTER SCIENCE

In a Nutshell

At A Level, we aim to enhance the programming skills you've developed during your GCSE studies, while also fostering greater independence in your learning. By engaging in diverse projects and real-world applications, we encourage you to explore your unique ideas and develop their coding expertise. At A Level, you have greater choice in how to apply your programming knowledge and tackle problems in creative ways in comparison to GCSE with its focus on short programming exam questions.

Work for September

There is a lot more programming in Year 12 compared to your GCSE studies and during Term 1 we look to build your independence with the skills you learnt at GCSE in a new language - Javascript.

The focus of your summer work is to:

Sign up to Free Code Camp:

- Javascript - JavaScript Certification | freeCodeCamp.org. Complete all sections under Variables and Strings. You can do more if you wish.

- HTML - Responsive Web Design Certification | freeCodeCamp.org. Complete the following sections:
    - Build a Curriculum Online
    - Debug Camperbot's profile page
    - Understanding HTML Attributes
    - Debug Pet Adoption Page
    - Build a Cat Photo App
    - Build a Recipe Page
    - Optional - if there are other sections that interest you, feel free to go ahead and experiment

Recommended Reading

- Course Textbook: OCR AS and A Level Computer Science
- https://amzn.to/2W6nUwH
- BCS Glossary of Computing
- bcs-gl-bk-en-GB
- Essential algorithms for A Level Computer Science
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/1794359427

DRAMA AND THEATRE

In a Nutshell

Drama and Theatre A Level is a creative and diverse subject where students can develop their passion for Drama, whether that is through acting or through technical elements, such as lighting, sound, set, or costume. We offer students the opportunity to explore Drama as an actor or a technical student, enabling you to tailor the course to suit your particular interests. The majority of Drama lessons are practical, with written work interspersed throughout the course. We endeavour to develop your theatre skills, as well as skills of analysis, evaluation, teamwork, and communication. Through being part of the Drama and Theatre A Level class, you will develop your own personal skills too, such as public speaking and confidence. This is reflected in our past student leadership teams, with student roles being undertaken by A Level Drama students. Through studying the subject, you will ultimately have fun, develop lifelong skills, and enhance your understanding of culture and history (and let's not forget the chance to see many shows at the theatre too!).

Work for September

SET TEXTS:

To prepare effectively for Year 12, you will need to purchase the following essential materials:

- Live Like Pigs by John Arden
- A Day in the Death of Joe Egg by Peter Nichols
- Antigone by Jean Anouilh

RESEARCH:

You will explore the following practitioners. We recommend you undertake some research on them prior to starting A-level:

- Brecht
- Stanislavski
- Splendid Productions
- The Paper Birds
- Katie Mitchell
- Frantic Assembly

DT PRODUCT DESIGN

In a Nutshell

"A designer dreams of things that never were, and says 'why not?", Dick Powell

Practically everything you use, see and touch during your daily life has been designed by someone. Design is present in areas as diverse as architecture, furniture design, electrical products, toys, fashion, sport, medicine, space travel and many more. Good design can change lives, solve global problems, inspire a generation and save lives.

By studying Product Design at Marling, you are embarking on a journey into the unknown, learning about the best modern industry and design has to offer while opening your mind to new and unimagined possibilities. A chance to look back at the history of design, learn the skills and knowledge that make todays designers great and develop the potential to contribute directly to future generations.

If you love innovation and the creative world, foster a desire to make a difference and understand the power that good design has then think 'why not!' and join our dynamic and well-resourced department to study Product Design.

Why is Design Technology Important?

Work for September

Develop your CAD Skills:

You need to become familiar with a CAD package to allow design and presentation of computer-generated ideas and models. We use On-Shape at Marling which is free to access online, but any of the software listed would be useful. You can follow the many online tutorials for the software you choose then try modelling an item from home.

