Duff MILLER
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At Duff Miller we strive to create an environment which inspires our students and gives them the confidence and enthusiasm to achieve the highest possible results. The traditional values which have been crucial to Duff Miller's success as an institution for more than half a century are complemented by the state-of-the-art technology which you would expect to find at one of the capital's leading sixth-form colleges. A strong sense of community and an excellent rapport between staff and students are also defining features of the college today.

The imposing college building located in South Kensington contains a range of classrooms, laboratories and a computer room to meet all the students' needs. A supervised study area is provided along with a fully equipped internet café to enable our students to make enjoyable and profitable use of their time throughout the college day. Within lessons and outside them, our priority is to ensure that the students have every chance to fulfil their potential.

WHAT MAKES US **DIFFERENT?**

Duff Miller provides structured tuition for its students, based on the demands of their exams and closely tailored to the specific needs of the individual. What distinguishes us, as a college and as a community, is an open and supportive atmosphere which encourages our students to develop on both academic and personal levels. We pride ourselves on our friendly and approachable teaching personnel, who are on hand to answer questions or provide guidance and reassurance. Our staff room has an open- door policy and it is not unusual to find teachers and students continuing classroom discussions outside lessons.

A combination of small class-sizes and close pupil-teacher relationships helps every student to realise their full potential. Small groups encourage participation and debate within the classroom, while allowing staff to focus closely on individual pupils. Duff Miller takes pride in the diversity of its pupils and in being able to meet their different needs, whether we are preparing them for medical or Oxbridge interviews or guiding them through their retakes.

We identify both strengths and weaknesses as early as possible and monitor the students' progress closely throughout the year. Regular testing is provided in a precise simulation of exam conditions. While we work to produce confident, well-rounded individuals, the ultimate aspiration for all the students is academic success and we aim to keep the importance of the exams uppermost in their minds. The students are encouraged to take some responsibility for their own planning and organisation, as well as being carefully guided by our staff at every stage.

A system of personal tutelage ensures that the students are always held accountable for their work and behaviour. Specifically, personal tutors are assigned a number of students drawn from their own teaching groups, and take special responsibility for their progress and welfare throughout their time at the college. This relationship gives the opportunity to provide advice and support in both academic and pastoral matters whenever they are required.

Our staff are all graduates and experts in their particular subjects who are practised in meeting the expectations of the different exam boards. Many have experience of working as external examiners, which proves invaluable to our students. They meet the requirements of the syllabus while maintaining the sense of interest and excitement which we believe is crucial to tuition at Duff Miller. Exam results are a key focus but these can be achieved within the context of inspirational lessons with an emphasis on liveliness and participation.

TYPES OF **COURSES**

Duff Miller offers a wide range of courses at every level from GCSE to A2 and an unparalleled flexibility of subject combinations. Students can join the college at any stage in their progress towards A Level and enjoy the benefits of the expert guidance and teaching that we offer. The Duff Miller approach has particular advantages for students who join at GCSE and work their way towards an appropriate university course over three years. But it can also be truly invaluable to those who join us for the highly specific, accelerated, one-year courses or retake courses for which the college is renowned. These uniquely intensive courses offer students the opportunity to transform their results in the shortest possible time.

GCSE

While many tend to associate sixth-form colleges primarily with A-level courses, Duff Miller has developed a thriving GCSE department that can provide the ideal introduction to life at the college ahead of moving on to A-level. The relaxed yet exam-focused atmosphere can prove beneficial to the students, especially in preparing them for the greater freedom and academic rigour of sixth form. But it is the small class-sizes and personal attention we offer which make our GCSE courses an appealing option. Added supervision and extra-curricular activities are also provided for GCSE students, in recognition of their younger age and in accordance with the demands of the National Curriculum.

The most popular GCSE option is our one-year, fast-track course, which is an intensive preparation for GCSE beginning in September. Retakes over one or two terms are also on offer, although these can be done during the lower sixth in addition to AS Levels. More details on GCSE courses can be found in the GCSE Prospectus.

Lower Sixth

Duff Miller is an ideal environment in which to undertake both years of a student's sixth-form career. Students generally take four AS Levels. For example, it is possible to combine Arts and Science subjects – such as Maths and Biology with English and History - if a student is still undecided about which degree to pursue. Our flexibility in course choices and combinations allows students to keep their options open.

As well as the small class-sizes that many of our students find helpful, and a comprehensive system of exam preparation and practice, our lower-sixth course offers a unique programme designed to bridge the skills gap between GCSE and A Level (see 'Promoting and monitoring academic progress' in the next section for full details on both of these).

During the lower sixth students are also offered advice on work experience which might assist in their choice of university course.

