



“Learning to
make a
difference
together”

Futures 2026

Year 9



Welcome

Dear All

Welcome to the start of an important and exciting time for your daughter or son as they think about their future and decide on their Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) courses. Year 7 to Year 9 has equipped all students with a significant base of knowledge, skills and understanding which they can now take forward into their Key Stage 4 courses. This booklet is to introduce you and your child to the curriculum we have developed for Years 10 and 11.

The aim of the curriculum is to allow your child to be successful in a range of courses that suit their skills, interests and aspirations for the future. In doing so, there will be a greater emphasis on using approaches to study that promote independence. Our Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to specifically ensure students build up the knowledge and skills they will need to access GCSE Examinations and Non-Examined Assessments at the end of Year 11, there is less of a focus on thematic links with Grand Challenges.

The booklet is in 6 parts, designed to answer the following questions:

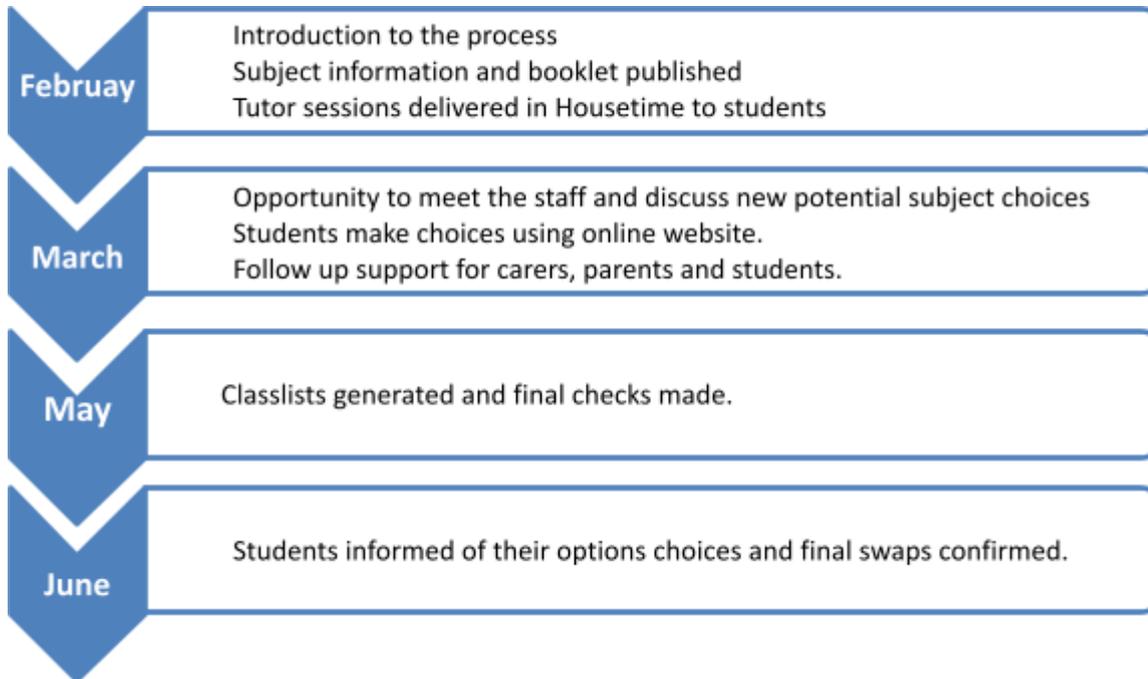
- » What are our important principles?
- » What makes up the curriculum?
- » What choices are available?
- » What should students consider when making choices?
- » What is the process of choosing subjects?
- » What is involved in each of the main subjects?

Beginning now, the team at the Academy are on hand to answer your queries and to offer guidance over choices. Ms Maskell is facilitating the options process with Mr Kothari. Mr Pineiro and Mr Adamson oversee academic progress in Years 10 and 11.

The right combination of careful thought from students, with advice and guidance from home and the Academy, will ensure every student knows how to achieve their potential and is provided with every opportunity to enjoy success at school and in their future lives.

We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the next few months as students choose the subjects that will see them through to GCSEs and beyond.

Summary of Timeline

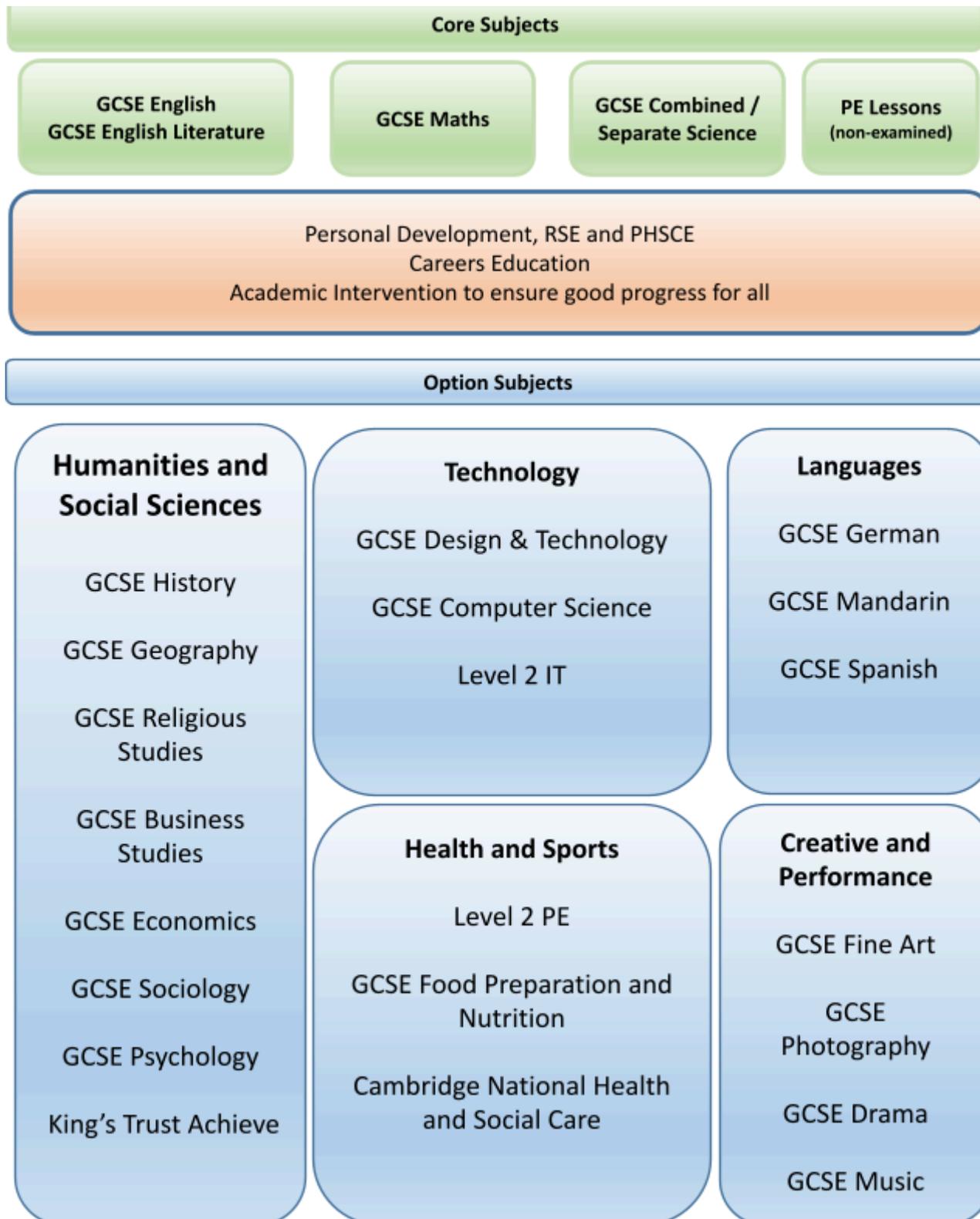


What are our important principles?

