## Your Course Information

### A Levels

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### 1 Year Courses

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the College. This prospectus aims to provide you with an insight into what life is like as a student at Esher College.
Inside you will find information on all aspects of the student experience, including a summary of the wide range of courses on offer and the acclaimed support services which underpin the high levels of success achieved by our students.

As such, it should play an important role in helping you make an informed choice about your post-16 education and I would therefore urge you to read the contents carefully. Virtually any combination of courses is possible and you will have a number of opportunities to discuss your proposed study programme, starting with your admissions interview.

We firmly believe that Esher College offers you the ideal environment in which to embark on the next stage of your educational career and one in which you will be able to thrive academically and grow as an individual. We are committed not just to your academic success, but to ensuring that you have the opportunity to develop the skills and qualities that will help you to prepare for the future. We have a strong track record in providing the appropriate support to allow our students to successfully progress to the next stage in their careers, whether that be higher education, an apprenticeship or employment. Up to 90% of our students go on to degree-level study, many gaining places at the most prestigious universities in the country.

When you join us you will become part of a community of over 1800 full-time students from more than 100 different schools, each following an individual study programme relevant to their needs and ambitions. You will find a friendly and vibrant atmosphere where positive relationships are promoted at all times. We enjoy excellent accommodation and facilities, including a highly sophisticated IT system and an attractive campus environment. Our teaching staff are specialists in post-16 education, both in their subject areas and in the support they provide through our tutorial system. We pride ourselves on a successful record in enabling students from all types of backgrounds to reach their full potential. Please see the section on ‘supporting your needs’ if you have particular educational needs.

I look forward to meeting you over the next year at the numerous events designed to deepen your understanding of the College. Full details of these opportunities can be found towards the back of this prospectus. I hope you will be able to join us on these occasions and I look forward to welcoming you to the College.
Our ethos
Esher College provides non-selective, open-access, specialised sixth form college education for North East Surrey and South West London.

We are committed to:

• creating a culture of high expectations and outstanding achievement for 16-18 year olds

• delivering high quality teaching and learning, tailored to individual learning needs

• developing a broad range of skills and experiences to ensure students fulfil their potential and progress to further study or employment

• promoting inclusivity, tolerance and respect for others within a supportive and caring College community which values diversity

• making a positive contribution to the wider community, including a diverse range of courses for adults

Equality and Diversity Commitment

We believe that education is not just about academic success but also about preparing young people to be responsible, informed citizens who have respect for themselves and others.

To this end, Equality and Diversity is at the forefront of what we do. We welcome applications from students regardless of background, and are committed to celebrating diversity and promoting a culture of inclusivity for all.

We understand that each student is an individual and will have their own learning needs. We are committed to ensuring that these needs are catered for and full details of our wide range of support structures can be found on pages 42-47.

Equality and Diversity Statement

Esher College is committed to creating an environment in which all students can fulfil their potential.

As a community we are actively developing and building upon practices and policies which provide equal opportunities for all members of the College, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, race, sex and sexual orientation.

The College also celebrates diversity and values the differences between individuals within the whole College community. We will actively challenge expressions of prejudice, and seek to rectify any discriminatory practices or behaviour.

A full copy of our Equality and Diversity Policy, which details our commitment to both prospective and current students, can be found on our website www.esher.ac.uk

“I’ve been encouraged to stretch myself in all my subjects and aspire to achieve the best that I can.”

Freya
Your College

Why should you apply to Esher College?

Exceptional Support for all Students
- personal tutor
- subject clinics
- one-to-one tutorials
- learning support
- college nurse service
- counselling service

Dedicated & Specialist Teaching and Support Staff

A great stepping stone between School and University

Specialist in 16-18 Education

Free WiFi

Comprehensive Extension Programme
- Music
- Sports
- Drama
- Art
- Young Enterprise
- Duke of Edinburgh
+ much, much more
Fantastic Facilities
Gym, Sports Hall, College Theatre, Drama Studio, specialist facilities for all curriculum areas, including a state of the art music block, Learning Resource Centres, College café and coffee shop, 1,000 computers, football, rugby and netball pitches.

A Reputation for Excellence
Considered ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted.

Very Good Transport Links
Close to the A3, 5 minute walk from Thames Ditton railway station, 15 minute walk from Esher railway station, 25 minute walk from Hampton Court.

Excellent Progression
Up to 90% of students go on to Higher Education. Established support for progression to employment.

Over 40 A Level + BTEC courses available.

Outstanding Results
99.2% pass rate
59.9% A*-B grades

Equality + Diversity
at the forefront of what we do.

A more mature and diverse learning community

Top 10% For Student Progress*
*ALPS (external assessor of value added performance)
The Student Union

All members of the Student Union (SU) work for you, the students, to ensure that you have a voice and are able to use your ideas to help you make the most of your time at Esher College.

The social life at Esher College is an important part of the student experience and the SU arranges many social events, such as the annual Freshers’ party and summer festival. Other regular activities include lunchtime gigs held in the College Café and fundraising activities for various chosen charities. Considerable sums of money are raised to support local charities and the College’s own charity, the Esher College Africa Trust, which supports the education of AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe.

The views of students are important to us, and the SU hold termly ‘Student Voice’ meetings to allow any student ideas, feedback or issues to be raised, with the aim of further improving the College.

“Esher College encourages you to be independent in your learning, while offering support and guidance when you need it. I’ve developed great self-management and organisational skills, essential for later in life.”

Ethan

The SU have the opportunity to meet with senior management to discuss student feedback, and the SU President and Vice-President are also student governors, attending meetings alongside other governors. The Student Union also looks to support and gain feedback from the other societies within College, including the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and the Christian Union.

Student Involvement

At Esher College we want to listen to the ‘voice’ of all our students, as your views help to shape and improve College life. It is important for the College to know what you think about your lessons, the support we give you, our IT systems, the facilities we offer - indeed everything, right down to the quality of café food. All students take part in class forums, which give you the opportunity to express your opinion on the courses you are taking. You will also take part in surveys about your overall College experience, as well as in each subject.

Every tutor group votes for its own representative to attend Student Voice meetings with the SU. The SU is elected by the student body. SU executives take part on an equal standing with Esher College staff in College committees, such as Environmental Sustainability, Equality and Diversity, and Corporation meetings.
Your study programme

We have designed the curriculum to provide you with a broad and balanced study programme that is appropriate to your individual abilities, interests and ambitions. As well as studying your chosen subjects, you will also have the opportunity to take part in a range of Extension activities, such as sport, music and drama.
What GCSE grades do I need to study at Esher College?

Students who have achieved a minimum of 5 full GCSEs at 9-4 (A*-C in IGCSE qualifications) are able to take a two-year Advanced Level study programme.

We should stress that this is a minimum requirement and that the stronger your GCSE results, the better your chances of Advanced Level success. It should be noted that lack of a grade 4 in English Language (C in IGCSE) will significantly restrict study programme options.

You can choose from:

- **A Levels** - These are two-year, linear qualifications, with examinations at the end of the course.

- **BTEC Nationals** - These are more practical, work-related courses and are taken either as a Diploma (equivalent to two A Levels) or an Extended Certificate/Subsidiary Diploma (equivalent to one A Level). They are well-established and nationally recognised courses, which offer an excellent route to either higher education, employment or apprenticeships.

Your core study programme

- You can take just A Levels, or a combination of A Levels and BTECs. Some students may choose to take just BTECs. You will enrol on a two-year programme and you will study 3 or 4 courses for both years, as appropriate to your individual circumstances and GCSE profile.

Entry requirements

We pride ourselves on being a genuinely open-access college and once your application is accepted, you will be offered a place at Esher College on an Advanced Level programme, as long as you achieve 5 full GCSEs at 9-4 (A*-C in IGCSE qualifications). Access to some courses may require specific grades in certain GCSE subjects. Please see the individual course information sheets on the College website for details, as well as the Entry Requirements document which explains the College’s approach to study programmes and is updated at the start of each academic year. Your suitability for a particular study programme will be discussed at both your admission and enrolment interviews. If you qualify for a place at the College, but you have not achieved a grade 4 or above in either English Language or Mathematics (grade C in IGCSE qualifications), you will be required to re-take these as part of your programme. Full details of our entry requirements can be found on our website.

“Studying at Esher College has given me great insight on the exceptional teaching standards. I was surprised how much time the teachers have to offer you as an individual with 1:1 tutorials or subject clinics.”

Jake
Your course information

Applied Science
BTEC National Extended Certificate

This course provides a practical approach to Science. It has a vocational content and is assessed through a mixture of coursework, externally assessed assignments and exams. All the tasks are linked to a work-related scenario. This course is equivalent to 1 A Level.
The work focuses on practical scientific investigation and work-related assignments. You will take units on Principles and Applications of Science, Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques, and Science Investigation Skills, as well as one additional unit.
You will cover the stages involved and the skills needed in planning and carrying out a scientific investigation, including how to record, interpret, draw scientific conclusions and evaluate the work. You will also be introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, calibration, chromatography, calorimetry and laboratory safety relevant to the chemical and life sciences industries.
You need to have good communication and numeracy skills. In order to meet the deadlines for the assignments, you will need to have (or develop) strong organisation and time management. You will develop good research and team work skills.

Applied Science
BTEC National Diploma

This course provides a practical approach to Science. It has a vocational content and is assessed through a mixture of coursework, externally assessed assignments and exams. All the tasks are linked to a work-related scenario. This course is equivalent to 2 A Levels.
The work focuses on practical scientific investigation and work-related assignments. In the first year you will take units on Principles and Applications of Science, Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques, Science Investigation Skills, and one additional unit.
You will cover the stages involved and the skills needed in planning and carrying out a scientific investigation, including how to record, interpret, draw scientific conclusions and evaluate the work. You will also be introduced to quantitative laboratory techniques, calibration, chromatography, calorimetry and laboratory safety relevant to the chemical and life sciences industries.
In the second year you will take units in Laboratory Techniques and their Applications, Principles and Applications of Science 2, and one additional unit. You will also undertake an investigative project. As part of the course, we will support you in undertaking a science related work experience placement in year 1.
You need to have good communication and numeracy skills. In order to meet the deadlines for the assignments, you will need to have (or develop) strong organisation and time management. You will develop good research and team work skills.
Art (Fine Art) A Level

This course is all about giving you the opportunity to respond to the visual world in a personal, critical and creative way. In the first year, you will work on practical tasks which are designed to develop your recording skills. You will explore the use of the formal elements, including line, tone, colour, shape, form, pattern, and texture. Emphasis will be placed on experimenting with a wide range of media and learning how to transform materials in order to reflect their different qualities. Alongside practical work, you will be encouraged to carefully document your artistic processes and show evidence of an on-going critical review of your work and that of other artists.

