

GCSE Subjects Available

Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Drama
English Language
English Literature
French
Geography
German
History
Information Technology
Italian
Mathematics
Photography
Physics
Spanish

Other subjects may be available on an individual tuition basis.



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Duff MILLER
Est. 1952

GCSE Prospectus

GCSE *Prospectus*

A love of learning



The GCSE programme at Duff Miller aims to combine the best of traditional educational values with the most stimulating elements of the new. If we can foster a love of learning and teach our pupils lasting study skills and habits at

this stage, we can be sure they will be academically successful for the rest of their lives.

In addition to the formal academic subjects, we place great emphasis on the informal curriculum. GCSE students are encouraged to join school clubs, be part of the student council and take part in as many activities as possible. Apart from being fun, the informal curriculum develops their sense of community and participation and makes them aware of the importance of thoughtfulness and caring for other people. But perhaps the most important point is that children learn to believe in themselves and gain confidence in their abilities, which motivates them to further success.

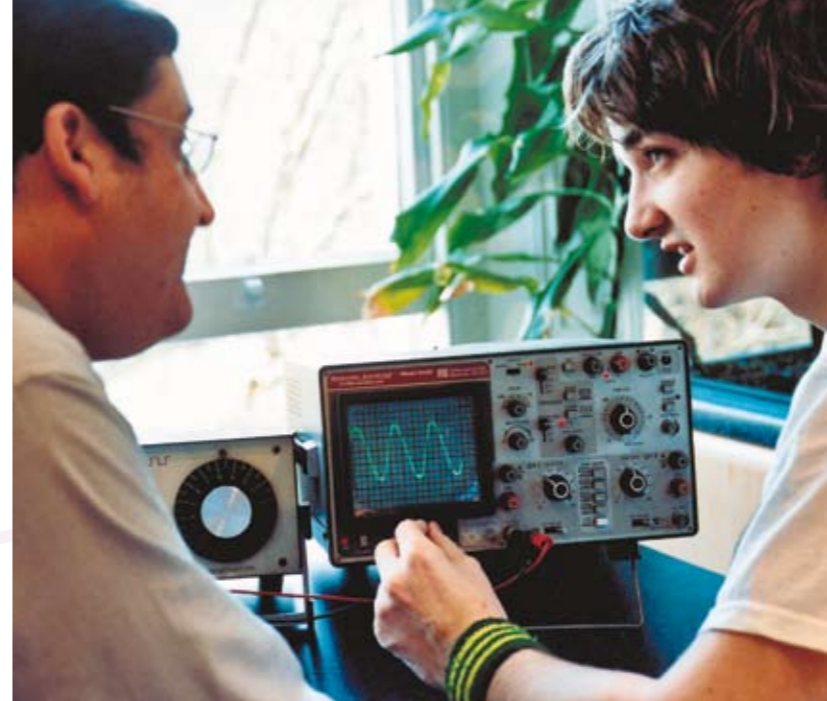
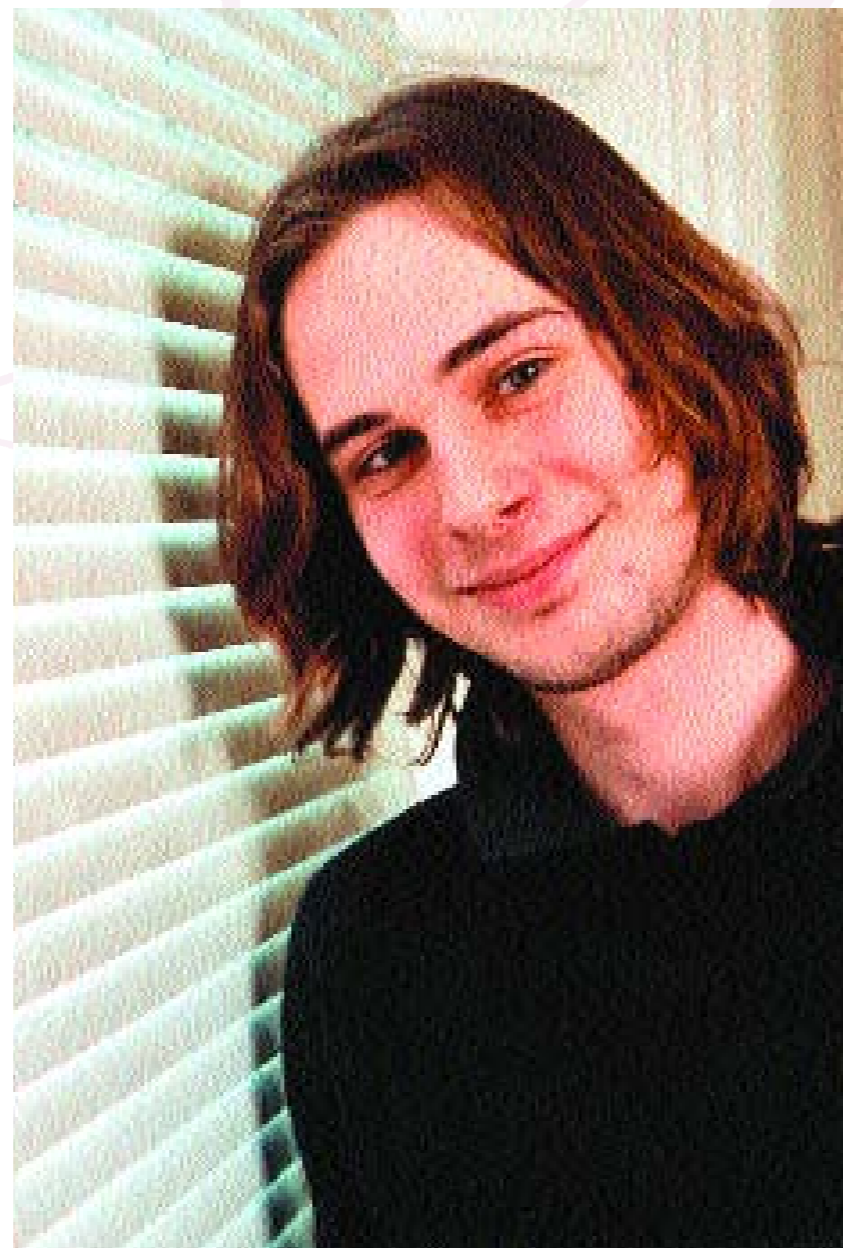
Building academic skills