- On-Shape (preferred): https://www.onshape.com/en/education/sign-up
- Fusion 360: https://www.autodesk.co.uk/products/fusion-360/students-teachers-educators
- Google SketchUp: https://www.sketchup.com/plans-and-pricing/sketchup-free

Useful Resources

You should consider getting the following items:

- My Revision Notes: AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design
- My Revision Notes: AQA A Level Design and Technology: Product Design: Amazon.co.uk: Morrison, Julia, Sumpner, Dave: 9781510432291: Books
- A4 Sketch Book
- Set of assorted Fineliner Pens

ECONOMICS

In a Nutshell

Economics is everywhere. It seeks to explain what drives human behaviour and the decisions we make. It is a social science but recognises that people's behaviour is not necessarily rational or predictable.

The course is split into Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. However, they are not entirely distinct areas of study. For example, microeconomic principles often provide insights into understanding aspects of the macroeconomy. Similarly, economic issues and problems often contain both a microeconomic and macroeconomic dimension.

It is a discipline that combines Business, Politics, Sociology, Psychology, History and Geography, with the skills used complimenting those from Maths and English. To find out more about the course content, please follow this link: AQA | Economics | A-Level | A-level Economics

Work for September

Compulsory

• Read through and familiarise yourself with the syllabus on the AQA website: AQA | Economics | A-Level | A-level Economics
• Conduct independent research, finding out the difference between microeconomics and macroeconomics. Produce an infographic showing the differences between the two.
• All economic courses start off with the fundamental understanding of the 'Basic economic problem'. Create a PowerPoint presentation to explain fully this concept. Some suggested websites are: www.tutor2u.net/economics www.theweek.co.uk/ www.economicsonline.co.uk/ www.economicshelp.org

Useful Resources

• Head Start in A-Level Economics: the Transition Resource for Year 11 Students | Collections | Economics | tutor2u
• Something to listen to: Economics In Ten - Podcast - Apple Podcasts
• Register with Ted.com to view talks and presentations on the business/economic world. The following are good starting talks:
https://www.ted.com/playlists/272/understanding_world_economics -
https://www.ted.com/talks/didier_sornette_how_we_can_predict_the_next_financial_crisis
Rory Sutherland: Sweat the small stuff | TED Talk

Hot Topics

Compulsory

Keep an eye on the news and come to your first lesson with Economic topics and stories you hear about in the news (hint, listen out for key terms such as interest rates, tariffs, inflation etc).

ENGLISH LITERATURE

In a Nutshell

English Literature A Level is a popular subject at Marling Sixth Form and one where results are consistently high. We endeavour to enhance your knowledge and enjoyment of Literature, and also equip you with wider skills of analysis, evaluation, debating, and communication. Through English Literature, you will not only study the set texts but experience cultural history, considering how the past, present, and future all impact Literature over time.

Work for September

One of the main differences between GCSE and A Level study of English Literature is engaging with critical viewpoints and theories. Therefore, in preparation for September, one of the things that we would like you to complete is the following: Engaging with Literary Criticism

- Research the following areas of literary criticism in terms of WHAT it means, WHO were / are the leading theorists, HOW it is applied to literature:
  - Feminism
  - Marxism
  - Psychoanalysis
  - New Historicism
- Choose ONE piece of literature/TV/film/music and apply at least ONE critical theory to it e.g. How can '1984' be viewed through a Psychoanalyst lens? How could the music of Sabrina Carpenter be viewed through a feminist and new historicist lens?
- Create a short 5-minute presentation on the above, which you will share with the class in September

Essential Resources

SET TEXTS:

To prepare effectively for Year 12, you will need to purchase following essential materials:

- Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry by Forward Arts Foundation (ISBN 978-0571325405)
- Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams (Penguin Modern Classics Edition: ISBN 978-0141190273)
- Dracula by Bram Stoker (Penguin Classics Edition: ISBN 978-0141439846)
- The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (Penguin Classics Edition: ISBN 978-0141439570)

STUDY RESOURCES:

