



MALVERN
COLLEGE

Transform Their World

Programme of Study for Pre-Sixth Pupils

GCSE Information Booklet for Pre-Sixth pupils
studying for examinations in 2025



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Malvern College Pre-Sixth Form Course

The Pre-Sixth Form course was introduced in 2005 as a Foundation Year to facilitate access to the College's hugely successful Sixth Form. This course is intended for academically able pupils whose assessment tests, academic background and standard of English indicate that they are capable of completing the individual specifications in one year. Successful completion of the Pre-Sixth course is an excellent route to access the over-subscribed Sixth Form where pupils can study either the International Baccalaureate or GCE Advanced Levels. Entry into the Sixth Form after completion of the Pre-Sixth is dependent on pupils satisfying the entry requirements for the selected courses.

Aims of the Course

- The course has been designed for pupils who are not native speakers of English with two main objectives:
1. To provide pupils with an introduction to all aspects of life at Malvern College. It is intended that this integration year will allow for seamless entry into the Sixth Form where the pupil is able, from the outset, to concentrate on their studies.
 2. For the pupils to be taught exclusively in English to allow for a considerable improvement in their English regardless of their standard on commencement of the course.

The Academic Programme

Pupils will study the following subjects:

- » English
- » English as an Additional Language, as appropriate
- » Mathematics
- » Any 4 subjects from: Geography, History, Biology, Chemistry & Physics
- » Either French or Spanish or Latin (if previously studied for at least two years)
- » Pupils may also study for a GCSE in their own native language (where a GCSE is available). Please contact the Head of Modern Foreign Languages for details.

It is expected that, in almost all cases, pupils will attain the required standard for entry for the GCSE or IGCSE examination in these subjects in the Summer Term. Those pupils who have not attained this standard will continue to study the course, but will not be entered for the GCSE/IGCSE examination.

For Mathematics, French, Spanish and Life Skills, the pupils will be taught with the rest of our Year 11 pupils. For all other subjects they will be taught in their Pre-Sixth Form group.

The pupils' timetables will also include Games. They will have the opportunity of choosing from a wide range of co-curricular activities in Sport, Art, Music and Drama.

In addition, pupils can opt to take an Art and Design Portfolio Course. This course has been introduced because it is not possible to complete a full GCSE in Art and Design in the time available but this will allow pupils to build their portfolios in preparation for study in these subjects at Sixth Form.

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting

This will be the same for Pre-Sixth Form pupils as for all other Malvern College pupils.

They will receive weekly homework from subject teachers and regular end-of-topic tests.

Formal assessment will be in the form of internal examinations in Week 2 of the Lent Term. Those pupils attaining the necessary standard in these examinations will be entered for the GCSE or IGCSE examinations.

The pupils will receive an Approaches to Learning and Attainment grade card midway through each term and grades will be reported to parents. In addition, parents receive a formal report on their son/daughter's performance at the end of each term.

There is also a Parents' Meeting in the Lent Term, though you are, of course, welcome to visit or contact the school at any time.

Decision on Sixth Form entry

The school recognises that parents wish to know as soon as possible if their son/daughter will be able to enter the Sixth Form. The assessment procedures outlined above will enable the school to monitor progress and it is hoped that we will be able to make a decision as early as possible in the academic year. This will allow parents to make alternative arrangements where necessary. A pupil's progression to the Sixth Form will also be judged on their English language ability as measured by their performance in IGCSE English Language examination and, where relevant, the IELTS examination in June.

Formal Requirements for German Pupils

In order for (I)GCSEs to be officially recognised in Germany, pupils need to pass at least five (I)GCSEs in the following subjects offered at Malvern:

- » Mathematics
- » English
- » One foreign language (choice of French, Latin or Spanish)
- » One science
- » Geography or History

This will generally be considered as the equivalent of the "Mittlere Reife".

Pupils who only attend Malvern College for the Pre Sixth Form year (grade 10/zehnte Klasse) do not always have to submit their (I)GCSE certificates for recognition when returning to the German system, as they should receive their "Mittlere Reife" after completing the first year of the Abitur in Germany.

