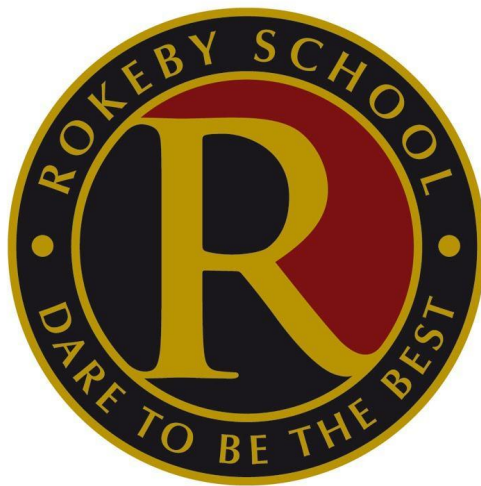


Year 9 Options booklet



Key
Stage 4

Rokeby School
2022 to 2024

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January 2022

Dear Student,

Choosing your options carefully is crucial. Options are the subjects that you study throughout Years 10 and 11 in addition to the core curriculum (English, Maths, Science, a language, RE and PE). If you study hard and achieve your potential, the subjects you choose can help you go onto further education, employment or training.

Of course, excellent attendance, punctuality and hard work are all vital if you are to be successful!

DO:

- Think carefully
- Talk to older students and your parents/carers
- Listen to advice offered by teachers
- Choose subjects you enjoy or feel you are good at

DON'T:

- Choose a subject because your friend is doing it
- Choose a subject because you do or don't like the teacher

AND REMEMBER

- Once you start a course it is not always possible to swap to another one

Choose wisely

Yours faithfully,



Charlotte Robinson

Headteacher

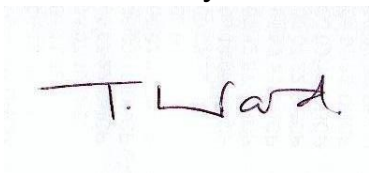
Message from your Key Stage 3 Coordinator

The decisions that you are about to make are probably the most important that you have had to make so far.

This booklet is a great resource, which will help you to make well-informed and confident choices about your future education. Remember these choices are yours, not those of your friends. It is important that you talk to as many people as possible and that you make your subject choice using all of the available information. Although these decisions are difficult, they may well shape your future and should not be left to the last minute. You are choosing your preferred subjects for the next two years, this could determine which career path you take later in life.

If you need help with your choices, or if you are simply unsure of the option process, then talk to someone. Your form-tutor, Year Co-ordinator, Key Stage Co-ordinator or subject teachers will be able to advise you on your future. Your school friends however, are likely to have their own ambitions in mind and their judgement may well differ from yours.

Whatever your approach, make sure that you hand in your form early, so that you are clear about the possibilities and understand the need to be confident in your decisions.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Ward', is centered within a light blue rectangular box.

Ms T.Ward

Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator

Message from your Key Stage 4 Coordinator

“Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Mary Oliver

You are now entering a very exciting phase in your academic career, a key milestone which will require clear focus and where you will discover what your own personal aspirations are. Do not be afraid of this process, it is a time to show your maturity and to dare to be the best.

As you start to make your option choices, always remember that these choices will have an impact on your future, whether you are preparing to go to University, doing an apprenticeship or preparing for the world of work. You need to place yourself in a position where you are working towards your strengths and your interests and not making choices based on friendships or because you like an inspirational teacher. Remember your friends and teachers can change all the time.

This process will require you to display determination, flexibility, resilience and will challenge you to be ambitious in the infancy stages of your future career. If you are unsure about your option choices, seek advice from your careers advisor, teachers or your Year Co-ordinator. Utilise the advice available from this booklet and those specialists who work at the school, collect as much information as possible and be sure about your next step, your step into your future.



Ms N. Bailey

Key Stage 4 Co-ordinator

Message from your Year Coordinator

At the start of year 7 I 'dared you to be the best' and also encouraged you to have high expectations for yourself and to embrace new challenges. In Year 8 we explored how to overcome personal challenges and be resilient. At the start of Year 9, we discussed the 'Iceberg Illusion', whereby people only see the 'success' at the tip of the iceberg and not the hard-work, sacrifice and the various stages of growth mindset that lead to the success. You are now heading towards the final two years at Rokeby. Whatever choice you make, stay committed to it, work hard at it, speak to the adults at school and at home, work with your teachers at school and never give up. You are going to be the best!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R Sarumi".

