

# Elective courses

As mentioned on page 13, BGS is delighted to offer Sixth Form Electives, designed to complement your studies. We ask that all students select at least one elective; some students will choose to take two, and this will be dependant on timetabling constraints.

## Creative Writing

### Overview

The main requirement for a student of Creative Writing is, of course, a love of writing. If, in your spare time, you're the sort of person who's been working on a novel, writing songs and poems, developing ideas for film and/or play scripts, or trying your hand at journalism in a variety of styles, this course is for you.

The approach of this course is very distinctive. The course provides a space for you to receive regular feedback on the writing projects you want to develop, the ones you'd most likely be working on anyway. Absolute freedom with regard to both reading choices and writing projects isn't just allowed, it's absolutely central to how the course works.

You will have three lessons per fortnight to explore the best of contemporary writing. And you will also have the opportunity to attend a critical workshop, on a weekly basis, during which members of the group will present and critique each other's writing. Your teachers are also expected to bring their own creative writing to the workshop for criticism.

### What will I study and learn?

Your teacher will introduce you to interesting contemporary writing in the four main forms (poetry, prose fiction, prose non-fiction, and scripts), and help you to explore issues relating to good writing: narrative voice, how to format a screenplay, form in poetry, how to write convincing journalism, etc. But by far the most dynamic element in the course is the weekly critical workshop, where you will learn how to give and receive criticism on creative writing.

### What skills will I develop?

You will, without doubt, become more precise, more technically skilful, more adventurous, and more zeitgeisty in your writing. Most university English departments these days include Creative Writing modules, and Admissions Tutors understand the value of the course. Those who've got a head start, by taking Creative Writing in the Sixth Form, will be extremely well equipped for university, and for life.

### How will I be assessed?

The course is linear, which means that all three components will be taken at the end of the Upper Sixth:

#### Coursework

##### Component 1

The Writing Portfolio (60%)

##### Section A. Exploration

i) three short pieces of creative writing, each in a different form eg poetry, prose fiction, script (2,000 words)

ii) short commentary (1,000 words).

##### Section B. Specialism

Creative writing in one specialist form eg screenplay (3,000 words).

##### Section C. Critical Commentary

Essay exploring your own writing processes and influences (1,500 words).

#### Examinations

##### Component 2

Commissioned Writing (15%)

You will be given a choice of five writing assignments/commissions. Choose two.

##### Component 3

Responsive Writing (25%)

- Produce one piece of creative writing in response to a choice of prompts
- Write a commentary exploring the relationship between the piece you wrote for Section A and one text you read from the pre-release material.

### Want to know more?

Mr David Briggs  
Head of Creative Writing  
dbriggs@bgs.bristol.sch.uk

Exam Board:  
The Writers Examination Board (WEB)  
writersexaminationboard.com

## Extended Project Qualification

### What will I study and learn?

What you study is largely down to your ideas and motivation. You will learn how to plan, research, develop and produce a project, which may be in the form of an essay (5,000-word report), or an artefact (such as a dress, a play or extract from a book). If you choose to create an artefact, you must complete a 1,000-word written report to accompany your project. Whichever route you take, you will learn the skills needed for university, such as research and independent writing skills.

You will be allocated an EPQ supervisor who will support you as you create a project that you find inspiring and motivating. This project may be linked to your future career choice, hobbies, or extend your A level studies in some way.

### Past EPQ titles

Previous titles have included topics from art to dentistry, such as:

*What was the impact of the use of the Arthurian Legend and Shakespeare by the Pre-Raphaelite Art Movement?*

*Has the autonomous region system fixed the historical regional divisions in Spain?*

*Occipital condyle of the triceratops: a model to demonstrate its unique properties.*

*Do Western objections towards euthanasia find foundation entirely in the faith of Christianity?*

*Are people born earlier in the academic year more likely to succeed at team sports?*

*What features in art make us happy?*

*Would Israel's invasion of Egypt in 1956 have occurred if the Suez Canal had not been nationalised?*

*'The Man Who Saved the World': To what extent did Oleg Gordievsky's work for the SIS between 1974 and 1985 corroborate this statement?*