In the second year, you will concentrate on developing a more specialist portfolio of work, which fully demonstrates your command of visual language. A 2500-word study is completed alongside your practical work, where you will research, evaluate and analyse work of selected artists or movements appropriate to your practical work. We offer the opportunity to work directly from a life model for portfolio building and for the timed assessment in the second year. This course will build a portfolio of art and design work to support your application to higher education degree courses, or to an Art and Design Foundation Diploma course.

Assessment is through a personal investigation (60%), which consists of a practical portfolio and a related written study, and an externally set task (40%).

Art and Design

BTEC National Extended Certificate

This fast-moving and exciting course introduces a wide range of practical experience across art and design. In the first year you will complete assignments that combine research, experimentation and exploration of disciplines such as fine art, graphic design, 3D design, printmaking, sculpture, surface design and computer-based working. Creative thinking is developed through research, museum and gallery visits, presentations, contextual study and extensive practical studio and workshop work. Written work forms an essential part of assessment. The first year is assessed through an externally set and marked unit (Unit 1 - Visual Recording) and a portfolio of coursework.

The second year provides a continuing core of visual studies with assignments focusing you on working towards an art and design specialism whilst building a strong portfolio for progression applications. Full support is offered for preparation of portfolios and interview technique. Inspiring visits and trips form the basis for assignment briefs designed to challenge and strengthen creative thinking.

The second year is assessed externally through one unit (Unit 2 Critical & Contextual Studies) and a portfolio of coursework.

This course has an excellent track record in student progression to a wide range of art and design foundation and degree courses. It is equivalent to 1 A Level and combines well with other creative and academic subjects.

“Esher College offers many opportunities to succeed. The teachers are passionate and well-organised in their subjects, treating us as equals and keeping us all on-track to achieve amazing results.”

James

www.isher.ac.uk | your course information
Zahrah

Previous school: Coombe Girls’ School
Studied: Fine Art, Music and Psychology
Extension study: Choir – Jazz, Pop and Gospel
(Year 1) Creative Extended Project Qualification
(Year 2).

“At Esher College I am always doing something I enjoy. There is an independent approach to learning, which means I can shape my studies to what interests me the most. In Fine Art, I incorporated my love of music into my coursework. I used representations of sounds in my artwork and explored the parallel histories of modern art and modern music.

There are always lots of opportunities within the Music Department to perform, including Open Mic events in the college canteen, performances on Open Evening and a joint Christmas concert collaboration with students from Esher High School.

After Esher, I am going to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire to study Music Performance. Conservatoire courses largely focus on practical tuition, performance experience and creative, professional development. There wasn’t much advice about applying to a conservatoire online, so I am extremely grateful to the Esher College Progression Guidance team who supported and helped me at every step of my application.”
Art and Design
BTEC National Diploma

This dynamic vocational and diagnostic course is for those committed to progression in art and design. It develops the creative skills needed to progress directly to a wide range of highly regarded degree and foundation courses.

The first year of the course builds core skills in drawing, painting, graphic design, 3D design, printmaking, sculpture, surface design and computer-based working. Extensive written work, visits and presentations develop wider understanding. Diverse studio experience enables varied and individual creative outcomes in response to set briefs. This course is fast-moving and requires a high level of personal organisation.

The first year is assessed through two externally set and marked units (Unit 1 - Visual Recording and Unit 2 - Critical & Contextual Studies) and through a portfolio of coursework. As part of the course, we will support you in undertaking an Art & Design related work experience placement in year one.

In the second year, learners build a portfolio for application in a chosen creative discipline. Professional practice research, live briefs for external clients and visiting practitioners broaden vocational understanding while visits and trips form the basis of creative assignments.

The second year is assessed through one externally set unit (Unit 7 - Developing and Realising Creative Intentions), and a portfolio of coursework, leading to an award in BTEC National Diploma in Art & Design.

This course is equivalent to 2 A Levels.

Business
BTEC National Extended Certificate

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and will equip you with both practical skills and a theoretical understanding of the business world. It is made up of four units of study. 1. Exploring Business: you will study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment, and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive; 2. Developing a Marketing Campaign: you will gain an understanding of how a marketing campaign is developed and develop your own campaign for a given product/service; 3. Personal and Business Finance: you will study the purpose and importance of personal and business finance and develop the skills and knowledge needed to understand, analyse and prepare financial information; 4. Recruitment and Selection: you will learn about the importance of effective recruitment and selection and participate in a mock recruitment and selection process. It is assessed through a mixture of exams (Units 2 and 3) and coursework (Units 1 and 4).

To be successful, students need to be organised, hard-working and independent, as students are continually assessed via both internally assessed coursework assignments and externally assessed exams. One of these exams takes place in the first year of the course and one in the second year. Strong written communication skills and numerical ability are critical to achieving success.

Biology A Level

The specification is based on a topic-centred approach to the study of living organisms. In the first year you study the effects of lifestyle on health, particularly the cardiovascular system. Genetic diseases such as Cystic Fibrosis are considered and there is the opportunity to discuss social and ethical issues surrounding genetic screening. Other topics include an examination of biodiversity, evolution, the role of zoos, and our uses of plants.

In the second year you consider climate change and forensic science, how organisms fight infection, exercise-related biology and the way the nervous system works.

The specification will be assessed through three exam papers at the end of the course. Throughout the course you will carry out 18 ‘core’ practicals. There will be questions on these in the exams. In all three exam papers, questions involving the use of mathematical skills within Biology will contribute to 10% of the assessment.
Business A Level

This course aims to help students develop a critical understanding of a range of businesses from the perspective of shareholders, employees and customers. In the first year you will study theories related to the internal areas of a business, such as finance, human resources, operations management and marketing, and learn how these determine a business’s performance and competitiveness. You will examine how external influences, such as the business cycle, interest rates, exchange rates, and inflation have an impact on the success of a business. You will also investigate leadership, entrepreneurs and business start-ups.

In the second year, a strategic view of business opportunities and issues is undertaken. The emphasis is on business strategy and decision-making. You will investigate organisations that trade on a global scale and explore their reasons for doing so. You will develop an understanding of the globally competitive environment in which companies operate and consider the ethical and moral dimensions of global business activities. Expect to learn a range of numerical techniques, including investment appraisal, critical path analysis, and decision trees as well as financial accounting and ratio analysis. The course is designed to encourage you to use an enquiring, critical and thoughtful approach to the study of business, to understand that business behaviour can be studied from a range of perspectives, and to challenge assumptions. Expect also to analyse and interpret a variety of numerical data and graphs to support complex arguments within the essays you write. Assessment is by written examination only.

Business is a fascinating subject. It is relevant and diverse, with real-world application that enhances career and university choices. It fits well in combination with humanities, arts and science subjects and can open up new areas of interest.

Chemistry A Level

A Level Chemistry follows a content-led and flexible approach where the specification is divided into topics, each covering different key concepts of chemistry. The course is designed to enhance students’ understanding of chemical theory and practical skills.

In the first year, you will learn key chemical concepts and theories alongside an awareness of some of the ways in which they are used in the real world. Experimental work is important and is embedded within the course, both to illustrate the ideas and to develop skills in practical work and problem solving.

In the second year you do further work in all branches of the subject – physical, inorganic and organic. There is a particular emphasis on organic chemistry and by the end of the second year you will have learned a ‘tool kit’ of organic reactions which would enable you to synthesise a range of molecules.

Across the course as a whole you will learn chemical ideas and principles that underpin a wide variety of essential fields of human activity, including medicine, materials science, forensics, agriculture, industry, nanotechnology and next generation computer hardware.

Assessment of the specification will be carried out by three written exams at the end of the course. The exams will include questions from all parts of the course including 12 core practicals.

Classical Civilisation A Level

A Level Classical Civilisation gives you the opportunity to explore the literature, history, politics, philosophy, art and architecture of the ancient Greek and Roman world.

This two year course consists of three examined units. The first unit focuses on literature. Via the epic poetry of Homer and Virgil, you will analyse the different forms of heroism projected by the key figures of Greek and Roman myth. Should heroism be understood as the dominance of a magnificent individual? Or should a hero be defined by their selfless duty towards a greater collective good? Is it possible (or desirable) to combine both types of heroism, or are they mutually exclusive?

The second unit examines the visual and material culture of the ancient world. Through close analysis of material evidence you will investigate how Greek Art developed over the course of three and a half centuries, progressing from the production of abstract, otherworldly figures, to the realisation of fully naturalistic depictions of the human form, capable of depicting mythological narratives conveying advanced political symbolism.

The final unit deals with classical thought, focusing on the value systems of ancient Greece and Rome as well as the philosophical ideas that underpin them. Analysing a wide range of philosophical, literary, and historical sources, you will evaluate the ancients’ conceptions of personal relationships, particularly those relating to the nature of love, sex, and the institution of marriage.

You do not need any prior knowledge of the subject or to have studied Latin or Greek (as all texts are studied in translation).

Assessment is by written examination only.
Freya

Previous school: Teddington
Studied: Biology, Maths and English Literature
Extension study: Humanity: a journey of discovery (Year 1) Extended Project Qualification (Year 2).

Throughout my time at Esher College I have developed so many useful skills that will make my transition to university so much easier. I’ve learned to manage my time well, work independently and make the most of all the resources that Esher College has to offer.

The Learning Resource Centres are a great place for quiet independent study periods and the library was incredible when I was writing my EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) to complement my university application to study Medical Law.

The support from all my subject teachers has been amazing. They are always there to guide me through the trickier aspects of my subjects, with 1:1 tutorials or subject clinics.

I’ve been encouraged to stretch myself in all my subjects and aspire to achieve the best that I can. After Esher, I hope to take up my place to study Law at Oxford University.