You are also required to purchase the following essential materials for Year 12 to aid your learning:

- Study and Revise Literature Guide for AS/A level: Pearson Edexcel Poems of the Decade (Hodder Education: ISBN 978-1510452695)

- Study and Revise for AS/A level: A Streetcar Named Desire (Hodder Education: ISBN 978-1471853739)
- Dracula: York Notes Advanced (York Notes: ISBN 978-1405835664)
- The Picture of Dorian Gray: York Notes Advanced English Literature Study Guide (York Notes: ISBN 978-1408217313)

Recommended Reading

The above texts and tasks are compulsory for September. Below is suggested wider reading which you could engage with to further your understanding and preparation.

Other popular Gothic texts:

- The Mysteries of Udolpho by Ann Radcliffe
- The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter
- The Monk by Matthew Lewis
- The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole

Other texts by Tennessee Williams:

- Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
- The Glass Menagerie

Poetry:

- Forward Arts Foundation www.forwardartsfoundation.org
- The Poetry Archive is the largest online collection of recordings by poets – contemporary and historic – reading their own work. Its mission is to help make poetry accessible, relevant and enjoyable to a wide audience. Many poets in the archive introduce their poems before reading them, often providing a valuable insight as to their meaning – for the poet – and how they came to be written. It also features many poets from Poems of the Decade (your set text anthology).

GEOGRAPHY

In a Nutshell

Geography is one of the broadest and most dynamic A Levels you can study. Covering a wide range of content such as world poverty and political systems, the future of the climate and of coastal communities, or how to do scientific research you will get a bit of it all! Geography will nurture what you are interested in and give you an opportunity to find issues that speak to you and your sense of curiosity.

Geography will lead you to an appreciation of the Earth and provide insight into the big issues facing the planet, those who live on it today and more importantly the decisions that are being made around these issues.

Work for September

Introduction to A-Level Geography

In Year 12 you will study both Changing Places and Water and Carbon Cycles. These topics explore the relationships between people, places and the natural environment, and help geographers understand some of the most important challenges facing the world today.

Your Task

Write one essay of 1,000–1,500 words responding to the following question:
Essay Title - "How do people and natural systems interact to shape the world we live in?"

What to Include

Your essay should draw upon examples from both:
1. Changing Places
Consider:
Why places are important to different people.
How people's experiences create a sense of place.
How places change over time.
How different groups may view the same place differently.
You may use a place that is personally meaningful to you as an example.
2. Water and Carbon Cycles
Consider:
Why water and carbon are vital for life on Earth.
How natural processes move water and carbon through the environment.
How human activities can disrupt these cycles.
The consequences of environmental change.
You may refer to examples such as:
The Amazon Rainforest
UK Peatlands
Arctic Tundra
Local environmental issues

Research Requirements

Your essay must include:

At least three sources of information

At least one map, photograph or diagram

References to real-world examples

HISTORY

In a Nutshell

The History course at Marling is designed to cover a wide period, building upon your GCSE knowledge and expanding it. This ranges from understanding the politics and society of the 16th century, and how those issues still resonate in the Middle East hundreds of years later. We look at different styles of government, such as religious and political, whilst also looking at the impact this had on the people who lived under them. It's been designed to show how History still resonates today.

Work for September

You will be expected to bring along examples to discuss during the first lesson of any historical topics, events, or activities you have explored outside the classroom that you have found particularly interesting or enjoyable, and which may have influenced your decision to study History at A-Level.

These could include one or more of the following:

- A book you have read e.g. e.g. The Winter King – Thoms Penn
- A museum you have been too – e.g. Museum in the Park in Stroud
- A historical film you have watched – e.g. Elizabeth
- Podcasts that you listen to. – e.g. The rest is history

You will be expected to fill in a review sheet in the first lesson so please make some notes on what you saw, read or listened to on the impact it had on you.