The principles for developing this curriculum reflect the ethos and values of the school:

1. High academic and personal standards for students and a commitment to developing individual potential;
2. A broad and balanced curriculum that gives the choice and range of subjects for students to personalise their route. This means a range of opportunities to pursue the STEM specialist subjects, alongside Humanities & Culture options to reflect the importance UCL itself places on breadth of study;
3. An academically challenging curriculum that provides good progression to further study;
4. Promoting Languages at the heart of the curriculum, as part of Education for Global Citizenship;
5. An approach to learning that continues to emphasise skills developed in the Connected Curriculum;
6. Strong emphasis on Personal Development and preparation for their next stage of education.

What is our Key Stage 4 Curriculum?



Please note that some subjects may not run due to low numbers.

Core Subjects

GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Maths and GCSE Science are all core subjects so everyone takes these. PE and PSHCE are also core subjects.

GCSE Science: All Year 9 students have started separate science GCSEs. This means there is an option of receiving three science GCSEs: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics. This gives you an extra GCSE. If this is not suitable for you then you will take GCSE Combined Science, which is worth two GCSEs. Over the year, your teachers will be using your assessments and commitment to learning to decide which final option you will take. You will be receiving guidance on this over the year.

Language: You can choose to continue to study a language, we recommend all students continue with their Modern Foreign Language. If you are choosing a Language you must continue with the one you have been studying since Year 7, there is not an option to begin studying a new Language.

PE and PSHCE - These are crucial parts of a balanced curriculum and all students take part in these compulsory lessons.

What choices can I make?

You can select 4 subjects in addition to the core offer. You must make **4 firm options** choices and **2 reserve choices**. Some students will be allocated reserve choices for one of three reasons:

- The first choice option subject is full and cannot accommodate any more students.
- The first choice option does not work within the timetable blocks - these are decided after Options choices are made to accommodate as many students as possible.
- The Subject Leader does not think the student has made an appropriate choice or the student does not meet the entry requirements.

The full list of subjects offered can be found in the subject choices section of this booklet. When choosing Options it is very important to place them in order of preference as this will be taken into consideration when allocating students to classes.

Balancing your Choices

In order to ensure you have more choice when selecting A Level and Level 3 courses after GCSEs we recommend students choose a broad range of subjects. This should include: a Modern Foreign Language, a Humanity subject, a Creative or Performance subject and one from the Health or Technology options. We recognise some students want to narrow their pathway but we would not recommend choosing Business Studies and Economics as main choices or selecting 3 Humanities subjects.

Subjects with entry requirements

GCSE Computer Science and GCSE Economics are subjects which require students to have demonstrated that they enjoy and have an aptitude for Maths. There are 56 places on the GCSE Economics course; and 28 places on the GCSE Computer Science course. The students selected will already have demonstrated that they are making good progress towards 6+ grades in Maths and grade 5 in English. For this reason not all students will see these subjects as options choices. GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Design & Technology and Level 2 IT are open to everyone.

Selecting reserves

If a subject is oversubscribed or not running it is important for you to identify what other subjects you would like to do. You will be asked to select another three alternative reserve subjects. You must be willing to take these subjects if one of your first choices does not run or your progress and commitment is not good enough in one of your choices. Some students may also be asked to take a reserve course if we cannot make their preferred choices fit within the timetable.

What if a subject is oversubscribed?

1. We will try hard to run an additional class but that is not always possible.
2. We will ask if any student has changed their mind and wants to take their reserve subject.
3. If progress and commitment are low then we will discuss with you taking a reserve option.
4. The Academy will decide on the best course for you if there is an alternative.

What should I consider when making my choices?

DO Consider:

- » **Range of Subjects:** Consider studying a broad range of subjects that leave your options open.
- » **Interests and Strengths:** Consider subjects that you have enjoyed and are successful at. Think about subjects you have been making the best progress in.
- » **Post – 16 Study:** Start thinking about what you want to study after Level 2 qualifications. How will your choices help you?
- » Think about **your career interests and aspirations**. For university courses and most careers, a broad balance of subjects is a good base. However, you may already have strong views about a future career and you should research whether particular course choices now will be helpful.

DON'T Consider:

- » **Friends:** Do not choose subjects to be with your friends. You have different strengths and interests and may not be in the same class. Talk to your friends for advice. Doing different GCSEs shouldn't have any effect on your friendships – it will just mean you have lots to talk about when you're together at other times.
- » **Teachers:** You should be motivated by the subject content. There is no way of knowing what teachers you will have next year.
- » **Easy Options:** Do not choose subjects because you think they are easy options - they aren't! All GCSE and Tech awards are of the same standard.

What help will I get?

You will be working with your tutor in House Time and PSHCE to discuss the different subjects and how they relate to your interests and future plans. If we feel it is appropriate you and your carers and parents will be invited to a guidance meeting with your tutor or a senior member of staff to discuss your options. You will look at your assessments in each subject and your commitment to learning in subjects you would like to take.

What do I do now?

1. Read through the Subjects in the booklet and consider which options might be best for you.
2. Make sure you attend one of the Options Information Sessions on **Thursday 5th March**. They are at 4:30pm and 5:30pm.
3. Book appointments to see the staff who teach the options you are interested in. Make sure you ask **lots** of questions.
4. Consider all the subjects available – even those subjects you haven't thought about.
5. Talk to friends, older students, family and teachers about the different options.
6. Set up a profile on: www.startprofile.com/ Research careers you might be interested in - what qualifications do you need?
7. Reflect on your performance in different subjects – what are your strongest subjects?
8. Reflect on your attitudes in all subjects – would your teachers recommend you for the GCSE?

Timeline for Options Process

We will allow sufficient time in the process of choosing courses, so that you can research subjects that you may not have previously encountered, and can receive guidance from parents and staff. The process is summarised below:

Date	
9th February 2026 onwards	Tutor slides and discussions introducing the process
Thursday 5th March	Year 9 GCSE Options Parent Information Evening
Friday 6th March	Online website opens for options choices to begin
Monday 16th March	Deadline for choices
Friday 20th March	Parents confirm and accept options choices
March - April	Subject allocations communicated to students and parents and follow up conversations begin.
June 2024	Final options choices confirmed

GCSE Art & Design (Fine Art)

Course Leader: Mr A. Williams
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: GCSE in Art & Design (Fine Art)
Specification Code: 8202



What Is Art & Design?