Computer Science A Level

Understanding how computers function and writing programs are abilities on which our world utterly depends. First came Alan Turing planning the first computer; later, Tim Berners-Lee devising the world wide web; and next, you?

A Level Computer Science combines learning (or further developing your ability) to write increasingly sophisticated programs with learning the theory that underpins computers and the uses we put them to. You will study how computers store and manipulate data, a variety of properties of common algorithms, computer hardware and much more.

The course is assessed mainly through exams (worth 80% of the A Level). These test your practical programming, your problem solving under exam conditions, and your understanding of theory. You also carry out an individual project (worth 20% of the A Level), employing practical programming to solve a practical problem and writing a report on the process. This requires good documentation, testing more than just your programming skills.

Much of the reasoning and notation is mathematical in nature, so a strong aptitude in Maths is required in order to undertake this course.

Dance A Level

The course enables you to complete units in performance, choreography and critical engagement. There will be the opportunity to devise, perform and interpret dance, demonstrating technical and expressive skills. You will also be required to evaluate and critique professional works across a range of genres.

In the first year, you will create duets and quartets for performance. You will study the Rambert Dance Company 1966 – 2002, and its choreographers, such as Christopher Bruce, Glen Tetley and Richard Alston, and their works. You will study American jazz dance 1940 to 1975, and in particular the set study Singin’ in the Rain, 1952, starring Gene Kelly. You will look at other works choreographed by Gene Kelly, for example, An American in Paris. You will also study the choreographer Jerome Robbins (West Side Story 1961).

In the second year, you will perform a quartet and solos linked to a specified practitioner. You will choreograph a group piece. You will study the set work Rooster by Christopher Bruce. In American jazz dance, you will study Bob Fosse (Cabaret, Chicago, Sweet Charity), Jack Cole, George Balanchine, Katherine Dunham and Agnes de Mille (Oklahoma!).

Assessment is 50% practical examination and 50% written examination.
3D Design A Level

The three-dimensional design course is primarily concerned with designing to meet the needs of a client by investigating how a product works and looks. You will assess and design innovative products, considering not only aesthetic and technical issues but also the environment and the role of the designer in the community.

On the course, you will follow a design process from conception to production. Learning through designing and making, you will experiment creatively with traditional design production processes as well as industry relevant 3D digital technologies, including CAD/CAM. You will experiment with media and processes, and develop and refine your ideas before presenting your outcomes.

Assessment is through a Personal Investigation (60%), which consists of both a practical portfolio and a related written personal study, and an externally set task (40%).

Drama and Theatre A Level

This course gives you the opportunity to explore aspects of theatre, both academically and practically. It is a theory-based approach to theatre as opposed to a practical acting course. It will involve studying texts (including the historical context of plays), theatre practitioner theories, and technical design. You are required to watch live performances and write theatre reviews, alongside developing your acting skills.

Across the two years you will develop knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre, studying three published plays, which require you to learn lines. You will focus in depth on specific extracts. You will produce, for assessment, a reflective report analysing and evaluating theatrical interpretation of all three extracts. For your final assessment piece, you will apply the methods of a given practitioner to the third extract, which will be performed, for external examination, in the second year.

In terms of course breakdown, in the first year, students are required to write, direct and perform in a play, which is assessed. The play will be inspired by the methodology of existing practitioners. In the second year, students study further practitioners and are assessed on their performance of an existing play extract. To support this performance, they are required to produce a written report, contributing towards the final marks. There is a final 3-hour written examination in the second year, based on two set texts.

Theatre trips take place in the evenings, and rehearsals after College and at lunchtime; attendance at both are an essential expectation of the course.

The overall assessment is 30% devised piece written coursework, 30% practical exam and 40% written exam.

Economics A Level

This course develops understanding of economic concepts and theories through a critical consideration of current UK and global economic issues, problems and institutions, affecting everyday life. In the first year, the course introduces key economic concepts such as supply and demand, the price mechanism, how markets work and why they fail. It also explores measures of economic performance, the role of government policy in the economy and how it attempts to achieve economic objectives.

The second year examines business economics, the labour market and competition. It also develops understanding of international economics, including financial markets and the role of the state in the macroeconomy, and considers wider global issues such as poverty, inequality, and emerging and developing markets.

Assessment is by written examination only.

English Language A Level

This is an ideal course for anyone wishing to learn more about the English language in terms of both its structures and its many uses and varieties. You will explore topics such as: the difference between speech and writing; how people represent their personal and social identity through their use of language; how language is influenced by contexts such as audience and genre; how children learn to speak and read and write; and the history and development of the English Language since 1550.

In the second year, you will produce a coursework folder containing two pieces of original writing. You will also complete an in-depth study of a specialised area such as Power in Language, Gender in Language or Language and Journalism.

This course is quite different from English Language GCSE and could be considered as a study of the science of English language in terms of where it has come from, how it has been changed over time, and how different groups use it.

Assessment is 80% by examination and 20% by coursework.
English Literature A Level

This course enriches your appreciation of literary texts by giving you the opportunity to read a variety of genres in close detail, to discuss different ways of interpreting texts, and to investigate the ways poems, plays, novels and short stories are illuminated by their cultural and historical contexts. English Literature develops your skills of analysis, debate, and imaginative thinking as well as the quality of your written expression.

You will study a wide range of texts from different periods of literature, such as modern poetry, Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night, Shelley’s Frankenstein, Atwood’s The Handmaid’s Tale, Chaucer’s The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale, and Tennessee Williams’ play A Streetcar Named Desire. During the second year, you will write an extended essay for your coursework in which you will compare two texts.

There are many similarities with GCSE English Literature where you focus on the writers’ work; at A Level you also study the contextual factors that influenced the writers as well as critical views of literary texts.

Assessment is 80% by examination and 20% by coursework.

Fashion and Textiles A Level

This course introduces you to a broad field of study within the context of fashion and textiles for fashion. The emphasis is placed on the design process, leading to the construction and presentation of original and creative ideas in both two and three dimensions. In the first year you will develop a wide range of skills, which include drawing, textile design, surface decoration, garment design, fashion illustration, pattern-drafting and garment construction whilst studying the historical background of fashion. This will enable you to produce individual outcomes in response to design briefs.

In the second year you will have the opportunity to focus your portfolio development on an area of Personal Investigation. A 2500-word study is completed alongside coursework, giving you the opportunity to research, evaluate and analyse work of selected artists, designers or movements, whilst studying techniques and processes appropriate to the development of your practical work.

The subject is delivered through workshops and presentations, with students visiting museums, art galleries and exhibitions to make observational studies.

A Level assessment is through the Personal Investigation (60%), consisting of a practical portfolio and a related written personal study, and an externally set task (40%).

Film Studies A Level

A Level Film Studies is designed to deepen your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of film. The course builds on your prior knowledge of film through studying a variety of different topics over two years. You will engage with a wide range of different films, developing skills of observation, critical analysis and personal reflection.

Through the examination components, you will study mainstream American films from the past and the present as well as a range of films from contemporary British, independent and world cinema. The historical range of film is delivered through the study of silent film and significant film movements so that you gain a sense of the development of film from its early years to present day. You will also study narrative, filmmakers’ theories and critical debates through the analysis of documentary and experimental film.

The coursework component enables you to apply your knowledge of film theory through the production of an individual short film or screenplay and an evaluation. The process will involve extensive pre-production, such as the construction of digital storyboards, and the close study of significant short films. The course has dedicated facilities and a technician to support you throughout the production and post-production process, with our resources being available to all students.

The assessment comprises two examinations which are both essay-based and in total contribute towards 70% of the qualification marks. The coursework component makes up the other 30% of the overall assessment.

Film and Television Production

BTEC National Extended Certificate

This course is designed for students who are practical learners and enjoy the creative arts. It is a technical, specialist course where you will have the opportunity to work on several filmmaking projects, both independently and as part of a production crew. Across the two years, you will study cinematography, lighting, sound design and editing. In addition to this you will study and develop industry-standard skills in producing and storyboarding.

As this is a vocational course, there is a strong emphasis on work-based learning and you will need to be creative and organised, with the ability to work independently to professional expectations. Being self-motivated, willing to experiment and learn from mistakes, and meeting deadlines, are essential requirements.

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and complements a combination of other BTECs or A-levels for higher study, apprenticeships or work. You will be assessed mainly through internally set assignments with one externally set controlled assessment at the end of the second year.
### Film and Television Production
**BTEC National Diploma**

This course is designed for students who want to progress into a wide range of careers in Film and Television Production. It is a highly technical, specialist course on which you will have the opportunity to work on a number of different filmmaking projects, both independently and as part of a production crew. Across the two years, you will study cinematography, lighting, sound design and editing in the context of practical projects in short film, music video and documentary production. In addition to this you will study and develop industry-standard skills in pre-production, including screenwriting and storyboarding. At the end of the first year, you may have the opportunity to undertake a multi-camera TV production project in collaboration with Solent University, using the university’s cutting edge 4k studio.

As this is a vocational course, you will need a mix of creative thinking and organisation. The ability to work independently to professional expectations, to be self-motivated and to meet deadlines is essential. As part of the course, we will support you in undertaking a related work experience placement in Year 1.

This course is equivalent to 2 A Levels, so it is recommended for those who are very keen to work in film and television production. You will be assessed mainly through internally set assignments with two externally set controlled assessments.

### French A Level

This course aims to give you a thorough understanding of the French language, developing skills in reading and listening comprehension, translation, essay-writing, oral skills and grammar. It also aims to foster an appreciation of Francophone culture. In the first year the topics studied are the changing nature of families, education, the workplace, music and media, festivals and traditions. We will also be studying a French-language film, 'Intouchables'. The course will be taught via a range of media, including online materials, current affairs reports, and TV/film clips. Learning of grammar and vocabulary will be integral to the course. Weekly conversation sessions with our native speaker language assistant are mandatory to prepare you for the oral examination.

The second year builds on and expands skills covered in the first year, extending the topics to cover integration and multi-culturalism, and the Resistance movement in occupied France. We will also be studying a literary text, ‘L’Étranger’ by Albert Camus. You will be further developing your translation and comprehension skills and keeping up to date with French current affairs. As with the first year, weekly conversation sessions with our native speaker language assistant are mandatory to prepare you for the oral examination.