MATHS / FURTHER MATHS

In a Nutshell

A Level Mathematics is a door opener. It is a pre-requisite for many University courses and is highly recommended by many. The course will support and develop a range of skills including problem-solving, analytical, research and logic. All of these skills are transferable to a number of career options and are highly regarded skills by future employers. Mathematics and Further Mathematics are both high performing A Levels at Marling Sixth Form and as a result it is one of the most popular subjects offered.
The teaching is excellent and all members of staff are always available to ensure that learners make excellent progress both inside and outside of allocated lessons.

Work for September

Please complete and mark the 'Deepen' questions from the sparx transition preparation booklet and hand into your teacher during your first lesson. This document is attached in the email.

MUSIC

In a Nutshell

A Level Music is aimed at students who wish to (i) develop their skills and understanding of music, (ii) study music or a combined arts subject in higher education and pursue a vocation in music and / or the arts or (iii) who wish to broaden their experience and deepen their understanding of both live and recorded music as part of lifelong learning. This course can lead to the study for a BMus or BA in Music or a combined arts course. Students who are particularly gifted instrumentalists or singers (Grade 8+) could apply for a performing course at one of the conservatoires of music such as The Royal Academy of Music or The Guildhall School of Music.

Work for September

Compulsory Set Work Listening:

Please listen to the Eduqas A Level Music set works and follow the score on screen.

- Haydn Symphony No. 100 'Military' - Haydn: Symphony No. 100 in G major "Military" (with Score)
- Schubert Symphony No. 5 - Franz Schubert - Symphony No. 5 (1816)
- Poulenc Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, Movement I - Francis Poulenc: Trio for Oboe, Bassoon and Piano, FP 43 (Score Video)
- Debussy Three Nocturnes, Number 2, Fetes - Claude Debussy – Trois Nocturnes

PHYSICS

In a Nutshell

Physics stands at the forefront and cutting edge of Science, attempting to discover answers to some of life's biggest questions, such as, what is matter made from? And what is the nature of the universe? Physics is also at the heart of engineering, underpinning our future technological development, with applications ranging from spacecraft design, motor sport, renewable energy infrastructures, robotics, and civil engineering.

The A Level Physics course at Marling will build on your GCSE Physics knowledge, developing your understanding to be able to explore fundamental Physics topics and how everything in the world around you involves Physics.

Work for September

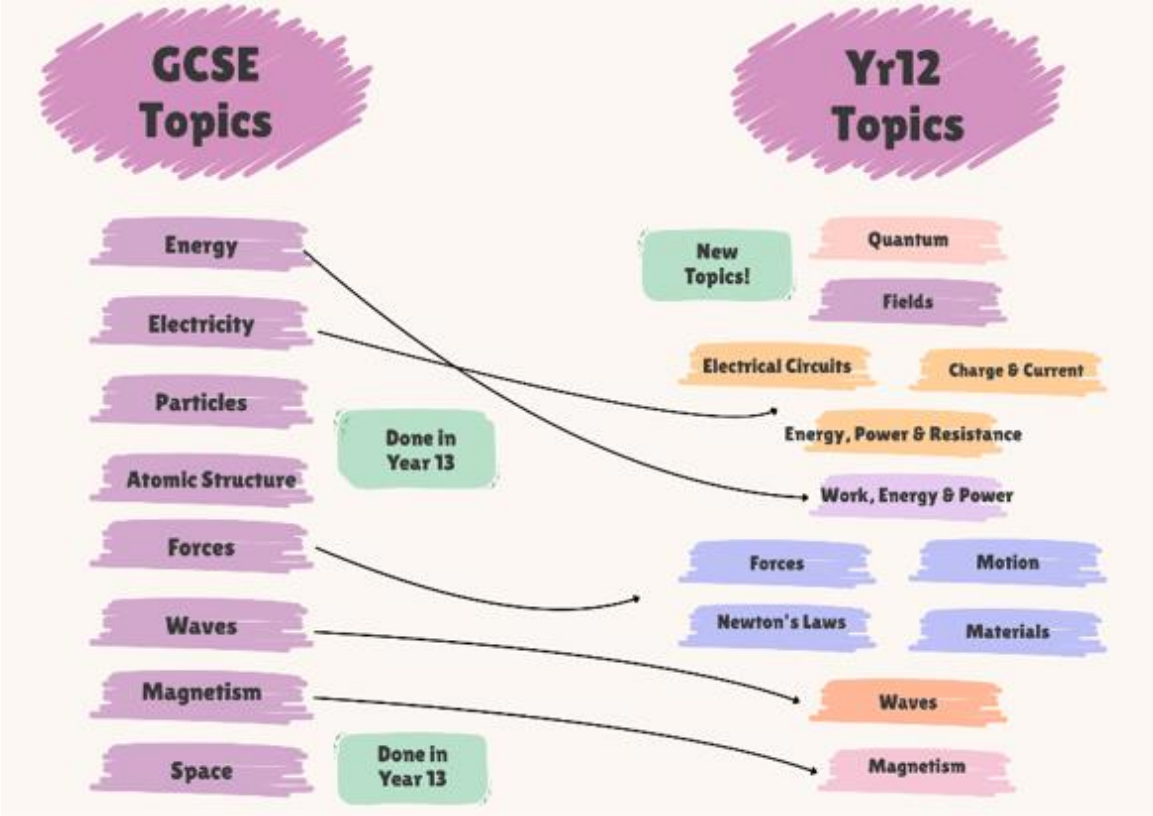
Prior to starting the A Level Physics course it is essential that you have a very good understanding of the entire GCSE specification. The Physics Summer work is designed to help keep your GCSE Physics knowledge fresh before starting the A Level Physics course.