Art & Design is a way for you to express yourself creatively and express ideas, emotions, facts, figures, stories and social, political and historical messages and narratives visually. In this course you will demonstrate the use of formal elements and creative skills, and give form to individual thoughts, feelings, observations and ideas. You will show evidence of trying to extend your own and others' ways of seeing the world. Skills which you will have the opportunity to cover include: **painting & drawing; printmaking; sculpture and alternative media.**

What will I learn?

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio - Coursework – 72 marks – 60%

You will work from a given theme and create a body of work that demonstrates:

- Generating and developing ideas informed by primary and contextual sources
- Refining your ideas through experimenting with media, and developing and applying skills
- Researching, recording, analysing and reviewing your own and others' work
- Selecting, creating, realising and presenting personally developed outcome(s).

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment - Preparatory work (Sketchbook) & 10 Hour Exam – 72 marks -40%

Externally set exam paper, with around 10 weeks preparatory work that demonstrates the same skills as in Unit 1, with final outcome created in a 10 hour timed period.

Your Future

This course will help you develop independence, communication skills and open up many pathways into careers. Some of the many careers that come from GCSE Art & Design: Architect, Commercial & public sector management; marketing/sales/advertising; education; commercial artists; graphic designers; clothing designers; fashion industry; fine artists; editors; product designers; computer games designer; web designer; magazine and publishing; illustrator; theatre and set design; film and television; costume design; advertisement; print-maker; editorial work; media and journalism.

NB: You can only choose one Art Option from your options list but you could choose another Art option as a reserve choice e.g., Fine Art as your first option choice and Photography as your second reserve choice (not second option choice).

King's Trust Achieve

Course Leader: Mr D. Kirk
Exam Board: Prince's Trust
Course Name: Achieve



What is Achieve?

Achieve is a course run by the **King's Trust**. The King's Trust is a champion of young people. The King's Trust is the UK's leading charity in supporting young people into education, training and employment. From undertaking the course you will develop transferable skills: The skills you learn on the course you will be able to use in your other subjects. Achieve is a nationally recognised qualification that has a number of partners such as: Goldman Sachs, Natwest, Apple, Meta and Tesco.

Who can study for the Achieve qualification?

Achieve is a course that is available to all students at Key Stage 4. It is also an ideal course for those who have studied Global Perspectives at Key Stage 3. The skills that they learn on the course they can transfer back to their other lessons.

How is the course structured?

Achieve is a portfolio based qualification [that means there are no exams]. It is a course to support young people to engage and succeed. It aims to let students investigate their own potential and then take steps to realise it. It is a course that facilitates students to celebrate their achievements and plan for the future.

The course is very flexible- there are units that count towards qualification and there are modules that do not count towards qualification. Modules can be studied at different levels- at different levels of challenge: e.g.: Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2. The table below shows the different qualification sizes.

Award	Two units studied at the same level
Certificate	Six units of work four units must be studied at the same level
Extended Certificate	Nine units of completed work Six units must be studied at the same level
Diploma	13 units of work 9 units must be studied at the same level

Modules cover a range of areas, such as: digital skills, teamwork and communication, problem solving and mental well-being.

Your Future

Achieve is a personal development program for those who want to showcase that they have excellent personal and social skills. This is a programme for those who want to develop greater awareness of the world of work, careers and employment sectors. It is a program for those who want raised aspirations and it helps support increasing confidence and resilience.

GCSE Business Studies

Course Leader: Mr Sutherland
Examination Board: Edexcel
Course Name: Business Studies GCSE
Specification Code: 1BS0



What will I learn?

This course prepares students for the fundamental principles and concepts that underpin how to start a business, and how to make it grow. The course develops a wide variety of skills including analytical, quantitative and extended writing skills.

What will I Learn?

Unit 1 - Investigating small business: this unit covers enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective, and understanding external influences on business. It counts for 50% of the overall grade through a single 1 hour and 30 minute exam. The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Unit 2 - Building a business: this unit covers how to grow the business, including making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions, and making human resource decisions. It also counts for 50% of the overall grade through a 1 hour and 30 minute exam. The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Where to Turn for Additional Reading

If you want to find out more about the skills you might learn or should develop when studying the course, watch BBC programmes like *The Apprentice*, *Dragon's Den* and *Working Lunch*.

The following websites show the types of things you might learn:

BBC bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/business

Business Studies Online: www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk

The Times 100: www.thetimes100.co.uk

Your Future

This course will prepare you for further and higher education by helping you develop a wide variety of literacy, quantitative and analytical skills. It will prepare you for A-Level as well as BTEC or Level 3 courses in many different subjects as you will become skilled in making decisions, becoming creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team.

This course could lead you to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing, management consultancy, or the leisure and tourism industry.

GCSE Computer Science

Course Leader: Ms F. Cole
Exam Board: OCR
Course Name: GCSE Computer Science
Specification Code: J277



Entry Criteria: Students will need to be on track to achieve a grade 6 or above in Maths to do this course.

What is Computer Science?

Over the coming decades the employment opportunities for individuals with digital skills will continue to rise. Opting for Computer Science at GCSE will allow students to enter onto one of those exciting and well rewarded career paths.

What will I learn?

Computer Systems - Paper 1 - 1 hour 30 minutes exam - 50% of GCSE

This unit will introduce students to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. Students will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with the subject.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming - Paper 2 - 1 hour 30 minute exam - 50% of GCSE

This unit incorporates and builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in Computer Systems, encouraging students to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking. Students will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, computational logic, facilities of computing languages and data representation. Students will become familiar with computing related mathematics.

Practical programming

Students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which will allow them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations particularly in Paper 2.

Your Future?

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. Businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries and this specification has been designed with this in mind.

GCSE Design & Technology

Course Leader: Mr F. Cotter- Boston
Exam Board: AQA
Course name: GCSE Design & Technology
Specification code: 8552



What is Design & Technology?

GCSE Design and Technology prepares students to engage confidently in an increasingly technological world. It introduces them to the impact of design and innovation on society, encouraging creativity and problem-solving through practical application. Students will explore the influence of historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors on product design while developing essential skills in designing, making, and evaluating.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: External Assessment – Written Exam – 2 hours – 100 marks – 50%

Covers core technical principles (materials, manufacturing, energy, emerging technologies), specialist technical principles (material focus, forces, stresses, manufacturing), and designing/making principles (user needs, innovation, iterative design). Includes 15% maths and 10% science application.

Unit 2: Internal Assessment / Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) – Design and Make Project – 30–35 hours – 100 marks – 50%

Students research, design, and develop a product to address a real-world problem. Assessed through a portfolio documenting investigation, idea generation, prototyping, and evaluation. Includes a physical prototype demonstrating technical and creative skills.