Assessment is by written examination (70%), covering listening, reading and writing, and an oral examination (30%).

### Geography A Level

Geography is one of the most exciting, cutting edge and relevant subjects to study in today’s ever-changing world. The syllabus offers an issues-based approach to studying Geography, enabling you to explore and evaluate contemporary geographical issues, such as water security and climate change. Studying Geography will develop your sense of curiosity about the world and encourage you to ask geographical questions. You will be given the opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of human and physical Geography as well as the inter-relationship between people and the environment. Topics covered will include tectonics, coasts, regeneration, globalisation and superpowers, water, and energy.

Fieldwork is a compulsory requirement of the course and will include three separate day trips to areas such as the Mole Valley, Dorking and the Olympic Park in Stratford. As part of fieldwork and throughout the course, you will develop a range of geographical skills, including approaches to geographical investigation as well as cartographic, graphical, ICT and statistical skills. Geography is a demanding subject that links humanities and science, and combines academic, creative and analytical skills. Students must be both literate and numerate, but Geography GCSE is not a requirement as long as you have a strong interest in current affairs and learning about the world. Geography complements most other subjects.

Assessment will be by written exams (80%) and an individual 3000-4000 word independent investigation based on fieldwork (20%).

### German A Level

This course aims to give you a thorough understanding of the German language, developing skills in reading and listening comprehension, translation, essay-writing, oral skills and grammar. It also aims to foster an appreciation of German culture. In the first year the topics studied are nature and the environment, education, music and media, festivals and tradition. We will also be studying a German-language film, 'Leben der Anderen'. The course will be taught via a range of media, including online materials, current affairs reports, and TV/film clips. Learning of grammar and vocabulary will be integral to the course. Weekly conversation sessions with our native speaker language assistant are mandatory to prepare you for the oral examination.

The second year builds on and expands skills covered in the first year, extending the topics to cover immigration and multi-culturalism, and the re-unification of Germany. We will also be studying a literary text, ‘Die Verwandlung’ ('Metamorphosis'). You will be further developing your translation and comprehension skills and keeping up to date with German-language current affairs. As with the first year, weekly conversation sessions with our native speaker language assistant are mandatory to prepare you for the oral examination.

Assessment is by written examination (70%), covering listening, reading and writing, and an oral examination (30%).
Muhiminur

Previous school: Sunbury Manor  
Studied: Business, Maths and Economics  
Extension study: Touch Typing

“What surprised me most about college life was how much support you get. The lunchtime Maths Clinics have been invaluable. If you are confused about anything in the lesson, or didn’t quite get it - the Maths department always has teachers ready to help you understand it.

The library is one of the best features of the College. In my secondary school, the library was quite small and would get crowded very quickly. However, the library at Esher College is very big and very quiet, which is great when you’re revising for tests or just want some peace and quiet.

After Esher, I want to study Accountancy. With the help of my teachers, I am sure that I will be able to pass my A Levels.”
Jess

Previous school: Tolworth Girls’ School
Studied: Dance, English Literature and Performing Arts BTEC
Extension study: Pilates

“I love the large dance studio at Esher College. It’s an amazing facility that I can use to rehearse in before my exams. I feel it’s really helped me achieve my full potential and achieve good grades in Dance and Performing Arts.

The atmosphere and facilities at the Learning Resource Centre have been key to getting my work done. I am able to print off all my coursework and feel really motivated about what I can achieve.

The best bit about Esher College? It has to be the friendly, relaxed environment and seeing all my friends during free periods.

After Esher, I want to go to a dance college.”
Ethan

Previous school: Orleans Park
Studied: History, Maths and Philosophy
Extension study: Five-a-side football (Year 1)
Extended Project Qualification (Year 2)

“Esher College encourages you to be independent in your learning, while offering support and guidance when you need it. I’ve developed great self-management and organisational skills, essential for later in life.

I really noticed my attitude to learning changed when I started using the study areas in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) to revise or finish off certain assignments. Since college is only two years long, I thought I’d be stressed or worried about the pressure to learn everything immediately. But because you can book subject tutorials with teachers, it meant it was OK to get a question wrong or make mistakes. If there were any areas of the course I was struggling with, I knew I could simply ask for help and move forward.

For me, Esher’s strong point is the social aspect of the college. It’s a good place to get a better understanding of yourself and others. Coming from a relatively small school, it was a good opportunity to stretch myself.

After Esher, I aim to go to university and start my own business. Good luck to all Esher College students next year and look out for me in the future.”
Graphic Communication A Level

Graphic Communication is a focused specialism within the area of art and design. This course will enable you to explore, research and acquire techniques and develop skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of different media specific to Graphic Communication. You will consider relevant images, text, design and resources, using both traditional methods such as drawing and printing, as well as digital techniques, to produce graphic images. You will develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills and will be encouraged to use a wide range of media to produce both 2D and 3D work. You will learn about commercial processes and materials used in manufacturing a range of graphic products, as well as studying the work of leading graphic designers. You will investigate areas such as advertising, packaging design, design for print, communication, and computer graphics.

Assessment is through a Personal Investigation (60%), which consists of both a practical portfolio and a related written personal study, and an externally set task (40%).

Health and Social Care
BTEC National Extended Certificate

This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and will give you the background understanding which underpins work in a range of areas focused on caring for people in a variety of different circumstances. This includes professions and occupations such as Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedical Work, Occupational Therapy and Social Work. It is not a practical course but focuses on the ideas and principles underlying these areas of work. You will study topics such as physiological disorders, lifespan development, issues involved in ensuring vulnerable people are protected and looked after safely, sociological approaches to health and social care, and principles behind providing care and support in meeting individual needs. You will undertake a fortnight’s work experience as well as being encouraged to participate in the College’s Community Volunteers programme, which provides further opportunities to develop practical skills in an appropriate care setting. There will also be visiting speakers, external visits and practical activities.

Assessment is by coursework and by written examination.

History (Dictators & Imperialists)
A Level

The course offers students an opportunity to compare fascist and communist dictators, including Hitler, Stalin and Mao, and investigate the changing fortunes of British Imperialism.

In the first year you will study ‘Russia, 1917-1991: from Lenin to Yeltsin’, which includes Lenin, Stalin and other communist leaders during the Cold War up to the fall of Communism. You will also look in depth at ‘Mao’s China, 1949-1976’, which includes Mao’s victory in the civil war, consolidation of his power, the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

In the second year you will study ‘Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914’, which includes the American colonies and War of Independence, the abolition of slavery, the scramble for Africa, and Australia, Canada, India and Egypt up to World War One. For coursework you will research historical interpretations of the popularity of Hitler.

Assessment is 80% by examination and 20% by coursework, which is written in the second year.
History (Oppression & Equality)  
A Level  
The course focuses on America - civil war to civil rights - as well as on imperial domination across the world and the fight against prejudice.

In the first year you will study ‘In search of the American Dream: the USA, c.1917-96’, which includes Martin Luther King and Civil Rights, Prohibition, Boom and Bust in 1920’s and 30’s America, popular culture and media, and the changing Presidency, from Woodrow Wilson to Ronald Reagan. You will also look in depth at ‘South Africa, 1948- 1994, apartheid state to ‘rainbow nation’, which includes resistance to apartheid, life in South Africa, the Soweto Uprising, Steve Biko, the African National Congress and Nelson Mandela.

In the second year you will study ‘Britain: losing and gaining an Empire, 1763–1914’, which includes the American colonies and War of Independence, the abolition of slavery, the scramble for Africa, and Australia, Canada, India and Egypt up to World War One. For coursework you will research historical interpretations of Northern victory in the American Civil War.

Assessment is 80% by examination and 20% by coursework, which is written in the second year.

History (Power & Belief)  
A Level  
The course explores the causes and impact of new political, religious and scientific ideas which challenged established ways of thinking and acting in Britain and across Europe in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In the first year you will study the reigns of Henry VIII and his children, Edward, Mary and Elizabeth. You will also look in depth at the causes of the German Reformation, Luther challenging papal authority, and the development of Lutheranism 1517-1555 in the context of the weakening power of the Holy Roman Emperor and the threat of the Ottoman Turks.

In the second year you will study the witch craze in Britain, Europe and North America, c1580-c1750, considering the reasons for widespread belief in witches and the nature of witchcraft accusations, as well as the growth of scepticism as scientists discovered more about the universe and scandalous frauds caused people to question long held fears. For coursework you will research historical interpretations of Oliver Cromwell, who helped make England a republic and ruled as Lord Protector from 1653 to 1658 after the execution of King Charles I.

Assessment is 80% by examination and 20% by coursework, which is written in the second year.

Information Technology  
BTEC National Extended Certificate  
This course is equivalent to 1 A Level and focuses on three particular areas.

One unit focuses on creating systems to manage information using databases. You will learn about relational database management systems, normalisation and SQL. You will get to grips with how databases can be used to solve a range of problems and how those solutions are tested. A second unit looks at how social media are used in businesses. You will learn about social media websites and their uses, how they are planned and designed, how they gather and analyse data, and the issues and risks associated with them. A third unit focuses on the development of websites: the purpose and principles of website products; factors affecting website performance; and tools and techniques including the use of HTML and CSS.

In addition, a fourth unit focuses on your overall understanding of IT terminology, standards, concepts and processes, as well as your ability to analyse, evaluate and justify IT solutions to problems.

Alongside an appropriate choice of other courses, this course gives progression to university, as well as expertise and skills for IT and for business more broadly. It develops the abilities to learn independently, to research actively and methodically, to plan and manage time, to organise files, and to be an active member of a working group. All of these skills are valued by universities as well as by employers.

The assessment on the course includes coursework and an assignment done under controlled conditions, with the fourth unit being assessed by examination.
Jake

Previous school: Thamesmead
Studied: IT BTEC, History and Maths
Extension study: Song Writing (Year 1) Study Skills (Year 2)

“Studying at Esher College has given me great insight on the exceptional teaching standards. I was surprised how much time the teachers have to offer you as an individual with 1:1 tutorials or subject clinics.