We always recommend that you check the requirements of the school/federal state that your child may wish to return to in Germany, as most states have slightly different requirements.

Latin

Pupils returning to Germany after the Pre-Sixth Year, or going to German Universities, are required to have had 5 years of continuous Latin study.

However, in all cases we advise you to seek clarification from the German authorities to ensure your son/daughter is not disadvantaged at some point in the future.

Mathematics

Pupils will be set by ability and follow the Edexcel IGCSE Higher Tier Maths Course. The pupils will have 4 lessons of Maths per week and, if the timetable allows, we aim to provide 1 extra lesson to cover some of the material done prior to this year. The most able pupils will join Set 1B, aiming to take both the IGCSE and the AQA Level 2 Further Mathematics course in the summer. The Further Maths course is an excellent introduction to Sixth Form Mathematics and is a good foundation for those contemplating Mathematics at Higher or Standard Level IB. However, we appreciate that if a pupil is predicted lower than a 7/8 grade, then they may not wish to sit the exam.

It is recommended that anyone wishing to study IB Mathematics Higher should achieve a level 8/9 in both IGCSE and Further Mathematics, and for Standard Level

a level 8 is desirable in IGCSE. For A Level Mathematics, we recommend a level 8 at IGCSE. Further details are contained within the Sixth Form Programme of Study, which is available on our website.

- The IGCSE contains several topics which many international students may have not covered in great depth. These include:
- » Trigonometry
 - » Calculus
 - » Arithmetic Sequences
 - » Statistics
 - » Sets and Venn Diagrams
 - » Factorising Quadratics
 - » Indices and Surds
 - » Circle Theorems

Pupils are set based on their entrance test and a similar test which they will do under exam conditions in the first week of term. If they have a particular desire to do Further Mathematics but are not placed in either of the top two sets they will need to discuss this with Mr Thomas, the Head of Department.

English Language

The primary purpose of this course is to equip pupils with the command of English they will need to study in the Sixth Form at Malvern College. The course aims to develop reading, listening, speaking and writing skills, and includes the study of both literary and non-literary texts.

This Pre-Sixth English course is sufficient preparation for either the International Baccalaureate or A Level. Pupils who go on to take the IB in the Sixth Form at Malvern will be required to study either English Literature (at Standard or Higher Level) or English Language and Literature (at Standard or Higher Level). Pupils who wish to study English at A Level can choose A Level English Literature (OCR).

Pupils follow a one-year course leading to entry in the IGCSE English Language examination. It should be borne in mind, however, that IGCSE English Language is intended as a two-year course for native speakers of English. Therefore for pupils whose first language is not English or whose period of residence in England has not been extensive, attempting IGCSE English Language in one year is an ambitious undertaking. This is especially the case since assessment of the coursework elements begins almost as soon as the course starts. The final papers are taken in June. For IGCSE English Language (Edexcel board) the marks are apportioned as follows:

- Written coursework:** 40%
- Written examination:** 60%

Biology

The Edexcel IGCSE Biology course provides a broad foundation for pupils who may wish to continue the subject in the Sixth Form or at university. Biology is a very important subject for anyone considering Medicine or Veterinary Medicine as a career but it is also valuable as a qualification for any number of other career areas.

The course sets out to provide pupils with solid knowledge and understanding of biological facts and principles as well as associated ethical, social, environmental, economic and technological issues. Pupils will be taught to apply their knowledge to new situations and assess the validity of biological information. Practical work will form an important part of the course and pupils will develop skills in planning and carrying out investigations, making and recording observations and measurements, drawing conclusions and evaluating data.

There will be no assessment of practical coursework in the IGCSE course. Instead, pupils will sit written examinations that assess both theoretical and practical skills.