TYPES OF COURSES contd

Upper Sixth

While many students join in the lower sixth, usually starting out with four AS subjects and carrying three of them on to A2, others enter the college for their final year of A- levels. The latter may be disenchanted with their current school or unhappy with their existing A-level choices. Extra tuition and catch-up classes are also available to fill in any gaps in their knowledge from the AS part of the syllabus.

Duff Miller also offers extensive UCAS support to students, including advice on writing personal statements and on choosing the appropriate university and course.

One Year Courses

These are self-contained courses which cover the entire AS and A2 syllabus in one year. They are appropriate for students who have not achieved their required grades at AS level and want to retake their AS levels in January and then take their A2s in June. They are also appropriate for students who have completed their entire A-level course and wish to retake both the AS and A2 elements of the course. These courses are extremely intensive, feature a great deal of examination practice and are oriented towards academic success above all.

Short Retakes

These are the most intensive and demanding courses offered by the college and take place either between September and January or January and June. Covering the entire A- level course in approximately half the academic year, they require absolute dedication from the student. Sound subject knowledge is undoubtedly necessary for these courses but there is potential for dramatic results. This course is ideal for gap- year students who still want to have six months or more for their other plans.

PROMOTING AND MONITORING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

A-level grades which enable a student to reach the university of their choice and pursue their preferred career are a key focus at all times at Duff Miller. Whether conducting a two-year sixth-form programme or a short retake limited to one term, we aim to maximise our students' chances of exam success with an intense concentration on the skills required for sitting the all-important exams. A comprehensive system of monitoring and feedback ensures that any potential problems in achieving the desired grades are swiftly identified.

Lower Sixth programme

Our introduction to the lower sixth is designed to bridge the problematic gap between GCSE and A-level which often comes as a shock to students. This programme is delivered by tuition in small groups and has four key elements:

- The study-skills element focuses on basic recall tasks and a range of different styles of learning.
- The mathematical-skills-for-science element focuses on the essential mathematical skills necessary for A-level science including chemical calculation and graphic presentation.
- The essay-skills element concentrates on structure, style and expression and is a vital course for all students studying humanities and social sciences.
- The ICT-skills element focuses on short cuts, graph plotting, spreadsheets and database construction.

Examination practice papers (EPPS)

We believe that regular practice offers the best possible preparation for exams and the Duff Miller system of EPPs has been crucial to our success over the years. Practice exams lasting one hour and using questions from past papers, are set fortnightly (weekly for short-retake candidates) and are taken under exam conditions. This regular simulation of the experience of sitting exams builds confidence and a sense of familiarity with the exam process, as well as offering the teacher a chance to keep track of their students' performance.

The EPP results are carefully assessed and, where necessary, appropriate remedial action is then considered. The whole system is designed to ensure that students, teachers and parents alike are given an accurate and up-to-date impression of how the student is progressing.

Performance and attendance monitoring

As well as the highly effective system of exam practice, which ensures that all relevant parties are made aware of the students' performance from week to week, reports are also sent each half term to parents or guardians. These give a clear picture of the students' progress and enable us to highlight their strengths and weaknesses.

Attendance is of course closely monitored and, if a student is absent without permission, parents can expect to be informed on the same day.

Mock Exam Programme

As well as the regular schedule of practice exams, a full programme of mocks takes place at the end of the first term for the January exams and at the start of the third term for the summer ones. These mock exams precisely mirror the student' exam entries, and their results are analysed with the aid of the chief examiners' mark schemes.

Results

The results for the January exams are published in March and those for the summer exams appear in late August. UCAS has automatic access to an individual's score so that candidates who have met their offers can be sure of being able to take up a place at their chosen institution.

For those who have not achieved their desired grades, the college offers help with all aspects of the clearing process. The Principal, Vice-Principal and Head of Careers are on hand to give advice and help with any additional references or letters to universities that may be necessary to facilitate the acquisition of a place through clearing.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND EXTRA CURRICULAR

The progression from A-level to degree is a crucial stage in any young person's life and we prepare carefully for this transition, helping our students achieve their ambitions. At Duff Miller we also believe that education is not solely limited to the academic sphere. We encourage our students to take the opportunity to participate in our programme of activities and sports, enabling them to leave the college as well- rounded individuals as well as academic success stories.

UCAS

The students are given encouragement and advice at every stage of their passage through the increasingly competitive UCAS system. The Head of Careers has worked for many years in conjunction with both students and leading universities, giving him an unusually deep insight into the complex process of applying through UCAS. The students' personal tutors and the teaching staff also help them come to a realistic decision about which degree subjects, courses and institutions are most appropriate. They are also given extensive guidance in writing the kind of personal statement that will make their application stand out from the competition.