GCSE Design & Technology (AQA 8552) – Key Topics

Materials & Properties – Papers, boards, timbers, metals, polymers, textiles

Production Methods – Prototyping, CAD/CAM, batch/mass production

Systems & Electronics – Circuits, microcontrollers, mechanical linkages

Creative Design & Making – Sketching, user-centered design, aesthetics

Sustainability & Innovation – Lifecycle assessment, eco-friendly materials

Your Future

GCSE Design and Technology provides a strong foundation for careers in design, architecture, engineering, and manufacturing. Whether you aspire to be a product designer shaping the future of technology, an architect creating innovative spaces, or an engineer solving practical challenges, this course offers the skills and knowledge to begin your journey.

GCSE Drama

Course Leader:	Ms J. Verity
Exam Board:	Edexcel
Course name:	GCSE Drama
Specification code:	1DR0



What will I learn?

In Drama, you will develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of:

- Devising and performing live Theatre
- Lighting, sound, staging, set design, costume
- Responding to live Theatre
- How to bring to life a set text, from an actor's, director's and designer's perspective
- Forms of drama from different cultures and historical contexts

You will respond to different stimuli, using these to develop original pieces of theatre and evaluate, appraise and analyse your own work and the work of others. Drama is **group-based** and relies on **teamwork and commitment**. If you enjoy expressing ideas, visual design, creating thought-provoking drama work and working creatively in a team, then you will enjoy GCSE Drama. Please note that there will be a **number of free theatre trips** across the year that are **compulsory**, so enjoying the prospect of live theatre is a must.

Component 1: Devising (40%)

You will work as a Theatre Company to devise a piece of original Theatre inspired by a range of different Stimuli. During the devising process, you will reflect upon and evaluate yours and others' work on a written 'Portfolio' (2,000 words) in order to refine your piece. You will then perform to a live audience at the end of the devising process. Performer or design routes available.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

Through the study of a complete and substantial play text, you will perform two extracts from the same play to a live audience. This component is **externally assessed by a visiting examiner**. Performer or design routes available.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice - Written examination (40%)

Section A- Bringing Texts to Life: Through the study of a full play text, you will explore and analyse how to approach specific scenes from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. You will answer questions based on an unseen extract of the chosen play text.

Section B- Live Theatre Evaluation: After enjoying a live theatre experience as part of the course, you will complete a live theatre review, analysing and evaluating the performance.

Set text: *The Crucible*, by Arthur Miller, *DNA* by Dennis Kelly or *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley

Further Study

A good grade at GCSE Drama will enable you to continue to study Drama at post-16 level, such as A-level Drama & Theatre Studies or B-TEC Performing Arts, as well as complementing many other subjects including English and History.

Your Futures

Drama opens the door for many careers opportunities, not simply being an actor, including Playwright, Film/Theatre Director, Producer, Journalist, Lighting & Sound Engineer, Costume Designer, Teacher, Make-up Artist, Set Designer, Voice Coach, Arts Administration, Law, Advertising and Marketing

A qualification in Drama is highly regarded amongst Universities and Employers due to the numerous transferable skills it provides you with such as **public speaking, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving**.

GCSE Economics

Course Leader: Mr D. Iyoke
Exam Board: OCR
Course Name: Economics
Specification Code: J205



Entry Criteria: Students will need to be on track to achieve a grade 6 or above in Maths to do this course.

What will I learn?

- The basic tools of the economist to help you understand your place in, and contribution to the local, national and global economy as a consumer, worker and citizen
- To be able to investigate a range of contemporary issues, analysing the evidence from different perspectives so as to make reasoned judgements and informed decisions
- The concepts that underpin a range of economic ideas: Money, Work, The National and Global Economy, Managing the Economy, and Current Economic issues – selected each year from a range of topics such as UK poverty, the growth of China and India and Competition
- Skills of analysis and evaluation of evidence, making reasoned judgements and presenting appropriate conclusions

Units and their Assessment

Both question papers have a section with Multiple Choice Questions:

Unit 1: Introduction to Economics & The role of markets and money - *Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes exam, 50% of GCSE*

This component introduces learners to the fundamental economic terms and concepts. Learners will apply these to investigate and explain how markets work in contemporary and historical economic contexts. They will study the different roles and perspectives of the main economic agents (consumers, producers and the government) and how they interact in the economy.

Unit 2: Economic objectives and the role of government & International trade and the global economy - *Written paper: 1 hour 30mins, 50% of GCSE*

This component provides learners with an understanding of the main economic objectives and role of the government in achieving them. Learners will investigate the effects of economic policies on markets. They will use and interpret quantitative evidence, such as unemployment figures, in contemporary and historical economic contexts. They will learn to appreciate the importance and impact of international trade by analysing data such as quantitative information on exports and imports.

Where to Turn for Additional Reading

The Financial Times (free access at The Academy) www.ft.com

The Economist www.economist.com - there is a copy available in the library

BBC Economics section: www.bbc.co.uk/news/business/economy

Guardian Economics section: www.theguardian.com/business/economics

Your Future

GCSE Economics provides a good introduction to economic issues as a way to start to understand the world around us from a financial and economic standpoint. It will develop the sort of analysis and evaluation that is valuable in a wide range of A Levels and further study. Studying Economics to a higher level can lead to a wide range of interesting opportunities, particularly in finance and government. It is not essential to take GCSE Economics in order to take A Level Economics or a degree.

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Course Leader: Miss V. Heald
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: Food, Preparation and Nutrition
Specification Code: 8585



What is Food preparation and Nutrition?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and challenging course which combines practical cooking and food preparation skills and food and nutrition theory. The specification aims to develop students' knowledge of all aspects of food and nutrition, specifically the working characteristics of food and food provenance whilst linking learning to practical cooking skills.

What will I learn?

Course specification is divided into the five sections:

1. Food, nutrition and health
2. Food science
3. Food safety
4. Food choice
5. Food provenance

During the course you will be given the opportunity to practice a wide range of skills along with having a greater understanding of nutrition, the science behind food as a material and wider environmental aspects associated with food.

How is the course assessed?

Written examination: 50% of GCSE

1 hour 45 minutes - 100 marks

Multiple choice questions (20 marks) and five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

Non - examination assessment: Task 1: Food investigation - 15% of GCSE

Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this task. Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation

Non - examination assessment: Task 2: Food preparation - 35% of GCSE

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. Written or electronic portfolio (not exceeding 15 A4 pages) including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Your Future:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a course that is scientific and creative and will therefore be suited as a stepping stone to a wide range of future options. It will equip you to go on to further study as you will learn valuable study skills whilst undertaking the two non exam assessments independently and therefore after taking this course, you could embark on an AS or A-level study or college course. There are a wide range of apprenticeships in the catering and food industries.

Examples of careers in food are: Chef, Nutritionist, Dietician, Food Journalist, Food Critic, Food Developer, Technologist and Analyst, Food Scientist, Environmental Health Officer, Production and Manufacturing Sector Worker, Food Buyer, Marketing Manager.

You will also have the knowledge and skills to feed yourself (and others) affordably and nutritiously for life.