The major themes studied in the course are:

- » The nature and variety of living organisms
- » Structure and function of living organisms
- » Reproduction and inheritance
- » Ecology and the environment
- » The use of biological resources

Specification Details

Edexcel International GCSE Biology (4BI1)

Chemistry

The Edexcel IGCSE Chemistry course provides a good preparation for both A Level and the International Baccalaureate, and is a stimulating and challenging course with plenty of good opportunities for interesting practical work. Chemistry is essential for any pupils who wish to apply for medical, veterinary or dentistry courses, as well as some engineering courses. As well as this Chemistry is the most widely accepted subject for University courses such as Law and Accountancy since it develops mathematical as well as logical reasoning skills.

The subject is examined in two written papers, with practical ability being assessed within these papers rather than by coursework.

The topics you will study are briefly listed below:

Principles of Chemistry

States of matter, atoms, atomic structure, bonding, electrolysis, formulae and equations, practical techniques, calculating amounts of substances

Inorganic Chemistry

The periodic table, group 1, group 7, gases in the atmosphere, reactivity series, extraction and uses of metals, acids and alkalis, salts, tests for ions and gases

Organic Chemistry

Crude oil, alkanes, alkenes, alcohols, carboxylic acids, esters, polymers

Physical Chemistry

Energetics, rates of reaction, equilibria

Specification Details

Edexcel London Examinations IGCSE Chemistry (4CH1)

Physics

The Physics in this course provides a good preparation for both A Levels and the International Baccalaureate and is stimulating and challenging with plenty of good opportunities for interesting practical work. As well as the University courses that require Physics, such as engineering, material science and Computer Science, it is also useful for entry into careers in the world of business, finance, law and politics because of the analytical, mathematical, logical reasoning and problem-solving skills involved.

The subject is examined in two written papers, with practical ability being assessed within these papers rather than by coursework.

The topics you will study are briefly listed below:

- » Forces and Motion
- » Electricity
- » Waves
- » Energy Resources and Energy transfer
- » Solids, Liquids and Gases
- » Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- » Radioactivity and Particles
- » Astrophysics

Specification Details

Edexcel London Examinations IGCSE Physics (4PH1)

Geography

Geography is an exciting and challenging subject that is unique in its study of human and physical patterns and the interaction of people and their environment in shaping the landscape. It also makes a wider contribution to the curriculum in the skills and personal development, and also the moral, social and cultural development it fosters. Geography is an essential component in

preparing our pupils for life beyond school where the challenges to the environment are multiplying, and geographical knowledge and understanding is more vital than ever in all areas of trade and industry.

At Malvern, Geographers are taught a wide-ranging combination of skills drawing ideas from many sources, including practical fieldwork. The course culminates in the Edexcel IGCSE. There will be two papers in the examination, one covering Human topics, one covering Physical topics; both papers also include a series of fieldwork questions.

The IGCSE course requires all pupils to carry out fieldwork on at least two occasions. These field trips are an integral and essential part of the course, which will incur a charge to parents. In the Pre 6th this will most likely be covered by a residential trip to the Brecon Beacons.

The skills learnt in Geographical studies make our pupils of potential interest to a wide range of employers. The close link between the subject and the world around us makes for a long and varied list of related careers including working with development or aid agencies, environmental work, using Geographical Information Systems, working for the census office and in tourism and recreation. However most of these areas involve only one part of the broad subject of Geography. Statistics show that, compared with other subjects, Geographers are among the most employable. Many of those leaving university with a Geography degree enter three fields of employment: administration and management, marketing or finance.

History

The History course is the IGCSE offered by Cambridge International. For our candidates, the course consists of the following topics (subject to the possibility of minor change) and is examined via three papers:

Paper 1

Core content: twentieth-century international relations:

- » The Treaty of Versailles
- » The League of Nations
- » The collapse of international peace by 1939
- » The USA's attempts to contain the spread of Communism
- » Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- » Depth Study: Germany 1918 – 1945

Paper 2

In 2024, the examined topic will be: 'How effectively did the United States contain the spread of communism?'

Paper 4

Depth Study: Germany 1918 – 1945.

Aims

The broad aim is for pupils to understand the course of international relations from the background to the First World War to the emergence of the Cold War by 1949.