During the one year GCSE programme, attention necessarily focuses on the formal academic skills, required to ensure successful examination results. GCSE results are still very important for students intending to go on to university, and most Duff Miller students will aim to take eight subjects at this level. We encourage students to take advantage of the wide choice of subjects offered, but it is also essential that sixth form and university entrance options remain open. At Duff Miller we have a wealth of experience of advising students on GCSE choice, especially if they may wish, in the future, to follow careers such as Medicine and Law. The initial selection of GCSE subjects is made at interview but we do have the flexibility to vary options in the first few weeks of the GCSE course.

The GCSE programme - Giving students choices

All of the specialised subjects we offer at GCSE can be taken in one year, and it is at this stage that the advantages of the flexible Duff Miller system becomes apparent.

Apart from English Language and Mathematics, all other subjects are optional and generally a student can choose to study any combination of subjects that suits their specific interests, aspirations and talents. In addition to Mathematics and English, it is usual to choose additional subjects from those listed on the back cover.



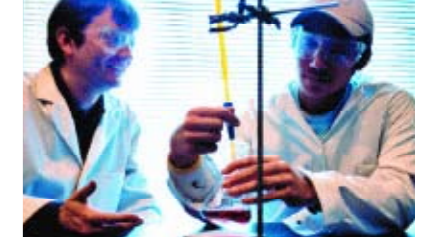
Pastoral care / mentoring

Every GCSE student has their own personal tutor, who not only monitors their academic progress, but is responsible for their pastoral care and for keeping their parents informed. There is a weekly meeting between students and their personal tutor, but the system is designed to provide informal contact at any time during the week, should problems arise. The GCSE personal tutors are responsible for keeping in touch with parents. They meet parents formally at one of the Parents' Evenings, which we hold every term, but they are at the end of a phone at all times. A close partnership between the parents and the personal tutor can make an important contribution to a students' success.

Mentoring by an upper sixth student at Duff Miller has benefits of not only providing a role model for the GCSE student, but also ensures that new students quickly settle into life at the college. We always try to match a GCSE student with a mentor who has similar career ambitions. For example, a potential medical student will be a mentor for a GCSE student who also has this field as a career aspiration.

Fast-tracking GCSE's

Duff Miller is one of the few schools which allows students who are currently at the end of year 9 to fast track their GCSE's over the one year period. This programme is suitable for the more academically able student who may be slightly frustrated by the slow pace of GCSE studies and are eager to give themselves additional time in the Sixth Form for extra A-level subjects, work experience or a gap-year, while still proceeding to university at the normal age of eighteen.



Ensuring success

The Duff Miller approach to GCSE's is based on very small class sizes. This gives tutors more time to work with each student and allows them to deal with students' individual strengths and weaknesses, tailoring their teaching programme appropriately. It is recognised that GCSE examinations now require more than factual recall, and in order to succeed, students must have solid study skills. Examination practice periods, where a student sits past examination papers under timed conditions in the Duff Miller study area, make an important contribution to the examination preparation process. The supervised homework club, which takes place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, although not compulsory, is recommended as an opportunity for students to complete assignments, coursework or any other work set in the structured school environment.

The next step

Applicants for the GCSE programme must attend a personal interview and supply reports and references from their previous school. For the 'Fast-track' programme, students will be required to take assessment tests in specific subjects to show their potential to successfully complete GCSE's in the one-year period. Once a place has been offered, parents must confirm their acceptance by returning the enrolment form and paying the registration fee.