It would be rude of me to not credit the Teaching Assistants and Tutors, who all show great interest in your individual success. The extra curriculum studies really added an extra level of personal development. It meant I could try new things and not just feel I was in a ‘robot atmosphere’ of study.

Whilst our studies are important, the staff at Esher College know how important Extension Studies can be to broaden interests and develop wider skills. It’s one of the things I really appreciated and I can definitely say, without the sheer motivation from the teaching at Esher College, I would not be featured in this prospectus.”
Charlotte

Previous school: Esher Church of England High School
Studied: PE, Maths and Biology
Extension study: Oil painting

“Esher College has been a great place for me to study, it has taught me to be independent, motivated and to take control of my studies, which is a valuable skill I can take forward.

All the teachers are very supportive and there is a huge range of additional lessons which you can attend if you need help or want to consolidate the work you have done in class.

The facilities are absolutely brilliant. There are many study zones with computers. LRC 1 offers a more quiet and focused study area, while LRC 2 offers a more relaxed environment which is good for group work. The college has lots of places to socialise with friends and meet new people, which is great. There is a wide range of trips and extra-curricular activities, not only local but international. Later this year I am going on the PE trip to Lanzarote which I am really excited about.

After Esher, I want to go to university and study a course within the medical field such as physiotherapy or nursing. Esher College has given me a great foundation to go onto higher education.”
**Mathematics A Level**

A Level Mathematics builds on and extends GCSE knowledge and skills and introduces new ideas, such as calculus and its applications. It emphasises how mathematical ideas are interconnected and how these ideas can be applied to model situations mathematically.

There is a strong emphasis on logical reasoning and problem solving and you will apply your mathematical knowledge and understanding to solve challenging problems. Most of the course involves using algebra and it covers topics such as trigonometry, co-ordinate geometry, differentiation and integration (calculus), and algebraic techniques and functions. All students study statistics and mechanics. In Statistics you learn to use probability ideas to assess whether a set of data gives significant evidence of something or could easily have occurred as a result of random variation. Mechanics allows us to describe and make predictions about how physical objects move and interact with each other, involving ideas such as velocity, acceleration, force and mass which are central to understanding how the world works.

The course assessment is entirely through examination. A Level Mathematics prepares students for further study and employment in a wide range of disciplines involving the use of mathematics, including sciences, social sciences, engineering and business.

**Mathematics with Further Mathematics**

(2 A Levels in Mathematics)

Further Mathematics is designed for students with an enthusiasm for mathematics, many of whom will go on to degrees in mathematics, engineering, the sciences and economics. This counts as two subject choices and should be taken alongside two other A levels. You will need to have achieved at least grade 7 in GCSE Maths and 7s, 8s and 9s (A’s and A*s) more or less across the board in your GCSEs. The pace and approach reflects this level of prior achievement. Assessment is through examination only.

The qualification is both deeper and broader than A Level Mathematics. As well as building on algebra and calculus introduced in A Level Mathematics, the A Level Further Mathematics core content introduces complex numbers and matrices, fundamental mathematical ideas with wide applications in mathematics, engineering, physical sciences and computing. In addition there will be further study of the applications of Mathematics to a deeper level than studied at A Level Mathematics.

The additional work in Pure Maths makes it a good choice for students with strong mathematical skills who are planning to study mathematics, physics or engineering at university, and for some courses in Maths (or subjects based on Maths) at Oxford or Cambridge and one or two of the other Russell Group universities, it is a requirement.

“I love the large dance studio at Esher College. It’s an amazing facility that I can use to rehearse in before my exams. I feel it’s really helped me achieve my full potential and achieve good grades in Dance and Performing Arts.”

Jess
**Media Studies A Level**

Media Studies is a course designed to develop your critical understanding of the vast array of interrelated industries that make up the media. It is a varied and analytical course which will require you to engage with a range of industries and texts (media products). You will explore factual and fictional TV, advertising and marketing, radio, online media, newspapers, magazines and music videos.

You will learn how media texts function and are constructed to create meanings and promote values and ideas, particularly in relation to different social groups. The course encourages you to explore social, cultural, political and historical contexts and the impact of these on the way in which media texts are produced and received by audiences. As part of this you will look at independently-produced and older texts, as well as a range of mainstream and contemporary products. You will look at the fascinating workings of the various media sectors and debate key questions, such as whether too few people hold too much power in the industry. The course also makes use of a range of relevant theoretical perspectives to enhance your understanding and exploration of this exciting field of study. In doing so, you will develop vital skills in analytical thinking, debate and written communication.

The course also provides the opportunity to further demonstrate your understanding through the planning and production of your own media products, which could include: a print marketing campaign for a new film; a music video; a selection of magazine pages; a TV sequence; and online products. Through this process, you will develop a range of technical and creative skills, plus an invaluable insight into professional media practice.

Assessment is through a combination of two written exams (70%) and a coursework portfolio (30%).

**Music A Level**

This qualification is for any musician who wants to develop their musical knowledge and understanding through improving performing, composing and appraising skills. In the first year, listening and analysis skills are developed through the study of a wide range of music including vocal music, film music, instrumental music, popular music and jazz, fusions and new directions in 20th and 21st century music.

Opportunities for performance take place regularly inside College and in public. You must be prepared to play as a soloist from a score. You will study different styles of musical composition, including popular styles, and compose two original pieces of music. In the second year you continue to build on your performing, composing and analysing skills, extending your technical knowledge.

A Level assessment comprises 30% recital performance, 30% composition and compositional techniques, and 40% a written and listening exam.

Minimum Grade 6 standard performance is required and if you have not taken formal examinations you will be auditioned, for which you should prepare an appropriate piece. Music theory skills and music literacy skills are essential. If you have not passed Grade 5 Theory you will sit a theory exam. There is also an expectation that you will take a music Extension Studies course to enhance your skills and experience further.

**Music Technology**

**BTEC National Extended Certificate**

This BTEC course offers a practical approach to the study of current trends in music technology and is equivalent to 1 A Level. It prepares students for work in the music industry in a wide range of fields, from producing, editing, recording and sound engineering to journalism, promotion, performance, production and marketing, and can be used to access courses at universities across the country.

This course provides the opportunity for you to showcase your skills and apply your knowledge in an appropriate, work-related context, and provides evidence of what you can do when you apply to enter higher education or employment.

In the first year, you will study DAW Production and Studio Recording Techniques as mandatory units, and optional units that may include Live Sound. In the second year, students will build on the skills they have developed by completing practical assignments from optional units, which may include: Studio Design and Acoustics; working within a Production Team; and Recording, Editing, Mixing and Mastering techniques.

All teaching takes place in our specialist music building using the latest Apple Macs running Logic Pro X.

This qualification takes a unit-by-unit approach and offers a combination of assessment styles. Students will study 5 units which are mainly assessed through internally marked coursework, with one externally set examined assignment.
James

**Previous school:** Thamesmead  
**Studied:** Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Economics  
**Extension study:** Not taken due to taking 4 A Levels

“Esher College offers many opportunities to succeed. The teachers are passionate and well-organised in their subjects, treating us as equals and keeping us all on-track to achieve amazing results.

With facilities such as the Learning Resource Centre, I find myself comfortable working independently for each of my subjects. Although the workload can be challenging, the private study periods allow you plenty of time to complete homework in the day, leaving the evenings free.

The college has encouraged me to work hard and offered many opportunities outside of the school, such as the UK Maths Team Challenge and Physics lectures at local universities.

After Esher, I will pursue my ambition of becoming a commercial airline pilot by gaining further experience as a private pilot.”
Performing Arts
BTEC National Extended Certificate

Offering a nationally recognised vocational qualification, equivalent to 1 A Level, this course provides the opportunity to develop and build on existing skills in the performing arts as relevant to the industry.

The course consists of studying practitioners and their work in various disciplines, including musical theatre, developing skills and techniques for performance, and group performance work, as well as the opportunity to explore from a range of optional units, including the disciplines of dance acting and musical theatre.

Practical workshops and working with professional companies are important elements of this course, building both confidence and skills for progression.

Assessment is by practical (performance) and written work. Both are assessed internally and externally.

Philosophy A Level

In the first year you will be introduced to common philosophical issues and the ways in which philosophers debate them. You will be introduced to philosophical concepts and how to formulate and assess philosophical arguments. You will study two compulsory units on Epistemology and Ethics. These units include questions such as: Can we know important truths about the world without experiencing it? How do we know we are not in the Matrix? How do we know what is right? Can torture ever be justified? Should we be vegetarians?

In the second year you will study two compulsory units: Philosophy of Religion and Philosophy of Mind. These include questions such as: Does God exist? Is His existence compatible with evil in the world? What is the relationship between the mental and the physical? Is a mental state the same as a brain state?

Assessment is by written examination only.

Photography A Level

During the first year of Photography we work with you to develop your camera, Photoshop and lighting skills. You will be expected to complete a shoot a week for homework, which will reinforce what you learn in the classroom. You will shoot a wide variety of photographic genres from fashion to documentary and landscape to portraiture, informed by a variety of photographers. The emphasis in the first year is skills based, which requires a positive work ethic to keep up with the assignments set.

In the second year you will further explore the skills you have learnt in Year 1 and develop them with one-to-one guidance and regular peer assessment sessions. We will help to nurture your ideas and you will be encouraged to explore your chosen style independently. We will look closely at the relationship between films, art, music and photography. Alongside your practical photography you will produce a 1500-word essay, which is an integral part of coursework in the second year and will contribute to your final grade.

Our aim is for the students to leave the course with a professional photographic portfolio that can be taken to university degree, Art Foundation Diploma or job interviews.

Assessment is by coursework (60%) throughout the first and second years, and a controlled assessment (40%) at the end of the second year. This will consist of a series of sketchbooks containing images and written analysis.

Physical Education A Level

This course comprises a combination of theoretical and practical work. During the two years, you will study seven main theoretical areas: applied anatomy and physiology; exercise physiology; biomechanics; skill acquisition; sports psychology; sport and society; and contemporary issues in physical activity and sport. In addition, you will select one practical option in which to be assessed, from a range of activities. You must be competing regularly within your chosen sport throughout your two years of study. You are also required to make a verbal evaluation of a performer, whose activity will normally be the same as your own chosen practically assessed activity. This will include a detailed action plan of ways in which the performer can improve, and the application of the theory you have studied to the performance of the individual you are evaluating.