Visit: AQA | Resources | Past Papers & AQA Mark Schemes and complete and mark the 2024 and 2023 paper 1 and 2. You can choose if you want to do these under exam conditions or open book. If there are any areas of your GCSE knowledge you feel unsure of after completing these then use BBC Bitesize to review these areas: GCSE Physics (Single Science) - AQA - BBC Bitesize

Please note, it doesn't matter if you did a different exam board to AQA at GCSE, you should still be able to complete these papers. If you completed the Combined Science course it is recommended you use the above BBC Bitesize link to go over any topics that weren't on your Combined Science course.

At A Level we will be using the OCR A Physics specification: AS and A Level - Physics A - H156, H556 . To get ahead on the A Level course have a look through the year 12 topics using: Physics Revision Notes | A-Level Physics OCR | Cognito

The below diagram shows how the GCSE course links to Y12 topics:



Isaac Physics is a great site to test and challenge your Physics. If you are interested in getting an ambitious grade or taking Physics to a higher level, it is recommended to have a go through the GCSE Questions, specifically the Challenging questions and Transition to A Level.

GCSE Question finder Transition to A Level Questions Decks

<u>Physics without Maths</u>

If you are not doing A Level Maths then please make sure that you work through the Mini Course from A Level Physics Online:

Maths for A Level Physics | Mini Course | A Level Physics Online

POLITICS

In a Nutshell

The Politics course is designed to provide a fundamental understanding of the political system of the UK and the US, with the depth of knowledge and analysis to allow direct comparison between the two in terms of political powers, structures and the extent of similarity. We also explore the fundamentals of political theory, and how these have led to the emergence and evolution of political parties and concepts.

Work for September

You'll be expected to have awareness of the latest and current political stories/scandals. What would be really good to see is your own record of the UK Cabinet – What the positions are, what things they are responsible for, and who currently holds the posts. I'd recommend this being digital so that if the posts change, you can update it easily.

You can also explore things such as the current make-up of the UK Parliament (Which parties are represented, and how many seats they have), as well as the same for the US Congress – for the House of Representatives, and for the Senate.

Equally, you can subscribe to podcasts like The Rest is Politics, The Rest is Politics US, Nick de Souza, Politics Weekly (US and/or UK), Americast, The News Agents – There are many to choose from! They'll help you keep up to date with current affairs.