GCSE Geography

Course Leader: Ms H. Rundle
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: Geography
Specification Code: 8035



“There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.” Dr. Rita Gardner, Director of the RGS-IBG

Why study Geography?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Current GCSE courses are a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions, which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: Living with the Physical environment - Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes – 88 marks – 35%

Topics will include Coasts, Rivers and Hazards. You will build on your knowledge and understanding of Earthquakes, Volcanoes and other tectonic processes. There will be a trip to Surrey, to allow students to explore a river environment.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human environment - Written Paper – 1 hour 30 minutes – 88 marks – 35%

You will build on your knowledge of urban issues and the changing economic world and form a deeper understanding about the urban environment in which you live. Students will also get the opportunity to experience the urban environment first-hand with a local fieldtrip in London, to Stratford.

Unit 3: Geographical Skills & applications - Written Paper - 1 hour 15 minutes - 76 marks - 30%

You will have the opportunity to demonstrate all your core geographical skills from the fieldwork you have conducted, as well as your knowledge of maps, grid references and statistical analysis. This paper also gives students the opportunity to apply their geographical knowledge to make geographical decisions, using resources that are released before the exam.

Your Future

Because of the broad nature of Geography, there are hundreds of careers that give Geographers a sound base from which to enter many areas of work. Geography is widely respected by universities and employers as it provides students with a range of transferable skills. Jobs that coincide well with a Geography degree include; surveyor, geoscientist, researcher, urban planner, travel writer, travel agent, tourism officer, computer programmer, teacher, lecturer, risk analyst etc.

Cambridge National Health & Social Care

Course Leader: Ms V. Chitsaz-Dastgerdi
Exam Board: OCR
Course Name: Cambridge National Level 1/2
Specification Code: J835



What Is Health & Social Care?

Health and Social Care is a vocational subject that looks at the growth, development, health and wellbeing of individuals of all ages. Students are introduced to a variety of knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings. Underpinning the qualification is a focus on person-centred values, rights of individuals, communicating effectively and protecting individuals. Health & Social Care will equip students with sound specialist knowledge and skills for everyday use. Students learn practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations, are able to think creatively, analytically and critically and will develop independence and confidence in using these skills.

What will I learn?

RO32 - Principles of care in health and social care settings

Written paper - 1 hour 15 minute exam - 40% of overall grade

This unit focuses on the rights of service users in health and social care settings, person-centred values and effective communication in health and social care settings.

RO33 - Supporting individuals through life events

Controlled unit assessment - 30% of overall grade

This unit focuses on life stages and the impacts of life events, including sources of support. You will learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs. As part of this assessment you will conduct an interview to show these skills.

RO35 - Health Promotion Campaigns

Controlled unit assessment - 30% of overall grade

This unit focuses on current public health issues and the impact on society and the factors influencing health. Part of the assessment will also require you to plan and create, as well as deliver a health promotion campaign of your own!

Your Future

Health and Social Care not only opens the door to one of the biggest employment sectors in the UK, but will allow students to make more informed choices for further learning generally. As a vocational subject, a vast variety of transferable skills are developed that transcend to many different fields. This often includes careers directly within the health and social care sector such as registered nurse, paramedic, social worker, health visitor, teacher, youth offending officer, doctor, military and mental health nursing, research and healthcare policy making, nursery assistant, midwife, support practitioner, physiotherapist or speech and/or language therapist. Upon completion of the Level 1/2 Certificate, there is also the opportunity to progress onto the Level 3 Award.

GCSE History

Course Leader: Ms H. Rundle
Exam Board: Edexcel
Course Name: History
Specification Code: 1BH10



What Is History?

History is an exciting and thought-provoking course that challenges students to think critically and form independent judgments about the past. It builds on key historical skills, encouraging students to develop strong analytical and communication abilities. By exploring major historical events and themes, students gain a deeper understanding of how societies have changed over time and how history continues to shape the world today.

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000-present & Whitechapel, c1870-c1900 📜

📖 *Written Paper - 1 hour 15 minutes – 30% of the qualification*

Students examine how crime, policing and punishment have evolved over time, from medieval justice to modern law enforcement. Key topics include: The influence of the **Church** on justice in the Middle Ages; The impact of **industrialisation** on crime and policing; The development of modern policing, including the **Bow Street Runners** and Metropolitan Police; Case studies such as **The Gunpowder Plot** and **Jack the Ripper**. This unit helps students build and investigative and analytical skills while understanding the changing nature of justice.

Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 – 91 🌐

📖 *Written Paper - 1 hour 45 minutes – 40% of qualification*

In this paper, students study two key historical periods: **Early Elizabethan England (1558-88)**: Government and religion, internal and external challenges, and Elizabethan society during the Age of Exploration. **Superpower Relations and the Cold War (1941–91)**: The origins of the Cold War, major crises, and the eventual fall of the Soviet Union. This unit develops students' understanding of political power, international relations, and historical conflict

Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39 ⚡

📖 *Written Paper - 1 hour 15 minutes - 30% of qualification*

Students explore the dramatic transformation of Germany between World War I and World War II covering: The challenges faced by the Weimar Republic (1918-23); Germany's recovery and the rise of Nazi support (1923-32) and How Hitler and The Nazi Party took control of Germany.

Your Future

Studying History is highly respected by universities and employers due to the valuable skills it develops, such as critical thinking, research, and communication. A GCSE in History can lead to a wide range of careers, including:

- Law & Politics – Lawyer, Politician, Civil Service
- Media & Journalism – Reporter, Editor, Researcher
- Education & Research – Teacher, Librarian, Museum Curator
- Business & Management – Analyst, Consultant
- Social Sciences – Psychology, Sociology

History is not just about the past—it helps you understand the present and prepares you for the future!

Level 2 IT (Information Technology)

Course Leader:	Ms F. Cole
Exam Board:	To be confirmed
Course Name:	Level 2 in IT
Specification Code:	To be confirmed



Entry Criteria: Although there are no formal entry requirements, students would find the following learning skills and aptitudes helpful: basic proficiency in literacy and numeracy, aptitude for working with computers and motivation to work independently.

What is IT?

Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to unlock your potential with IT and step into a future filled with innovation and opportunity!

What will I learn?

IT in Society

Students will explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. They will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use, including cyber-security and legislations related to the use of IT systems.

IT in Context

Students will gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, and other mobile and web technologies and apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings, ultimately creating an actual prototype solution.

How will I be assessed?

A mixture of exam and internally assessed coursework, with a greater weighting on the coursework.

Your Future?

You will develop a number of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: Communication; coping with rapid changes in technology; critical thinking; designing, programming, testing and evaluating software systems; learning independently; numeracy and data handling; problem solving; research; taking on responsibility and time management.

The IT industry offers a wide range of exciting opportunities which include: Data analyst, Digital content producer, Systems engineer, Web marketing manager and many more. The IT industry is vast and provides work for a wide range of people across sectors, from those working as freelance IT consultants, right through to those in large or specialist IT teams in multinational companies. Job roles frequently overlap across multiple sectors, supporting the planning, designing and implementation of services or products to enhance our daily lives in the digital world.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

GCSE German

Course Leader: Mr G. Hillage
Exam Board: Edexcel
Course Name: GCSE German
Specification Code: 1GN1



What is GCSE German?