Mr R Sarumi

Year Co-ordinator to Year 9

An Introduction to Key Stage 4

Here are the subjects that you will be studying at Key Stage 4:

1 - Compulsory (Core) subjects

| Subject | Number of Lessons | Qualifications |
|---------|-------------------|----------------|
| English | 4 | 2 GCSEs |
| Maths | 4 | 1 or 2 GCSEs |
| Science | 4 | 2 or 3 GCSEs |
| RE | 2 | 1 GCSE |
| PE | 2 | 1 Award* |

*Students will be able to opt for one of 3 different pathways which lead to different accreditations.

Please read this booklet carefully and make sure you understand it. Anything you are unsure of please ask Mr Sarumi or Mr Uddin.

2 - Options subjects

You need to choose a language, you **must** choose the language you are studying in Year 9 or Russian. You need to select FOUR options for GCSE. You will be given **two** of them depending on availability.

| GCSE Language | GCSE Options |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| French | Art and Design |
| Spanish | Computer Science |
| Russian** | Drama |
| | Food Preparation and Nutrition |
| | Geography |
| | History |
| | BTEC Music |
| | Textiles |
| | 3D Design |
| | Design and Technology |
| | Sociology |

****You will need to speak to Ms Dambrauskiene before selecting Russian**
Selecting your Options

You will need to complete a Google Form.

See example below:

GCSE Language Choice *

*Please contact Ms Dambrauskiene before selecting Russian

Spanish ▼

Option Choices *

You can only select a subject once. Please scroll across to see all options.

| | History | Geography | Sociology | Art | Drama | Textiles | Music | Computer Science | Design |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st Choice | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2nd Choice | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3rd Choice | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4th Choice | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

In the above example the Student has chosen:

Language: Spanish

1st Choice: Music

2nd Choice: Art

3rd Choice: Textiles

4th Choice: History

Please note: We will try our best to give you your choices in order of priority. Select your options very carefully as you will be given two subjects from your selection.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What if I'm the only one who wants to do Art or PE or Drama or any other subject?

A. If there aren't enough students choosing a particular subject then it may not go ahead and we will need to look at your second choice.

Q. What if too many people want to do Art or PE or Drama or any other subject? Could I end up in a class of 40 people?

A. The answer is similar to the last one. If there are too many people who want to do the same subject then it may not be possible to give everyone their first choice. No class will have more than 30 students.

Q. I really like History. Can I select it in first and 4th choice?

A. No! You can only choose a subject once.

Q. I have no idea what to choose. What should I do?

A. Think about what you want to do when you leave school. Think about the subjects you are good at and the ones you like. Talk to your parents and other family members, read this booklet, email teachers, your form tutor, Ms Ward, Ms Bailey, Mr Sarumi and then decide.

Q. What if I make a mistake on my GoogleForm?

A. A link will be emailed to you and give you the opportunity to amend what you're filled out.

Q. What if I do not complete the form in on time?

A. You might not get the GCSE Options you want. So make sure you stick to the deadline.

Q. Am I guaranteed to get my 1st and 2nd choice?

A. No. We will try our best to give you your first and second choice, but you can get any two from your selection.

GCSE English Language (8700) and Literature (8702) (AQA)

This is a linear course which culminates with both English Language and English Literature examinations at the end of year 11.

What will I learn?

English Language

Paper 1: Fiction and Imaginative Reading and Writing = 50%

You will study selections from a range of prose fiction and develop skills to analyse and evaluate 20th or 21st century fiction extracts. You will also develop imaginative writing skills to engage the reader. Your use of spelling, punctuation and grammar will have to be accurate.

Paper 1 will last 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Paper 2: Non-Fiction and Transactional Reading and Writing = 50%

You will study a range of 20th and 21st century non-fiction texts and develop skills to analyse, evaluate and compare non-fiction extracts. Again your use of spelling, punctuation and grammar will have to be accurate.

Paper 2 will last 1 hour and 45 minutes

English Literature

Component 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel = 40%

You will study a Shakespeare play and a post-1914 play or novel. You will develop skills to analyse how the language form, structure and context of the texts create meaning and effect.

Paper 1 will last 1 hour and 45 minutes

Component 2: 20th Century Text and Poetry since 1789 = 60%

You will study a collection of poems from the anthology. You will develop skills to analyse how the language, form, structure and context of the poems can create meanings and effects. You will also learn how to compare the poems.