Finally, for a window into British politics over the last decade, watch this 2-episode series: Brexit: A Very British Civil War - Series 1: 1. Demons Unleashed - BBC iPlayer

PSYCHOLOGY

In a Nutshell

Psychology A Level at Marling makes use of the AQA syllabus. It is an exciting course which has been designed to give you a broad knowledge of psychological concepts, taught through
key topics, in the way that most universities structure their Psychology degree courses. In year 12 we introduce you to a core set of topics, to develop your basic understanding of psychology, whilst also developing your knowledge of yourself. For example, in the memory
topic we discover how memory works, how we can improve it (great for revision skills!) and look at the dramatic impact memory inaccuracies can have in the courtroom.

In year 13 we look at a smaller number of topics, in greater depth, allowing you to test the skills you gained through year 12. For example, we look at the concept of romantic relationships. This enables you to develop a better understanding of the relationships you have had, but also
those you see around you. It includes some very modern forms of relationships, such as those made online and also parasocial relationships, which is the feelings a fan may have for
their celebrity obsession.

Work for September

DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR FIRST EXAM SKILL IN PSYCHOLOGY

This task is designed to help you develop your first skill in psychology – describing research. It will form part of our introductory scheme in September and so it is important that it is completed and brought into school for your first Psychology lessons.

Assessment Objective 1 is the ability to demonstrate knowledge and understanding. It is worth between 30 and 33% of your overall grade. Part of that description of knowledge will be to give a concise and detailed outline of research.

The structure for describing research is:
Aim – what does the research want to find out? This can often be written as a question that the researcher wanted to answer.

Method / Procedure – how was the research done? You have written these many times for lower school science experiments. It should be a step-by-step outline of the process that was followed. In the case of psychology this would include: Who the participants were. What materials were used – Questionnaires? Interviews? Computer simulations? Tests? What were the participants required to do? Findings /Results – what data was gathered from the participants and were there any patterns in it? This may be reported as average scores between different groups, changes in scores over time, etc.

Conclusion – what answers can the research draw from the findings? This need only be a one sentence summary and should link back to the question asked in the aim.

WHAT TO DO:
The British Psychological Society upload short pieces of research daily to a research digest. Look at the web page (http://bps.org.uk/collections/research-digest) and when you find a piece of research that interests you, summarise it in the format given above. Everyone should hand in a minimum of 2 summaries in September. This should be a handwritten set of notes, not a copy and paste from the website. Make use of subtitles and colour to clearly distinguish between the different sections of the summary.

No resources are required as you will be able to access a book within the classroom and a digital copy online. However, some students do prefer to have their own copy. If you wish to purchase a book, we would recommend buying the series produced by Illuminate Publishing (known as the Green haired book). There is a 3rd edition that is recent. A 2nd edition may be easier to find more cheaply. The 2nd edition does contain all the information you need to know, but has some additional content that is no longer relevant.

SOCIOLOGY

In a Nutshell

Sociology A Level at Marling makes use of the AQA syllabus. It is an interesting course which introduces you to a broad range of sociological concepts. Through the 3 papers that you study you are introduced to the core concepts of Sociological Theory and Research Methods, Education and Crime & Deviance. We also cover 2 optional topics which have historically been Family & Households and Global Development. Through this range of topics you get to see how Sociology is all around you and it helps you to develop a deeper understanding of how institutions, such as schools, are having a far reaching impact on your life.

Work for September

DEVELOP AN UNDERSTANDING OF PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIOLOGY

There are many Perspectives in Sociology, each of them trying to explain society based on their unique set of beliefs. Find out about 2 from the list below and create a summary sheet to bring to class. This could be a mind map, poster, grid, etc.

1. Marxism – find out about who Karl Marx is and what he believed about society. Who are the bourgeoisie and how do they differ from the proletariat?