The GCSE German qualification builds on your prior learning in KS3 and is designed to develop students' ability to communicate effectively in German while gaining insights into German-speaking cultures. The course covers 6 interesting themes. It assesses students in four key skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—through final exams at either Foundation or Higher Tier. The exams include role plays, picture-based tasks, and written responses, with a focus on real-world language use. This new GCSE has restricted vocabulary lists (so less to learn) and emphasises communication and cultural awareness to help students develop practical language skills for future education, careers, or travel.

What will I learn?

The course covers 6 engaging themes: My personal world, Lifestyle and wellbeing, My neighbourhood, Media and technology, Studying and my future and Travel and tourism.

We will study all aspects of grammar while practising our reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. Because you've been studying German for 3 years, you have a head start! We've already been practising exam techniques that you will see in the GCSE so keep your old exercise books! You may get the chance to practice these skills in person on school trips.

Your future

Why You Should Study a Language at GCSE – And Why You'll Thank Yourself Later!

Thinking about picking German? Here's why it's one of the smartest moves you can make:

- Boost Your Brainpower 🧠 – Learning a language sharpens your memory, problem-solving, and multitasking skills. Basically, it makes you smarter!
- Stand Out to Employers 💼 – Communicating in another language makes you more employable, whether you want to work in business, travel, media, or even gaming.
- Unlock the World ✈️ – Imagine traveling without awkward Google Translate fails! Speaking the language means real conversations and richer experiences.
- Connect with More People 🌍 – From new friends to social media trends, understanding another language and culture helps you connect globally.
- Boost Your Grades in Other Subjects 📚 – Studies show that learning a language helps with English, Maths, and even memory-based subjects like Science and History.
- Impress Universities 🎓 – Top universities love students with a language GCSE. It shows dedication, intelligence, problem-solving skills and a global mindset.

A GCSE in a foreign language isn't just another subject—it's a skill for life. So why not give yourself an edge and open up a world of opportunities? 🚀

What other subjects go well with German?

German goes well with History, Business, Economics, Art, Design and Technology & Engineering

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

GCSE Mandarin

Course Leader: Mr G. Hillage
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: AQA GCSE Chinese (Mandarin)
Specification Code: 8673



What is GCSE Chinese (Mandarin)?

The GCSE Mandarin qualification builds on your prior learning in KS3 and is designed to develop students' ability to communicate effectively in Mandarin Chinese while gaining insights into Chinese-speaking cultures. The course covers 3 interesting themes. It assesses students in four key skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—through final exams at either Foundation or Higher Tier. The exams include role plays, picture-based tasks, and written responses, with a focus on real-world language use. This GCSE has been taught in the school for 6 years now and we know what it takes to be successful. It emphasises communication and cultural awareness to help students develop practical language skills for future education, careers, or travel.

What will I learn?

The course covers 3 engaging themes: Theme 1: Identity and culture, Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest and Theme 3: Current and future study and employment. We will study vocabulary and grammar and we will practice reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. Because you've been studying Mandarin for 3 years already, you have a head start, so keep your old exercise books, as they'll be very useful!

Your future

Why You Should Study a Language at GCSE – And Why You'll Thank Yourself Later!

Thinking about picking Mandarin? Here's why it's one of the smartest moves you can make:

- **Boost Your Brainpower** 🧠 – Learning a language sharpens your memory, problem-solving, and multitasking skills. Basically, it makes you smarter!
- **Stand Out to Employers** 💼 – Communicating in another language makes you more employable, whether you want to work in business, travel, media, or even gaming.
- **Unlock the World** ✈️ – Imagine traveling without awkward Google Translate fails! Speaking the language means real conversations and richer experiences.
- **Connect with More People** 🌍 – From new friends to social media trends, understanding another language and culture helps you connect globally.
- **Boost Your Grades in Other Subjects** 📚 – Studies show that learning a language helps with English, Maths, and even memory-based subjects like Science and History.
- **Impress Universities** 🎓 – Top universities love students with a language GCSE. It shows dedication, intelligence, problem-solving skills and a global mindset.

A GCSE in a foreign language isn't just another subject—it's a skill for life. So why not give yourself an edge and open up a world of opportunities? 🚀

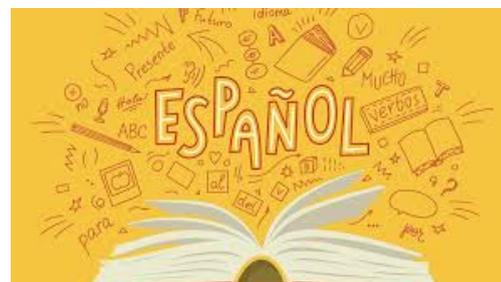
What other subjects go well with Mandarin?

Mandarin goes well with Geography, History, Economics, Engineering, Design & Technology & Art

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

GCSE Spanish

Course Leader: Mr J. Castaño
Exam Board: Edexcel
Course Name: Edexcel GCSE Spanish
Specification Code: 1SP1



What is GCSE Spanish?

The GCSE Spanish qualification builds on your prior learning in KS3 and is designed to develop students' ability to communicate effectively in Spanish while gaining insights into Spanish-speaking cultures. The course covers 6 interesting themes. It assesses students in four key skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—through final exams at either Foundation or Higher Tier. The exams include role plays, picture-based tasks, and written responses, with a focus on real-world language use. This new GCSE has restricted vocabulary lists (so less to learn) and emphasises communication and cultural awareness to help students develop practical language skills for future education, careers, or travel.

What will I learn?

The course covers 6 engaging themes: My personal world, Lifestyle and wellbeing, My neighbourhood, Media and technology, Studying and my future, and Travel and tourism. We will study all aspects of grammar while practising our reading, listening, speaking and writing skills. Because you've been studying Spanish for 3 years already, you have a head start! You may even get the chance to practice these skills in person on local and international trips. We have already been practising exam techniques that you will see in the GCSE so keep your old exercise books!

Your future

Why You Should Study a Language at GCSE – And Why You'll Thank Yourself Later!

Thinking about picking Spanish? Here's why it's one of the smartest moves you can make:

- Boost Your Brainpower 🧠 – Learning a language sharpens your memory, problem-solving, and multitasking skills. Basically, it makes you smarter!
- Stand Out to Employers 💼 – Communicating in another language makes you more employable, whether you want to work in business, travel, media, or even gaming.
- Unlock the World ✈️ – Imagine traveling without awkward Google Translate fails! Speaking the language means real conversations and richer experiences.
- Connect with More People 🌍 – From new friends to social media trends, understanding another language and culture helps you connect globally.
- Boost Your Grades in Other Subjects 📚 – Studies show that learning a language helps with English, Maths, and even memory-based subjects like Science and History.
- Impress Universities 🎓 – Top universities love students with a language GCSE. It shows dedication, intelligence, problem-solving skills and a global mindset.

A GCSE in a foreign language isn't just another subject—it's a skill for life. So why not give yourself an edge and open up a world of opportunities? 🚀

What other subjects go well with Spanish?

Spanish goes well with Geography, History, Business, Sociology, Design & Technology & Music

GCSE Music

Course Leader: Mr P. Baxter
Exam Board: OCR
Course Name: GCSE Music
Specification Code: J536



What Is GCSE Music?