Paper 2 will last 2 hours and 15 minutes.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit four exams at the end of Year 11.

Where could English lead me?

English will equip you with the communication and analysis skills which you will require not only at college but in the wider world of work. It is essential that you secure a good English Language grade in order to continue into further studies, apprenticeships and/or employment post-16.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Skinner** in **F17**

GCSE Mathematics 1MA1 (Edexcel)

This qualification encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.

What will I learn?

Mathematics GCSE

The examination course for the mathematics GCSE is the new Edexcel linear GCSE in Mathematics (Higher/Foundation). No Controlled Assessment is required.

You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number, algebra, geometry and measures, ratio, proportion and rates of change, statistics and probability

Furthermore, you will use your knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations.

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations (Paper 1 non-calculator, Paper 2 calculator, paper 3 calculator). Each paper is **1 hour 30 minutes** and worth **33.3%** of your final grade.

Where could maths lead me?

A mathematics qualification will open up a wide range of careers. Some examples are banking and finance, the police force and different vocations such as carpentry and bricklaying. In your adult life you need to be able to understand income tax, your salary, investments, mortgages, VAT and other types of finance. Mathematics affects all areas of life.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr Farooq** in **F3**

GCSE Statistics 1ST0 (Edexcel)

This is an extra GCSE, it will take a lot of commitment and effort from you. Statistics GCSE students have to be extremely well organised. Your teacher will give you help and guidance but most of the work is done through independent learning.

What will I learn?

Statistics GCSE

The examination course for the mathematics GCSE is the new Edexcel linear GCSE in Statistics (Higher/Foundation).

You will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Planning and data collection, processing, representing and analysing data, reasoning, interpreting and discussing results, probability
- Reading, analysing and drawing conclusions from charts and graphs

How will I be assessed?

There will be two 1hr 30min exam papers. Calculators will be allowed for both papers. Each paper will be out of 80 marks.

Where could Statistics lead me?

Statistics provides the reasoning and methods for producing and understanding data. Statisticians are specialists, but statistics demands they be generalists too. One advantage of working in statistics is that you can combine your interest with almost any other field in science, technology, or business. Examples of where statistics is applied: actuaries, agriculture, chemistry, computer science, economics, engineering and marketing.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Patel** in **F2**

Level 2 Further Maths 8360 (AQA) [Delivered after school]

Students who demonstrate a keen passion for GCSE Maths will have the opportunity to study and sit an examination for Further Maths which allows students to stretch their maths skills beyond GCSE. This course covers A Level topics and gives students a chance to gain an additional qualification.

What will I learn?

Additional Maths

Students will be exposed to 8/9 topics from GCSE Maths such as: advanced trigonometry, line geometry and algebraic proof. Students will also examine topics typically taught at A Level such as differentiation, factor theorem and matrices.

How will I be assessed?

This course consists of two exams, a calculator paper (**40%**) and a non-calculator paper (**60%**). There is no coursework or controlled assessment for this course.

Where could Further Maths lead me?

Further maths primarily prepares students for A Level Maths. This course can lead to careers in finance, business, marketing, accounting and research.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Patel** in **F2**

GCSE Triple Science – (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Combined Science (Exam Board - Pearson Edexcel)

Science GCSEs have changed from the traditional Core Science, Additional Science and Triple Science, to Combined Science and Separate Sciences (commonly known as Triple Science). The content of the Science courses are relevant and will encourage students to engage with and challenge the science they meet in their everyday life.

What will I learn?

The range of courses and qualifications on offer are:

Edexcel Combined Science – This is a double award qualification with content that is relevant to students in their everyday life. It's equivalent to two GCSEs. A good pass in Combined Science will allow progression to many post-16 Science courses. All students apart from those during triple science will follow this course.

Edexcel GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics (Triple Science): These are single GCSEs which include subject matter from Combined Science, along with specialist extension units. It's equivalent to 3 GCSEs. These GCSEs offer the best preparation for A Level Science courses.

Both courses will give a sound foundation in Science, making you scientifically literate so that you are able to understand and talk about the science you meet in your everyday life such as on the news.

How will I be assessed?

The whole course will be assessed by exams. The number of exams to be taken at the end of year 11 depends on the course you are doing. There is no longer a Controlled Assessment element to GCSE Science.