*How successful was John Locke's theory of the role of self-reference with regards to personal identity?*

*Create a retranslation of the first chapter of 'Cien años de soledad'.*

*Who made the greatest contribution to American Government after the American revolution out of Hamilton, Jefferson and Madison?*

*What does the future hold for the replacement of missing teeth?*

### How will I be assessed?

The assessment is different to all other A level subjects in that many of the marks go towards how you went about your research, managed your time, and responded to difficulties. Hence, the process of developing your project is just as important as the end project, and you will need to formally submit a log (how you developed your project, your thoughts on how it is going, your response to your supervisor's advice and the decisions you are making). You will present your EPQ journey at the end of the process.

### What skills should I have and what will be developed?

You must have an enquiring mind. You will have questions or ideas about a particular topic that you would like to draw together in research. In carrying out an EPQ, you will develop and extend skills in independent research and project management, equipping you for study after BGS. Your EPQ supervisor supports your studies much like an undergraduate study: meeting with you to discuss progress and pathways of your research and supporting you in any difficulties or questions you have.

The shape of your project is decided by you – whether it be an artefact (writing an extract from a book, producing a piece of music, writing some computing code) or an essay (titles are wide ranging, and can include any subject that is not being studied within your A level courses).

The skills you will develop are numerous from presentation skills and time management, to referencing and developing a large piece of independent work.

### Want to know more?

Mrs Rachel Atkins  
Head of EPQ  
ratkins@bgs.bristol.sch.uk



## Further Mathematics (AS level and A level)

### Overview

A level Further Mathematics can be studied as one of your main A levels, or in addition to your three A levels, as long as you are studying Maths at

A level. To study A level or AS level Further Mathematics you are required to achieve a minimum of a grade 8 at GCSE.

Further details about A level Further Mathematics course can be found on page 64 of this guide.

## Mathematical Studies

### Overview

The AQA Mathematical Studies qualification is ideal for students who have achieved at least a grade 5 at GCSE and have a passion for Mathematics but do not want to commit to the full A level course. Mathematical Studies is also an excellent complement to other courses that include statistical analysis such as, but not limited to, Biology, Psychology, Geography or Economics.

### What will I study and learn?

You will study statistics, data analysis, estimation and critical analysis. There is also a personal finance module to prepare you for life after education. The course doesn't cover topics such as calculus and logarithms and so, if you are thinking of university study in physics, engineering, or some economics courses, for example, it is likely that you would need A level Mathematics rather than Mathematical Studies. It is recommended that you check university entry requirements in such cases.

### What skills will I develop?

Taking this course shows future employers/university admissions that you are a logical thinker with excellent problem-solving ability. This is a two-year course and will be your elective for both the Lower and Upper Sixth, with the exam being taken at the end of the second year, leading to a Level 3 qualification (roughly equivalent to the demands of half an A level).

### Want to know more?

Miss Sue Poole  
Head of Mathematics  
spoole@bgs.bristol.sch.uk

## Sports Leaders Programme

### Overview

The Sports Leaders Programme is designed to develop confident, healthy leaders through sport and physical activity. You will be required to plan, deliver and reflect on your ability to lead in a sporting context; this will be done through a combination of lessons and practical exploration of leadership, both within and outside of school.

### What skills will I develop?

This course would suit students who have a passion for sports and exercise, combined with an enthusiasm for developing the sporting opportunities for others within BGS and the local community. Previous experience of leading/coaching would be beneficial, but is not essential.

Along with developing your confidence and leadership skills, this course will enable you to serve in your local community working towards a qualification that can lead to further leadership opportunities in the future.

Successful completion of this qualification will also provide you with 16 UCAS points if you intend to apply to university.

### Want to know more?

Mr Tom Lacey  
Head of Physical Education  
tlacey@bgs.bristol.sch.uk





“Sports Leadership allows you to develop such transferable skills like communication and leadership, which I can use in and out of school.

Izzy Webster, OB 2023  
Courses: Economics, English  
Language, Mathematics, and the  
Sports Leadership Programme