Pupils study the attempt to establish international peace and order between 1918 and 1939 and look at the impact of the Treaty of Versailles and the Great Depression in this section. A detailed “depth study” on Germany during this period allows pupils to understand why attempts to secure democracy failed and why Germany was re-cast as a single-party state and dictatorship. The analysis of Germany also extends into the years of the Second World War.

The course makes use of the wealth of contemporary documents that are available. Pupils develop source analysis and essay writing skills. At every stage, they are taught to assess the significance of ideas such as Marxism and Fascism, of personalities such as Hitler and Stalin, and key events such as the Wall Street Crash, as causes of change. Equally, they are taught to identify trends of continuity.

Latin

Latin in the Pre-Sixth is taken by well-motivated pupils who have already studied Latin for at least two years. Pupils read extracts from a wide variety of Roman authors, such as Caesar, Cicero, Livy, Pliny, Tacitus, and Catullus, Horace, Ovid and Vergil. In this way their linguistic knowledge is enhanced and they also learn how to analyse passages of Latin literature.

The course not only provides useful background knowledge and skills for pupils wishing to study Latin or Classical Civilisation in the Sixth Form, but also complements the study of History, and of course, Modern Languages, as well as building the logical approach necessary in Maths and the hard sciences. The course is an excellent reinforcement of English grammar as the accuracy required in written translation in a formal manner is higher than in verbal or expressive communication. For German students, the year can be used as part of your work towards the Latinum, and an indication of satisfactory completion of a year can be sent to your school by the Head of Classics.

Latin is still held in very high regard by university admissions tutors and employers because it is known to be a subject that encourages a rigorous approach to linguistic analysis, develops communication skills and readily fosters an interest in understanding the nuances of a culture.

The GCSE is made up of three exam papers, which are sat at the end of the year.

Assessment

Language Paper (50%)

Translation into English and Comprehension. All vocabulary on the GCSE paper is taken from a prescribed vocabulary list which students are teste on throughout the year.

Literature Paper (25%)

Reading in depth a short (100 line) piece of original Latin, and analysing it for how it creates an impact on the reader.

Culture Paper (25%)

Examining written and visual sources to extract information about Roman culture on two topics from the following:

- » Roman Entertainment (eg chariot racing, gladiators)
- » Roman Britain (eg Bath, Boudicca)
- » Myths and Beliefs (eg the gods, the Underworld)

French and Spanish

We offer candidates of an appropriate standard the opportunity to sit the Pearson Edexcel IGCSE examination in French or Spanish. This course is designed for pupils who already have some knowledge of the given language; they will normally have studied it in school for at least two years. It is a course for non-native speakers, but native speakers may opt to sit the exams following some off-timetable training in exam technique.

Nature Of The Subject

We teach pupils to communicate in a range of situations, both in writing and orally, and focus on the structures and grammar that form the basis of the language, so that pupils can modify and use it creatively. We also discuss the culture and traditions of the relevant countries, as an understanding of a different people's way of thinking is an important ingredient of the study of a language.

We study the grammar and vocabulary of the language through the following topics:

- » Home and abroad
- » Education and employment
- » Personal life and relationships
- » The world around us
- » Social activities, fitness and health.

Assessment

Assessment will be undertaken in the four core language skills: reading, writing, speaking and listening. There is no coursework.

There are three exams:

Paper 1: Listening (25%)

Paper 2: Reading and Writing (50%)

Paper 3: Speaking (25%)

All exams require knowledge of core vocabulary from the five topics as well as tenses and wider grammar studied throughout the course.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

All pupils whose first language is not English study EAL. These lessons help pupils to improve their knowledge and application of the English language, in order to allow them to thrive in their other academic subjects and their wider life at the College. All four key skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking) are developed with a focus on grammatical accuracy and the nuance of idiomatic language. These lessons also help to prepare pupils for the IELTS exams (International English Language Testing System), which pupils can complete in the Lower Sixth year, if they continue to study in the Sixth Form after their Pre-Sixth year.