Music GCSE is a rigorous and rewarding course, best suited to those having instrumental lessons at Grade 3 or above. While those who have not done grades are of course welcome to join - high quality singers, for example, may not have done an exam - the focus is on listening skills, analysis, rehearsal, high quality performance and original composition.

What will I learn?

Component 1 - **Performing**: 30%

- **Two** performances: **one** solo, **one** ensemble
- 30 marks

Component 2 - **Composing**: 30%

- **Two** compositions: **one** to a brief set by the examiner, the **other** set by class teacher
- 30 marks

Component 3 - **Appraising**: 40%

Four areas of study, with **two** set works each:

- The Concerto Through Time
- Rhythms of the World
- Film Music
- Popular Music since 1950

Your Future

Achieving a good grade at GCSE Music will provide a suitable foundation for the study of Music or related courses in Higher Education, such as: Advanced Level Music, Music Technology A' Level, Performing Arts A' Level, Vocational courses and apprenticeships in music technology, music applications and publishing, Sound Engineering and related fields.

Some possible career paths: **Performing** – playing in an orchestra or pit band (in a West End show), singer, freelance musician, accompanist, DJ or Pop Star! **Composing** – Film/TV music, music for Web Designers, Songwriter, Composer. **Music Technology** – Sound Engineer, **Journalism** – Critic or Reviewer, writing for a Music Magazine; **Arts Administration** – working at a Theatre or Concert Venue; **Music Management** – managing artists, bands or organisations; public relations and media promotion; **Law** – copyright and publishing law, performing rights and contractual law. **Teaching** – teaching a musical instrument from home or in a School, leading workshops, music therapy, and music teacher in a primary or secondary school.

GCSE Photography

Course Leader: Mr A. Williams
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: GCSE in Art & Design (Photography)
Specification Code: 5PY01



What Is Photography?

Photography lens and light-based media includes works in film, video, digital imaging and light-sensitive materials. Sometimes, techniques and processes are used to convey messages and create works related to other disciplines, such as web-based animations, photographic images in printed journals, light projections within theatrical or architectural spaces. Work in photography lens and light-based media should be a means of personal enquiry and expression involving the selection and manipulation of images. In the context of this specification, disciplines will include film-based photography, digital photography, moving image, phoneography and photography genres.

Over this course, students will develop knowledge and understanding of genres of photography specific to their own interests, abilities and responses. Previous students have created portfolios in Wildlife photography, documentary / photojournalism, portraiture, architecture, still life or fashion.

What will I learn?

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio - Coursework – 96 marks – 60%

You will work from a given theme and create a body of work that demonstrates (Assessment Objectives):

- ⇒ Generating and developing ideas informed by primary and contextual sources
- ⇒ Refining their ideas through experimenting with media, and developing and applying skills
- ⇒ Researching, recording, analysing and reviewing their own and others' work
- ⇒ Selecting, creating, realising and presenting personally developed outcome(s).

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment - 10 Hour Exam – 96 marks -40%

Externally set exam paper, with around 10 weeks preparatory work that responds to the Assessment Objectives as in Unit 1, with final outcome created in a 10 hour timed period.

Your Future

This course will help you develop independence, communication skills and open up many pathways into lots of careers. Some of the many careers that come from GCSE Art & Design (Photography):

Commercial & public sector management; marketing/sales/advertising; education; commercial artists; fashion industry; fine artists; editors; web designer; magazine and publishing; illustrator; theatre and set design; film and television, animation; videographer; journalism; documentaries editor and media to name but a few.

NB: You can only choose one Art Option from your options list but you could choose another Art option as a reserve choice e.g., Photography as your first option choice and Fine Art as your second reserve choice (not second option choice).

Level 2 Qualification in Physical and Sport Education

Course Leader: Mr U. Toyuuab
Exam Board: AQA / OCR
Course Name: L2 Qualification in Physical Education



What is Physical Education?

Physical Education provides students with the opportunities to explore the importance of leading a healthy, active lifestyle whilst discovering a range of sports and activities. Students will discover the effects of exercise on the body and will explore the roles of varying systems during this process. Students will analyse elite performances and will use this information to assess the psychological and sociological effects of performance.

What will I learn?

The Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport

Students will develop their theoretical knowledge and understanding of the active participant in sport, anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.

Socio-Cultural Influences and Well-Being in Physical Activity and Sport

Students will develop their theoretical knowledge and understanding of the active participant in sport. Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and use of data.

The Active Participant - Practical assessment

Two parts - practical performance and performance analysis

Three activities (all as a performer)

1. Activity from a team sport
2. Activity from an individual sport
3. Activity from either individual/team sport/Leading a session

Complementary Courses

This course would complement anyone studying GCSE Biology, GCSE Combined Science, GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, GCSE Psychology, GCSE Sociology

Your Future

This course will help you develop independence, communication skills and open up many pathways into lots of careers. Some of the many careers that come from studying Physical Education:

Sports coaching; teaching; physiotherapy; sports psychology; sports media; Journalism; Personal Training; Sports Diet and Nutrition; Sports Officials; Volunteer Projects.

GCSE Psychology

Course Leader: Ms H. Opoku-Mensah
Exam Board: Edexcel
Course Name: GCSE in Psychology
Specification Code: 1PSO



What is GCSE Psychology?

- **Biological** – an understanding of biological concepts in psychology, including neuroscience and genetics as contributors to behaviour
- **Cognitive** – an understanding of thought, information and mental processing as contributors to behaviour
- **Social** – an understanding of the social area of psychology, the impact of social and environmental factors on behaviour and the influence of groups
- **Developmental** – an understanding of how individuals change throughout their lives, with a particular focus on childhood and how both nature and nurture can affect individuals
- **Individual differences** – an understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and experiences and why and how people are different.

What will I learn?

Paper 1

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 98 marks, 55% of GCSE

- Development
- Memory
- Psychological Problems
- The brain and neuropsychology
- Social Influence

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Paper 2

Written exam: 1 hour 20 minutes, 79 marks, 45% of GCSE

- Criminal Psychology
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Research Methods

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Your Future

Students can progress to:

A Levels: Psychology, Sociology, English Literature, Maths, Biology

Degree courses: History, Archaeology, Anthropology, Politics, Economics, Law, Psychology, Educational Psychology, Clinical courses

Psychology is very versatile and can be used to access most academic courses.

GCSE Religious Studies

Course Leader: Mr C. Baxter
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: Religious Studies A
Specification Code: 8062



What Is Religious Studies?

Students will investigate contemporary world issues through the religions of Christianity and Islam and from a secular world view. The course builds upon skills learnt through the Religious, Ethics and Philosophy studied in yr.8 and yr.9, and pushes students to develop critical thinking through applied ethics. Students will analyse topics, evaluate a range of perspectives and form opinions.

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Study of religion: Beliefs, teachings and practices.

Christian Beliefs and Teachings: the core aspects of Christian beliefs and the many ways these differ across the Christian communities. Applying these beliefs to modern Christians and how they impact on their lives.

Christian Practices: behaviours such as pilgrimage, worship, festivals and so on all have deep traditional roots and the way these practices have morphed over time and are lived today is at the centre of this unit.