The study of A Level PE is an excellent grounding for a career in the sports industry and a good number of students go on to study the subject at university in a variety of disciplines, including sport and exercise science, exercise physiology, sport psychology, sports coaching and teaching.

A Level PE is assessed through three examinations (70%), practical assessment in one activity (15%) and a verbal interview (15%).
**Physics A Level**

Physics is an exciting subject in which you will be encouraged to develop a deep understanding of many aspects of the physical world in which we live. It leads to careers in Physics and Engineering and is particularly valued in any profession where reasoning and problem solving are important qualities.

In the first year you study Particles, Quantum Phenomena and Electricity along with Mechanics, Materials and Waves. As well as building on your GCSE knowledge, you will be introduced to new ideas, such as evidence that light behaves as both a particle and a wave, as well as new particles such as Hadrons, Baryons, Leptons and Antiparticles.

In the second year you study Fields and further Mechanics along with Nuclear Physics, Thermal Physics and an optional topic. The Astro-Physics option is taught to students and all students are welcome to join the astronomy club using the College’s observatory to make their own observations in the evenings. There is also an option to self-study the options in Engineering Physics, Turning Points in Physics, Medical Physics, or Electronics.

The course is heavily mathematical and almost all routes forward with Physics require A Level Mathematics. For these reasons, we ask that all Physics students study A Level Mathematics as well. The specification will be assessed through three 2-hour exam papers at the end of the course. You will also carry out 12 ‘core’ practicals throughout the course which leads to the awarding of the practical endorsement.

**Politics A Level**

The Politics A Level course offers an in-depth assessment of UK politics, the political ideologies and the structures of international relations (Global Politics). Students will evaluate how far the theory is borne out by actual practice, as demonstrated by Theresa May’s struggle to secure parliamentary approval for her Brexit deal!

UK Politics is typically taught in the first year and it provides an understanding of British politics. It includes topics such as democracy and participation, human rights, political parties, voting systems, voting behaviour and media influence. It also covers the constitution, Parliament, and Prime Minister, in addition to the relationships between the three branches of government and the influence of the EU.

In Political Ideologies, four key political ideologies will be introduced and evaluated: conservatism; liberalism; socialism; and anarchism. Global Politics is covered in the second year and it will give you an opportunity to develop an understanding of contemporary international relations. You will explore themes and processes such as globalisation, climate change, human rights, poverty and development.

The course also examines the main theories of international relations as well as the roles and significance of institutions such as the UN, G-8/20, NATO, the IMF, World Bank, the WTO, the EU and other regional organisations.

Assessment is by written examination. You will sit three equally weighted (33.3%) examinations of two hours each. The exam papers include mostly essay questions, such as source-based questions, extended essays, and a few shorter questions. The skills that are assessed in the papers are analysis, evaluation and essay writing.

**Psychology A Level**

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. You will learn a range of theories, both biological and psychological, that have been put forward to explain various aspects of human behaviour, as well as relevant research studies.

The first year begins with an introduction to the key approaches, progressing on to the study of selected topics from developmental, physiological and abnormal psychology. For example, you will study Biopsychology, learning about localisation of brain function, the structure and function of the nervous and endocrine system, brain plasticity (including the brain’s ability to recover from trauma), and biological rhythms. You will also learn about Attachment, where you will explore the importance of caregiver-infant interactions in social development, and Psychopathology, where you will study explanations and treatments for depression, phobias and OCD.

There is a heavy emphasis throughout on issues and debates in Psychology, as well as the research methods and statistical techniques psychologists use to collect and analyse data.

In the second year you will study Memory, where you will consider the reliability of eyewitness accounts, and Social Influence, where you will examine factors that can affect levels of conformity and obedience. You will also explore aspects of behaviour such as gender, stress and addiction. There is further study of research methods, including the use of advanced non-parametric and parametric inferential statistical tests.

Assessment is through written examinations only.
Sociology A Level

This course aims to give you an understanding of some of the issues affecting modern British society. Sociology is the study of human society, social relationships and institutions within it. Undertaking Sociology at A Level includes studying in the first year: Families and Households, looking at changes in the family structure, the role and functions of family life; the education system, including the impact of policies and changes on the achievement of students of different social groups.

In the second year you cover Crime and Deviance: why people commit crime, statistics and sociological explanations, and Beliefs in Society, which focuses on the role of religion, characteristics of different organisations and the secularisation debate. The Sociology A Level course also includes the contemporary issue of the impact of globalisation on society, including the globalisation of crime, religion in a global context and the impact on family life and education. Sociology’s purpose of understanding how human action and thinking both shape and are shaped by surrounding cultural and social structures unifies the study of these diverse subjects. You will also study the techniques that sociologists use in order to conduct their research, and sociological theories that seek to explain and understand the nature and development of contemporary Britain.

Assessment is by written examination only.

Spanish A Level

This course aims to give you a thorough understanding of the Spanish language, developing skills in reading and listening comprehension, translation, essay writing, oral skills and grammar. It also aims to foster an appreciation of Spanish-speaking culture. In the first year the topics studied are the changing nature of families, the workplace, the impact of tourism, music and media, festivals and tradition. We will also be studying a Spanish-language film, ‘La Lengua de las Mariposas’ (‘Butterfly’s Tongue’). The course will be taught via a range of media, including online materials, current affairs reports, and TV/film clips. Learning of grammar and vocabulary will be integral to the course. Weekly conversation sessions with our native speaker language assistant are mandatory to prepare you for the oral examination.

The second year builds on and expands skills covered in the first year, extending the topics to cover immigration and multi-culturalism, and Spain under Franco. We will also be studying a literary text, ‘La Casa de Bernarda Alba’ (Federico Garcia Lorca). You will be further developing your translation and comprehension skills and keeping up to date with Spanish-language current affairs.

Assessment for each year is by written examination (70%), covering listening, reading and writing, and an oral examination (30%).
Sport
BTEC National Extended Certificate

This course is designed to develop both knowledge and practical skills in the broad field of sports, leisure and fitness. Examples of the units studied over the two years include: principles of anatomy and physiology; fitness training and programming; and professional development in the sports industry. Learning is largely theory based, linking subject areas to current and relevant practical sporting settings. Students learn through class-based activities, individual and group research, visiting speakers, and personal experience.

Assessment over the two years is 40% coursework related, consisting of written assignments, presentations and practical assessments, and 60% examination-based, comprising 2 written exams, one of which is a seen paper. The Extended Certificate in Sport is a two-year course equivalent to 1 A Level.

Sport
BTEC National Diploma

This course is designed to develop both knowledge and practical skills in the broad field of sport, leisure and fitness. Examples of the units studied over the two years include fitness training and programming, sports leadership, professional development in the sports industry, anatomy and physiology, and skill acquisition in sport. Learning is largely theory-based, linking subject areas to current and relevant practical sporting settings. Students learn through class-based activities, individual and group research, visiting speakers, and personal experience. The areas studied on the Sport BTEC National Diploma lend themselves to more practically based learning experiences such as sports coaching and fitness testing. In addition, students also complete a one-week work experience placement at a sports organisation gaining valuable employability skills in the Sports Industry.

Assessment over the two years consists of 9 units, 6 internally assessed coursework-based units and 3 externally assessed units in the form of written exams and externally assessed assignments. The Diploma is a two-year course equivalent to 2 A Levels.

GCSE and equivalent courses

GCSE courses are studied over one year and are available to those students who wish to improve on the grade that they achieved at school. Students who have not achieved at least a grade 4 at GCSE in English or Mathematics will re-take this at Esher College.

English Language GCSE

If you achieved lower than a grade 4 in your GCSE English Language then you will need to continue to study GCSE English Language at Esher College. You will develop your language skills by learning to identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas, evaluating texts critically and analysing how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers. You will also build on your writing skills, including narrative writing and writing to present a viewpoint, as well as working on your technical accuracy. Your progress will be monitored throughout the course and assessment is by two written examinations and a spoken language endorsement, a 10-minute oral presentation.

Mathematics GCSE

If you achieved lower than a grade 4 in your GCSE Maths then you will need to continue working towards a Maths qualification whilst you are at Esher College. This will usually be the GCSE Maths course where you revise the course for one year and retake the exams at the end of the year. For those students who find Maths particularly challenging, we also usually offer an alternative Maths qualification to the GCSE programme.

Biology GCSE

This course will be suitable for those who wish to progress on to primary teaching, nursing, sports science, child care and psychology at university but who have not passed a GCSE in a science at school. A GCSE in a science is sometimes required for other subjects or careers, and students who do not have a science GCSE at grade 4 or above should consider taking this course. Topics covered will include cell biology, infection, inheritance, variation and evolution. The qualification will be assessed entirely through written examination, although practical work will feature heavily in teaching and learning.
Extension studies
Extension Studies in both the first and second year provide an excellent way of developing wider skills and abilities such as team working, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking and the capacity to conduct independent research, all of which are greatly valued by both universities and employers.

For your first year Extension Course, you will have the opportunity to undertake a Complementary Study alongside your core A Level or BTEC subjects. For example, you might decide to get involved in Community Volunteering and help local primary school children with their reading, take part in the College production, play team sports, or join the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

In the second year, you will have the opportunity to choose a specific Progression Pathway to support your progression and develop your skills further. The most popular current choice is the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), but others include the Creative Arts Portfolio, the Career Development Programme, and Higher Sports Leaders Award.

Trips and Visits

Many courses offer a wide range of trips and visits to help broaden your understanding of and develop interest in the subjects that you are studying. These include some exciting opportunities to travel abroad, such as the Politics visit to Brussels and Photography trip to Paris. There are also numerous opportunities to participate in trips within the UK and abroad during our Wider Skills Week, which takes place at the end of the summer term. For example, a Literary tour of London, a Geography trip to Iceland, and the PE trip to Lanzarote were just a few of the activities on offer in 2019. Look out for our termly newsletter which is always packed full of photos and news stories about our trips and visits. The newsletter is available to download from our website and is also sent to applicants in the post. Please also see individual case studies for examples of Extension Studies.
Measuring success
Ofsted Inspections

The College was most recently inspected in May 2008 and we were awarded Grade 1: Outstanding for all areas of our provision. We were delighted with the outcome, which confirmed our position as one of the best colleges in the country.