German for Native Speakers

In the Sixth Form, the College offers the International Baccalaureate German A (Language and Literature) course for native speakers. This course is designed for pupils who already have a high level of competence in German and is based firmly in the study of both language and literature. The course can be studied at either Standard Level or Higher Level. German lessons for native speakers in the Pre-Sixth are designed to prepare pupils for this exciting and rewarding course.

Nature Of The Subject

Communication, comprehension and cultural understanding in the context of global themes provide the core of a modern language course. However, the main focus of this particular course is on the reinforcement and refinement of language skills, as opposed to language acquisition. During the course, pupils will be taught to interpret a wide range of texts in a critical manner, developing the specific knowledge and skills required

for literary and non-literary text analysis. The course also allows pupils to explore the features and purposes behind a number of registers and styles, strengthening their understanding of how language and format are manipulated to achieve different goals. Discursive analysis and oral work go alongside rigorous tuition in written expression. A wide range of techniques is applied and full use is made of technological resources, not least the internet.

Assessment

At the end of the Pre-Sixth Form year, German native speakers have the option of completing the IGCSE German qualification.

Native speakers of other languages

Native speakers of the languages listed below can also request to be entered for the relevant (!)GCSE exams. In most cases, any preparation lessons and exam administration would be charged at the standard private tuition rate. Pupils should contact the Head of Modern Languages to discuss this.

- » Arabic
- » Chinese
- » Italian
- » Japanese
- » Russian

Art and Design Portfolio Course

In the Sixth Form, pupils are able to select IB Design Technology and/or Visual Arts courses at both Standard or Higher levels. The A level options include Fine Art, Photography, Product Design, Textiles Design and 3D Design. To enable our Pre-Sixth pupils to decide if they wish to study any of these subjects, we offer a diagnostic preparatory portfolio course.

During this elective study option, pupils will be introduced to the range of subjects on offer and pursue projects that develop both their technical and conceptual understanding. This insight introduces the wide range of materials, techniques and equipment available to them and helps to prepare them for the level of expectations for further study.

In addition to the two lessons each week, pupils are encouraged to sign up to extra co-curricular activities within the faculty, which support the progress of work completed in the lesson times.

The course is split into five units of study.

Unit 1: Photography

Unit 2: 3D-Construction

Unit 3: Art Practices

Unit 4: Fashion and Textiles

Unit 5: Preparation for Sixth Form.

On completion of the course, pupils are awarded a 'Malvern College Certificate for Art & Design' which will be graded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Pre-Sixth Music

The Pre-Sixth Music course is a wide-ranging and exciting course that encourages pupils to be creative and critical. Whilst this is a non-examined course, it allows pupils to experiment and develop skills for those considering Music at IB Diploma level or A level as well as for those with a keen interest in improving overall musical ability. Aside from building imagination and intellectual curiosity, musical training helps develop language and reasoning, fine-tuned auditory skills, memory, and pattern recognition. The study of music also promotes teamwork and self-discipline, and is linked to improvements in responsible risk-taking, spatial intelligence, as well as motor skills and coordination. Success in music leads to strong emotional and social development, confidence, and provides excellent preparation for success in society. The course will combine the crucial components of performing, composing, listening and appraising. Previous musical experience would be an advantage but not necessary.

Life Skills & Ethics

In the Pre-Sixth, pupils have one lesson of Life Skills and Ethics per week. These focus on mental health, healthy relationships and sex education, role models and social and emotional risks of drug/alcohol use, philosophy and ethics, finance and citizenship.

Topics

- » Emotional wellbeing and work-life balance
- » Dealing with stress and bereavement
- » Skills for successful relationships
- » Exploitation and abuse in relationships
- » Help and support for relationships
- » Rights and responsibilities online
- » When things go wrong online
- » Sexual relationships
- » Sexual health
- » Contraception
- » Pornography
- » Planning healthy meals and being active
- » Health awareness (self-screening)
- » Pressures and influences (body image)
- » Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- » Gender identity and transgender



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