Interview training

Those students likely to be required to attend interviews in order to gain an offer of a place - for example, those applying to medical or dental school or Oxbridge - will be given in-depth preparation for the interview process, consisting of mock interviews and advice on technique and preparation. This includes a focus on overall impression as well as coverage of the specific content of the interview, taking in key aspects of performance like body language, vocal projection and articulation.

Medical & Dental and Oxbridge programmes

Duff Miller specialises in preparing students who wish to work towards a career in the Medical Sciences and, over the years, we have established a reputation as experts in getting students into medical school. A number of different courses are organised by the college, and these enable our students to take full advantage of our close ties with several internationally respected medical institutions and thus to maximise their chance of entry.

Speaker evenings are run in the autumn term and offered alongside the medical interview practice day. They provide an invaluable chance to hear from top practitioners in the medical field. Among these are an admissions officer from a leading university, practising dentists and medics, and former Duff Miller medical students.

Duff Miller also offers first-aid training to all students who are applying to medical and dental courses. This can be particularly useful in providing evidence of thorough preparation for the challenges of university.

The college also offers UKCAT and BMAT training courses during half term in the autumn term. These cover essential elements of the tests, like logic and verbal reasoning, and offer training in writing essays on ethical issues. The students are also supported in completing their UCAS forms to the best of their abilities.

With Oxford and Cambridge graduates on the staff, we have the expertise to give advice on specific areas of the Oxbridge application process including supplementary reading, college selection and interview preparation.

ACTIVITIES & SPORT

A programme of activities takes place throughout the year. These include subject- related excursions like a psychology field trip to a zoo and a biology field trip to a brewery. Drama students are taken on outings to both west-end shows and fringe productions. They are also given a chance to put on their own productions over the course of the year and to perform at a theatre.

There is also a range of leisure and holiday activities that occur under the supervision of staff, including a ski trip in the winter and a lower-sixth activities weekend after the AS-level exams in the summer. Usually taking place in rural Wales, the weekend includes quad biking, rafting, archery, orienteering and abseiling.

We recognise the importance of sport, as habits formed during adolescence are crucial to a healthy lifestyle in adulthood. Sporting activity can also have a beneficial effect on focus and productivity within the classroom, making it a potentially significant element of a student's day-to-day life. For those taking GCSEs, sport features as an important part of their weekly programme, with activities ranging from trips to the gym to ice-skating.

For the sixth form, there is the opportunity to take Sport Science A-level whilst the voluntary sporting activities on offer include football, basketball, street dance and self-defence. As in all aspects of college life, input from the students about which sports or activity they would like to have the opportunity to pursue will be taken into consideration by the staff.

ADMISSIONS

Places at Duff Miller are offered on the basis of an interview with the Principal or Vice-Principal. This can be arranged by our admissions team who are always ready to answer any questions you might have about the college. If you are interested in joining Duff Miller please don't hesitate to request more information or come and look around.

A visit to the college will give an insight into our excellent facilities and provide a sense of the strong community spirit that informs life at Duff Miller. Prospective parents may also find that it provides a useful opportunity to meet and speak to key figures at the college and to discuss any specific concerns they may have about their child's GCSE or A-level prospects. There are also a certain number of bursaries and scholarships available for those students requiring financial assistance with their education.

Duff Miller strives to provide an appropriate balance of traditional and modern values, upholding a sense of the past while always looking to the future. We believe that the college offers the best possible academic, personal and social opportunities to its students, whatever stage of their development they have reached, and that they leave us well prepared for the many challenges of university and professional life which lie ahead.

SUBJECTS

Subject	GCSE	A Level
Accounts	■	■
Archaeology		■
Ancient History		■
Art	■	■
Biology	■	■
Biology (Human)		■
Business Studies	■	■
Chemistry	■	■
Chinese		■
Classical Civilisation		■
Combined Science	■	
Computer Science		■
Critical Thinking		■
Drama	■	
Economics	■	■
English Language	■	■
English Literature	■	■
Film Studies		■
French	■	■
Geography	■	■
Geology		■
German	■	■

Subject	GCSE	A Level
Greek (Classical)		■
Government and Politics		■
History	■	■
History of Art		■
ICT	■	■
Italian	■	■
Latin	■	■
Law		■
Mathematics	■	■
Mathematics (Further)		■
Media Studies	■	■
Music	■	■
Philosophy		■
Photography	■	■
Physics	■	■
Psychology	■	■
Religious Studies	■	■
Sociology	■	■
Spanish	■	■
Statistics		■
Textiles (Art & Design)	■	■
Theatre Studies		■