The key strengths of the College have been identified as:

- very high success rates
- very good progress of students
- outstanding teaching and learning
- outstanding Extension and Enrichment activities
- very good facilities and resources
- strong commitment to equality of opportunity

As the performance of the College and our students has continued to be at the highest standard, we have been exempt in law from Ofsted Inspection since 2008. Ofsted staff continue to monitor our data, including value-added data. The latest value-added assessment from the Department for Education places our students significantly above average for both A Level and BTEC qualifications. This shows that Esher College students continue to progress beyond expectations. If you would like to read our last Ofsted Inspection reports, they can be accessed via our website or via the official Ofsted website: www.ofsted.com

This DfE assessment was reinforced by ALPS, an external and independent assessor of value-added performance. ALPS put us in the top 10% of all providers nationally for 2018 and awarded a Certificate of Outstanding Progress for three-year value-added performance.

Considered ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted

“The college has encouraged me to work hard and offered many opportunities outside of the school such as the UK Maths Team Challenge and Physics lectures at local universities.”

James
Supporting your needs

As a College, we are fully committed to ensuring that students receive appropriate support, both in terms of academic progress and overall well-being. This section of the prospectus provides an overview of the wide range of support available.
Learning Support

Our Study Centre works with subject teachers to ensure that the individual learning needs of all students are identified and met. We also provide specialist support for students with specific learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Identification of need begins with applicants disclosing their Special Educational Needs/Disability (SEND) on their application form, or at enrolment. The department is then able to provide targeted academic support for students with additional needs, such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASDs), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD), physical and sensory disabilities, and other mental health diagnoses. Where appropriate, and subject to the timely disclosure of need, we will ensure that examination access arrangements are investigated.

Local Authority Consultation is undertaken to plan support for students with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). Transition from a school to a college environment requires additional support for some students.

The College is creative in its support for individual needs, providing a range of opportunities for all students. We are extremely proud of the provision we offer, and of the inclusive attitude of the student community. Learning Support is part of a strong Student Services provision. The department works closely with the College’s Mental Health Advisor, College Nurses and the Student Welfare Manager, all of whom can liaise with link agencies.

Student Finance

The Bursary Fund provides financial support for students from low income families. The fund is assessed against eligibility criteria and is paid weekly (subject to attendance) into the student’s bank account. Full details of the current Bursary Fund arrangements are available on the Esher College website. Free Meals are also available for eligible students, who are allocated a credit per day (subsidised by the Free Meals scheme).

Student Health and Wellbeing

Esher College prides itself on providing excellent support for health and wellbeing and we offer a range of services to help students during their studies. The College Nurse service ensures that all students’ health needs are supported throughout their time at Esher College. Whether it is a physical or mental health need, support is available and students can speak to the College Nurses about any health concern they may have. The nurses work closely with external services, such as CAMHS, GP’s and other service providers to ensure that all available College support is being utilised. We also have trained counsellors who are available to give individual help to students with work-related or personal concerns. We actively encourage students to disclose any concerns at the earliest opportunity, so that we are able to provide appropriate support. Esher College recognises that mental health and wellbeing is of growing importance and therefore has a team of staff dedicated to promoting and supporting mental health. The College aims to provide a supportive, inclusive environment and is proactive in its approach. Anxiety and stress management workshops are available, which, through small groups, share and practise effective ways of coping with stressful situations, such as examinations. Our online ‘Health and Wellbeing’ web presence also helps to signpost students and parents to internal and external support services, which are available both online and in person.
Supporting your success

The foundations for successful achievement are obviously laid in the classroom. However, we also understand that high quality support outside the classroom is essential if students are to realise their potential and fulfil their aspirations for work or further study after Esher.
Helping you to maximise your potential

You will be set regular homework assignments for all your courses. You and your teachers will use these to assess how well you are progressing. When your work is returned, you will receive feedback to help you improve future assignments and ensure that you are prepared for your final examinations.

Your progress will also be centrally monitored during the year through our Progress Review system. You will have the opportunity to discuss and identify strategies for further improvement with both your subject teachers and your tutor. Over your two years at Esher College, seven Progress Review reports will be sent home via email which include information on effort and attendance, as well as your progress in relation to your minimum grade.

Your Start at Esher

Students joining Esher College come from many different schools, and settling into a new environment and way of working is very important. To help this process we have an induction programme called ‘Your Start at Esher’ which takes place over two half days, organised by tutor group. The first session is in smaller groups to allow students to get to know each other and their tutor. The second half day brings these small groups together, covering College procedures, locating key facilities and starting off study with the initial assignment in each subject. These sessions are a great way to find your feet at College before lessons start.

The Tutor Group

As a member of a tutor group, you will have a personal tutor who is likely to teach one of the subjects you are studying. Your tutor will take a close interest in your academic progress and welfare in order to help you have a successful time at College. There will be opportunities for regular meetings with your tutor, as part of the full tutor group and on an individual basis. If you have any problems, your tutor will try to help you sort things out. They will also support your university application or help you get advice about applying for a job after you leave Esher.

Personal Development Programme (PDP)

The Personal Development Programme is delivered through your tutor sessions. In the first term, the initial emphasis is on a smooth transition from school to college and academic target-setting. For the rest of the first year the PDP is designed to focus on issues of a particular relevance to young adults. It is regularly updated in light of student feedback and current issues. Amongst a number of popular sessions, students highlighted the charity activity, early in the first term. Tutor groups are given free rein to design a fund-raising activity of their choice and to choose a favoured charity. It is also an important bonding exercise for new students. There are a number of opportunities for you to have a one-to-one with your tutor to discuss your progress and anything else you may want to share with them. As the first year draws to a close, the emphasis shifts to preparation for life after Esher. Your tutor will guide you through the process, whether that is an application to university or you are choosing to seek employment or an apprenticeship. You will receive advice on your personal statement and your tutor will provide your reference for whatever you choose to do next.
Information Learning Technology

Esher College is progressive in its use of IT to assist and support teaching and learning. You will have access to all our IT services on offer, including e-mail and calendar, personal storage space, printing, scanning, photocopying, WiFi and the College Portals - our virtual learning environment. All the College services are available from any of the computers on the College campus, from home, or indeed anywhere in the world.

The College has over 1000 desktops and laptops running Windows 10, Microsoft Office 365 and the full Adobe Creative Cloud suite (Photoshop, Premiere, After Effects, Illustrator etc). Many departments also make use of specialist software such as Solidworks, Python and Microsoft Visual Studio. We also have a specialist Music building with Apple Macs running MacOS 10.14 and Logic Pro X.

As well as computers on site for you to use, we also encourage you to use your own personal devices.

We provide the option of synchronising your College e-mail and timetable directly to your device, and we provide a free high-speed wireless network called ‘eduroam’ that you can use at College and in 1000s of locations around the world. All students also get the latest version of Microsoft Office 365 Pro Plus to install on up to 10 personal devices.

The Learning Resource Centres (LRCs)

The LRCs offer the perfect environment to support independent study. There are two LRCs at Esher; LRC 1, which is located on the ground floor in the red zone and LRC 2, which is located on the first floor of the green zone. The two centres offer distinct areas for individual or group study.

LRC1 houses an extensive library of over 25,000 books as well as newspapers and periodicals, and provides access to a huge range of high-quality electronic resources such as eBooks and subscription databases. These resources are accessible from your tablet or mobile phone, both on and off campus, or from any of the 150 PCs available for use within the LRCs. You can access the internet, wifi, print assignments, and use our photocopiers and other reprographic resources as well. In LRC 1 there is a stationery shop and equipment loan store too, where students can purchase a wide range of stationery at low prices, and borrow equipment such as cameras and digital voice recorders. The LRCs are zoned in order to create study environments to suit all study styles. LRC 1 is for quiet and silent study. LRC2, where there are a further 37 PCs and larger study tables, provides space for group work in a slightly more relaxed working environment.

Our friendly, dedicated staff are always happy to help you find the information you need, and to help you to develop the skills required to use our resources and carry out independent research effectively.

“The college has lots of places to socialise with friends and meet new people, which is great.”
Charlotte
Planning for the Future

The staff of the Progression Guidance Department can advise you throughout and beyond your time at Esher. We can support you from your first visit at Open Evening, to helping you choose the right subjects at enrolment, through to receiving your examination results and making post-results applications. We have experience in giving advice on all aspects of higher education, apprenticeships and employment, and have personal contacts at the majority of British universities as a result of our Higher Education Day.

Esher College students and their parents have unlimited access to a destinations platform called Unifrog. Unifrog enables students to research career, apprenticeship and university course options; identify skills and experiences to back up their applications; log their activities and careers interactions; draft CVs and personal statements and receive feedback from teachers and tutors. A monthly Esher College Progression Bulletin advertises university, career and apprenticeship talks, visits, open days, competitions and part-time jobs.

All students are entitled to receive impartial advice and guidance to help them make the right choices for progression. This includes making sure that subject choices are suitable for a university course or a career. You may request an individual interview at any time either with College staff or with our independent careers advisor, who visits once a week. Your parents are welcome to attend if they wish.

The Progression Guidance Department arranges a full programme of talks and activities. ‘Careers lunches’ involve invited speakers talking about their career pathways, workplaces and employment experiences. The ‘Gap year fair’ gives students the chance to explore the gap year opportunities available from companies and charities. The ‘Next Steps’ event, run primarily for Elmbridge year 10 students, brings many local and national employers to the College. Esher students are encouraged to attend and discuss opportunities for employment, higher and degree apprenticeships. In addition, we also host an ‘Employment Seekers and Apprenticeships Information Evening’, in which external speakers give presentations about options outside of Higher Education.

‘Higher Education Day’ is a unique event in the College year, held in the spring term of your first year. Following the parents’ Higher Education Information Evenings, representatives from over 90 universities visit the College and are available to talk to you and your parents at the HE fair. A morning programme of subject seminars is followed by a carousel of activities, which include touring the HE fair, advice on how to choose a university and course, and guidance on further research. The evening session gives students and parents the opportunity to discuss HE options further with the university representatives, and also attend seminars from university speakers on various aspects of the application process - the most popular being ‘How to apply to the top universities’.