Islamic Beliefs and Teachings: the core aspects of Islamic beliefs and the many ways these differ across the Muslim communities. Applying these beliefs to modern Muslims and how they impact on their lives.

Islamic Practices: behaviours such as fasting, pilgrimage, prayer and so on all have deep traditional roots and the way these practices have morphed over time and are lived today is at the centre of this unit.

Paper 2: Themes

Religion, Relationships and Families. Religious and non religious attitudes towards sexuality and sexual relationships, contraception, marriage and divorce, families and gender equality.

Religion and Life: Religious and non-religious viewpoints on many ethical issues including euthanasia, abortion, the environment and life after death.

Religion, Peace and Conflict. Religious and non-religious viewpoints on when war is acceptable, peacemaking, violence and protests.

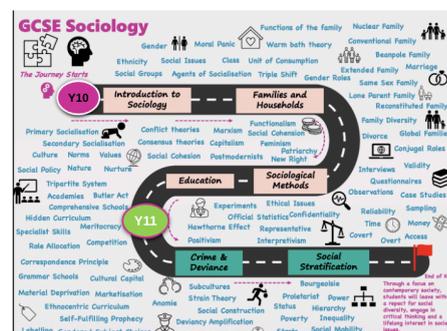
Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice . Religious and non religious attitudes towards human rights, prejudice, discrimination and wealth and poverty.

Your Future:

The course helps students develop critical thinking and argument writing which are key skills all universities and workplaces desire. This course helps to develop a broader understanding of society and the role that religion and religious beliefs play in it. Common career paths for those who have studied Religious Studies are ones that value critical thinking and applied ethics such as law, politics, journalism, international relations, the media and medical ethics.

GCSE Sociology

Course Leader: Ms V. Chitsaz-Dastgerdi
Exam Board: AQA
Course Name: GCSE Sociology
Specification Code: 8192



What Is Sociology?

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought provoking ways. Sociology is the study of society which means that we study a range of topics such as crime, education and families and also explore how we conduct research to understand human behaviour.

We explore big ideas like social class, race, and culture - looking at what brings people together and what divides them. Sociology helps us to see how people's actions and thoughts are influenced by the society they live in, and how, in turn, people can shape society and create long lasting change.

What will I learn?

Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education - Written Paper - 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks - 50% of overall grade

This unit covers the sociology of families, education and relevant areas of research methods.

Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification - Written Paper - 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks - 50% of overall grade

This unit covers the sociology of Crime and deviance, the Sociology of social stratification, and relevant areas of research methods.

Types of Questions

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 are structured in the same way:

- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Where to Turn for Additional Reading

The British Sociological Association: www.britisoc.co.uk

BBC Bitesize Sociology: www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbbw2hv

Discover Sociology: www.discoversociology.co.uk/

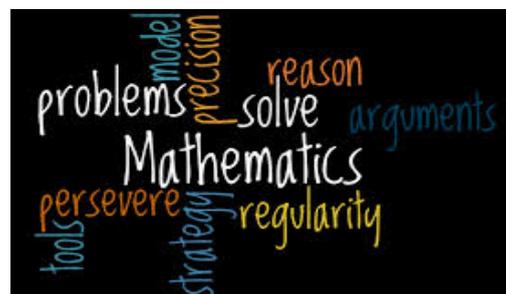
The Guardian society section: www.theguardian.com/society

Your Future

Since its subject matter is fascinating, sociology offers valuable preparation for careers in journalism, politics, public relations, business, or public administration--fields that involve investigative skills and working with diverse groups. Many students choose sociology because they see it as the foundations for professions such as law, education, medicine, social work, and counselling. Sociology provides a rich fund of knowledge that directly links to each of these fields.

GCSE Mathematics

Course Leader: Mr K. Rago/Mr T. Campbell
Examination Board: AQA
Course Name: GCSE Mathematics
Specification Code: 8300



What is GCSE Maths?

The GCSE Mathematics course builds on Mathematics learned up to now, to enable students to:

- Further develop confidence in mathematics;
- Recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society;
- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts;
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems;
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions;
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.
- Appreciate how mathematics can be used to develop models of real situations and understand the limitations of these models;
- Progress onto studying mathematics at a higher level post-16.

What will I learn?

The course is assessed by timed examination, covering the following content:

Number	Geometry
Algebra	Probability
Ratio and Proportion	Statistics

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher, where Foundation tier can be grades 1 to 5, and the Higher tier 4 to 9 (grade 3 allowed). There will be **three** equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long and has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

AQA L2 Certificate in Further Maths

For the highest attaining mathematicians we offer the opportunity to study a Further Maths qualification. These students will be placed in the top set where the Further Maths curriculum is embedded within their higher scheme of learning. There will be two equally-weighted written examinations - Paper 1 is non-calculator and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2. Each paper is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and has a range of question types; some questions will be set in both mathematical and non-mathematical contexts with higher levels of problem solving.

Your Future

The skills you learn in Maths are transferable to all future careers and qualifications. Maths is an essential part of your development and success in it will be of constant benefit to you in all stages of your life.

Combined Science (Trilogy) and Triple Science: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics

Course Leader: Ms S. Khan
Exam Board: AQA
Specification Code: Biology (8461)/Chemistry (8462)/Physics (8463)/Trilogy (8464)



What are Separate Sciences?

These GCSEs provide students with a good understanding of all the science disciplines. The course delves deeper into how science works and real world applications of science than the combined science (trilogy) GCSE specification and provides the best starting point for students wanting to specialise in science at A Level. Each of the three sciences is taught by specialist teachers and students receive three separate GCSE grades.

What is “Trilogy”?

The Combined science (Trilogy) course comprises two GCSEs (much like core and additional science). It is suitable for students of all abilities and helps students to understand theoretical concepts alongside developing practical science skills.

Will I do combined (Trilogy) or Separate sciences?

The Yr 9 scheme of work is designed to prepare the students for GCSE for both the separate and combined science routes. Students will have the opportunity to move to combined science or Triple Science at the start of Yr 10. This will be based on students’ performance in Yr 9 and by teacher recommendation. Students will be advised on the best choice for them based on their ‘effort’ and ‘working at’ grades at the end of Yr 9.

How are GCSE Sciences Assessed?

For the Combined Science route, biology, physics and chemistry are each assessed by two 1 hour and 15 minute exams for each science, each worth approximately one sixth of the total grade; these are completed at the end of the two year course for the combined route. For the separate science route, biology, physics and chemistry will be assessed by two 1 hour and 45 minute exams for each science. Each GCSE also has a range of required practicals, which are not graded but must be completed for students to pass the course.

What will I learn?

GCSE **Biology** covers cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology and key ideas in biology.

GCSE **Chemistry** covers atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding and structure of atoms, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, rate of chemical reactions, organic chemistry, chemical analysis and chemistry of the atmosphere.

GCSE **Physics** covers key physics concepts and applications. Energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism and space physics - for single science only.

Your Future

A level sciences lead to a huge range of careers such as engineering, pharmaceuticals, medicine.

Please see the GCSE AQA specification link for further details: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>



Space for notes of discussions:



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