Make use of this introductory video to the perspective:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BC6WYXhY0co

Watch an interviewer with a Marxist theorist – Louis Althusser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=feepQg_Dx7U

2. Functionalism – find out about the organic analogy. Who is Emile Durkheim and what functions did he believe society needed to fulfill consensus?

Make use of this introductory video to the perspective:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFgot8TJtmo

Watch an interview with a key Functionalist thinker – Robert Merton:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wdgfg485ekU

3. Feminism – find out about what feminists believe about patriarchy. How do Radical feminists differ from Liberal feminists?

Make use of this introductory video to the perspective:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6Dl-9pSW-4

Watch an interview with a key Feminist thinker – Ann Oakley:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GD616an6zHw

There is no requirement to buy any resources for the course. We use a variety of textbooks in the classroom. If you would like to buy your own copy of a resource, we would recommend either purchasing an AQA A Level Sociology revision guide or the textbooks published by Napier Press.

SPANISH

In a Nutshell

Learning Spanish opens up great opportunities for work and travel as well as being a fun and exciting language. There are 21 countries that have Spanish as an official or co-official language and over 567 million Spanish speakers in the world.

Work for September

- Download onto your phone an online Spanish dictionary e.g. word reference.
- Start watching films or TV shows in Spanish. You can find some on Netflix or Amazon Prime.
- There are also some available on YouTube.
- Keep up to date with the news in Spain by using www.euronews.com. You are able to download the transcript while you watch.
- Watch “el telediario en 4.” If you type this into google it will come up with www.rtve.es. It has a 4-minute video numerous times a day of up-to-date news.

Hot Topics

Spain is currently focused on several important issues, including record-breaking heatwaves and concerns about climate change, which have led to increased awareness of environmental challenges. Politics is also a major topic, with debates surrounding immigration policies and government investigations. In sport, the Spanish national football team has captured the country's attention with its strong performance at the 2026 World Cup. Economic growth, rising housing costs, and the impact of tourism on popular destinations such as Barcelona and Ibiza are also widely discussed across the country. Do some research into some of these topics and come ready to discuss what has interested you.

SPORTS SCIENCE

In a Nutshell

If you enjoy Physical Education and sciences, this is a great blend of both. You will examine the science behind performances, the impact of psychology upon performers and open up the world of sport. With the chance to perform or coach a sport, Physical Education provides an excellent platform. Students receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of Physical Education, sport and sports science from which to build on to move into higher education, employment or further training. Physical Education develops skills for a modern world. Students develop a range of practical skills such as dealing with pressure, decision making, analysing and evaluating live performance.

Work for September

• Be a member of an out-of-school club in at least one sporting activity. You should be training and competing regularly. Perhaps you can also offer to coach at your local youth team / club in your first-choice activity.
• Visit the Physical Education pages of the AQA website and familiarise yourself with the support materials available - all relevant information can be found under: http://www.aqa.org.uk.
• On the AQA website subject area for PE look at the coursework requirements for AS and A Level PE. In this aspect, you are required to perform a critical analysis of performance in your chosen activity.
• You must also collect as much VIDEO evidence of your one practical activity as possible throughout the Summer and over the course of your A Level. Within your sport you will be expected to perform in a whole game / full performance situation for assessment.
Mr Stephens will be asking for evidence of this – it is best edited to USB.
• Finally, on the AQA website visit the following link:
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/as-and-a-level/physical-education-7582

On these pages you will find details of the assessment protocol and criteria for all practical activities at A Level. Firstly, make sure that the sport that you take part in is contained within this document. If it is not then you must notify Mr. Stephens first thing in September (or if not email psearle-edwards@liftmarlingschool.org who will pass it on) and we will submit a request to AQA to have your sport considered for assessment.
When you have found your sport in this guidance booklet, print the pages relevant to you and familiarise yourself with the assessment requirements and procedure. If you offer a number of strong practical performances across a number of sports then print out the relevant documentation for each of them from this document.