Special programmes throughout the College year support students applying to Oxford and Cambridge and for medical, veterinary or dental courses. Ten students received offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities to commence study in the autumn of 2019. Please see page 48 for the section on our Oxbridge application support.

‘After Esher Day’, towards the end of your first summer term, helps you focus on the important decisions about your future. Two programmes are offered, one for those most likely to apply to university and another for those more likely to be seeking employment or an apprenticeship. You will begin to complete your UCAS application if you are applying for university, or complete a mock assessment centre exercise if applying for apprenticeships or employment.

- Up to 90% of Esher College students progress to further and higher education, including Art Foundation courses
- 40% of students went on to high tariff HE providers and 41% went on to medium tariff providers in autumn 2018
- 91 universities attended our HE Day in 2018
Support for high achieving students at Esher College

At Esher, we encourage and support all our students to be the very best that they can be. When they join us, some students will have achieved highly at GCSE, whilst others have achieved national or regional sporting excellence, or have an exceptional theatrical, musical or artistic talent. Whatever the particular aptitudes, we seek to support students in developing them to the full.

Academic excellence

Within lessons we work with students to cultivate their intellectual curiosity and think and question more deeply. More able students have the opportunity to work on more demanding issues and problems. Extension reading is available as a matter of course, and feedback on assignments is tailored to help you understand and do what is needed to attain the very highest marks.

Departments also offer a range of opportunities to excite curiosity, deepen thinking and broaden knowledge. Here are a few examples to give a flavour of what we do:

- The opportunity to participate in national competitions, such as the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and the UK Mathematics Trust Challenges.
- The opportunity to undertake a research placement organised through the Surrey Science and Technology Regional Organisation.
- The opportunity to participate in Astronomy Club, making use of our own observatory.
- Opportunities for additional and extension work, such as more complex dissections in Biology.
- The opportunity to hear and question visiting speakers, such as our local MPs and visiting authors in Politics, History and English.
- Support with specific aptitude tests for some degree courses, such as the LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test), TSA (Thinking Skills Assessment) and STEP (Sixth Term Examination Paper).
- Specific support from our Progression Guidance Department and subject teachers on applying for universities. Please see page 47 for the Planning for the Future section on university applications.

In the first year, there are opportunities for more able students to take part in activities such as the Debating Society, the newsPeeks Scheme run by the Centre for Investigative Journalism, computer programming, the College Magazine, and our volunteering abroad scheme.

In the second year, options such as the Extended Project Qualification and our Thinking Critically course support students in applying for more competitive degree courses. More able students are suited to these types of courses, as they help to equip them with the tools they need to succeed in their academic lives and beyond, by developing a wider skill set, as well as academic knowledge.

Oxbridge application support

We encourage those who are academically suited to think about making an application to Oxford or Cambridge University, including students who may not have previously considered this. To support you with your applications, we have a successful Oxbridge Programme run by our designated Oxbridge Coordinator. It includes guidance on subject-related extension opportunities, help in attending Oxbridge Application conferences and taster events at the two universities, visits to the College by outreach officers and other key staff from Oxford and Cambridge and meeting former Esher College students to share their experiences of life at the two universities. Applicants have a weekly session to guide them through the process and prepare them for interviews. In addition, teaching staff have substantial experience in supporting students preparing for the specialist tests required for a number of specific subjects. Practice tests and mock interviews are an important part of the preparation process, often with the help of visiting experts.
Medicine, veterinary and dental school application support

We provide a wide range of support for these competitive courses. Students are encouraged to apply for appropriate work experience and work shadowing opportunities, including taking advantage of our well-established Community Volunteering Programme. We also encourage students to attend university taster events and the relevant subject seminars on our Higher Education Day. Former Esher College students who are studying or practising medicine are invited back to talk to current students and act as mentors. Applicants attend preparation and practice sessions for the entry exams (UKCAT or BMAT), both within College and with commercial or charitable providers. To help with their interview preparation, students attend weekly discussion sessions, mock interviews and practice MMIs (multiple mini interviews).

Creative excellence and sporting Talent

Many students come to Esher with creative or sporting talent and a passion to perform at the highest level and we seek to cultivate these talents to help students flourish. Here are a few examples of what we do:

- Within creative arts departments, staff often come from industry backgrounds or are currently practising in their field. This means that the advice and guidance given is rooted in `real life’ experience.
- We have developed strong links with industry, enabling students to gain up to date information on creative practices and techniques, as well as the career pathways open to them.
- Our Business Partnership with the University for the Creative Arts enables students to gain specific advice about university and Art Foundation applications.
- We provide opportunities to excite students’ creative curiosity and risk taking. For example, through visual literacy workshops with the Photographers’ Gallery in London or students working to live briefs set by the Victoria and Albert Museum.
- High achieving creative students are encouraged to take our Creative Arts Portfolio course, which aims to support students in building and enhancing their art portfolios ready for specialist university interviews.
- The College Band, Choir and College Production provide opportunities for students to practice their performance craft.
- Drama, Music, Performance and Dance students are offered support in preparing for auditions at prestigious institutions, including RADA, LAMDA and top conservatoires.

Support for sporting excellence - Roll of Sporting Excellence (ROSE) Programme

The ROSE Programme is about recognising, supporting and celebrating the sporting talents and successes of our students who compete at county, regional, national or international level.

In collaboration with the Sport and Exercise Science Department at Kings College London, the Esher College ROSE Programme combines sporting and academic support to help students develop as an athlete, whilst managing their academic studies. Sporting opportunities held at Kings College and at Esher College include the chance to participate in a series of workshops in, for example, strength and conditioning, sports psychology and optimising performance. They also have the opportunity to undergo physiological testing, as well as support in monitoring their individual sporting progress and the setting of goals that will help to develop a realistic performance plan moving forward. Furthermore, students are able to develop a network system amongst other elite athletes at the College. The Programme is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain a better insight into the life of a professional athlete through working with industry professionals.
Our facilities and a green future
Facilities

On-site facilities are some of the best available in the area, having benefited from a comprehensive campus development programme in recent years, including a purpose-built Music building, with two recording studios and several practice rooms, a new Coffee Shop, a refurbished College Café and a new Observatory. We have a Media and a Photography studio, two large Learning Resource Centres, including a library with extensive computer access, a Theatre, and a Drama Studio. We also have a large Sports Hall, where you will have free access to an on-site gym, and free, high speed Wi-Fi is available throughout the College.

We are fortunate in having a large, landscaped campus with hard courts, which are used for netball and tennis, and playing fields. The grounds become extremely popular when the sun shines, and they are the setting for our Summer Festival event at the end of each year.

Esher College has a genuine commitment to environmental issues and strives to adopt a more sustainable ‘footprint’. We have an Environmental Champion who has co-ordinated a number of initiatives with students and staff, as well as working with the local community. These include the continuing improvement of on-site recycling, the ongoing development of an allotment and garden site, and liaison with the College Café caterers to ensure our approach is as sustainable as possible with regard to food sourcing, wastage and packaging. Cycling is a popular mode of transport with students and staff and is actively encouraged. The College has excellent facilities for bike storage, which has recently been expanded in response to student demand. Each year we hold a ‘Green Week’, which includes activities to raise awareness of environmental issues and sustainability. With our current and future building work, we look at sustainability and energy efficiency, which includes solar panelling. We are proud to hold the Eco Schools Silver Award.
Dates for your diary

Monday 1st July 2019 (4.30-8.00pm)
- Open Evening
This is a key event for finding out more about Esher College. All departments will be ‘open’ during the evening for you to have a look around and ask questions about the various courses we offer. We highly recommend that you attend this event.

November 2019 to April 2020
- Admission Interview
You will be informed of your individual interview 2 weeks before the scheduled date. At the interview we will discuss your proposed study programme and help you to plan the combination of courses that is best suited to your interests and ambitions. You will have a further opportunity to update your course choices during Introduction Day.

January/February 2020
- Information Evenings
These events are for prospective parent(s)/guardian(s) and are an opportunity to meet Dan Dean, Principal of Esher College, and the leadership team, and to chat to a panel of current students. You will be informed of your allocated date for this event 3-4 weeks before the evening takes place.

June/July 2020 - Introduction Evening
All prospective parent(s)/guardian(s) are invited to the College for talks by the leadership team and to meet the Principal and senior members of staff.

June/July 2020 - Introduction Day
This event is an opportunity for students who have accepted a place to come and experience a full day at Esher College. The day consists of several taster sessions in the subjects you selected to study at your initial interview. You will be allocated a temporary tutor for the day who will answer any questions you may have at this stage. It is highly advantageous for all students to attend this day.

Monday 24th to Wednesday 26th August 2020
- Enrolment
You will be notified via post of the exact date and time of your enrolment interview. This is when your proposed study programme will be confirmed, providing you have achieved the relevant grades at GCSE. It is vital that all students attend on the exact date and time that they have been allocated.

Early September 2020 - Meet your tutor group and the official timetable starts
You will meet your tutor and have a one-to-one interview as part of a range of induction activities. There will be plenty of opportunities to ask any questions you might have. The College timetable will start a few days later and you will then become a full-time student at Esher College.
How to apply

The dates you can apply for entry in 2020 are as follows:

Applications open on 2nd July and close at midday on 30th September 2019 and you can apply between these dates.

Applications are completed online and should be submitted between 2nd July and 30th September 2019. Applications meeting the Guaranteed criteria will automatically result in the offer of a place at the College. Places will then be allocated to Open applicants using a ballot system. As in previous years, the vast majority of Open applicants will be offered a place. Once available places have been filled, any unsuccessful applicants will be offered a place on a reserve list, which will be created according to the outcome of the ballot.

Please see our website www.esher.ac.uk/admissions to view the full Admissions Policy for entry in 2020.

Admission Enquiries

Once you have submitted your online application you will be able to view the progress of your application throughout the coming year.

Our Admissions Manager will be happy to answer any questions you have about your application. Please check your online account for regular updates. If you are placed on the reserve list we will contact you should a place become available. The Admissions Department can be emailed at: admissions@esher.ac.uk