Combined Science: There will be 6 **1 hour 10 minute** exams. There will be 2 biology papers, 2 chemistry papers and 2 physics papers. (Higher or foundation tier exams. It is expected that majority of students will sit the higher tier paper)

Triple science: There will be 6 **1 hour 45 minute** exams. The content of the exams will be the same as Combined Science papers, with extra questions on separate science topics.

In place of Controlled Assessment there will be a number of core practical activities to develop students' practical skills throughout the course. The practical knowledge and skills students gain from their practical work will be assessed as part of the terminal exams. Students will be assessed by their class teacher throughout the course to track their progress.

Where could Science lead me?

You can also do further Science-based courses at college after you leave Rokeby which can lead to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Industry and vocational courses leading to careers in trades such as Carpentry and Masonry. Science can also lead to careers in Business, Journalism, Politics, Law, etc.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr Aziz** in **F20** or **your science teacher**.

GCSE Religious Studies A (8062) (AQA)

Students will be expected to follow a course which leads to a full GCSE.

What will I learn?

Students will study two main Religions: Christianity and Islam.

There are two main components to the course: Component 1: the study of Religions-Beliefs, Teachings and Practices, and Component 2: Thematic Studies.

Students will examine beliefs, teachings and practices of the chosen religions, and also follow a thematic study of philosophical and ethical issues, and explore ultimate questions such as:

- Does God exist?
- Why does God allow suffering?
- Is there life after death?

Students will also study religious views on moral and ethical issues such as:

Abortion; Crime and Punishment; Drugs; Prejudice; War and Wealth and Poverty.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through 2 exam papers of equal weighting: Paper 1 (Component 1) – The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (**1 hour 45 minutes**) and Paper 2 (Component 2) - Thematic Study (**1 hour 45 minutes**)

Where could RE lead me?

RE gives students a greater understanding of the community and broader society that we live in and a better appreciation of different values and cultures. Students develop and practise a wide range of skills including analysis, evaluation, and articulating viewpoints, which puts them in a good position to achieve in any job.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Nketia** in **G11**.

Physical Education

Through Physical Education, we aim to instill fortitude and resilience in students, challenging them regardless of their attainment. We will give students the opportunity to enjoy and value physical activity, show enthusiasm to our subject and raise aspirations through our curriculum, rewards systems and extra-curricular provision. Students will make connections between Physical Education and the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

What will I learn?

All students will have the opportunity to select one of three pathways as part of core Physical Education. This will enable all students to achieve an additional accreditation in PE/Sport and will be a great advantage when applying for college or work. The pathways available to students will be GCSE Physical Education, BTEC Sport or the Leadership pathway, which will allow students to collect a number of certificates including those for leadership, participation and coaching.

GCSE (9-1) Physical Education

GCSE (9-1) Physical Education. Our students will follow the OCR specification, which allows the students to be assessed in the following ways:

60% Written Assessment – students are assessed through two externally-examined written exams; this includes a **1 hour** written exam on 'Physical Factors Affecting Performance' which focuses on applied anatomy and physiology, suiting students who excel in Sciences i.e. top set Science. The second exam is a **1 hour** paper on 'Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology', which includes new elements, such as mental preparation techniques to improve performance.

40% Performance – students are assessed and moderated in three sports, including in one team and one individual activity, which accounts for **30%** of their grade. The final **10%** is assessed through written coursework, which involves Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP) in their chosen sport.

Where could Physical Education lead me?

It could help to inspire you to consider a career in the sports and leisure sector, rather than just to participate in sport as recreation. You could progress to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic Sport or Physical Education course e.g. A-level Physical Education.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Mr. Perry**

GCSE French (1FR0) (Pearson Edexcel)

What will I learn?

The course aims to:

- Develop understanding of the spoken and written forms of French
- Develop knowledge and understanding of countries, cultures and communities where French is spoken
- Provide suitable foundation for further study

How will I be assessed?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 3–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1 Listening - understand and respond to spoken language (25%)

- Written exam: **35 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **45 minutes** (Higher Tier)

Paper 2 Speaking - communicate and interact in speech (25%)

- Non-exam assessment, consisting of role play, photo card and general conversations.

Paper 3 Reading - understand and respond to written language (25%)

- Written exam: **45 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour** (Higher Tier)

Paper 4 Writing - communicate in writing (25%)

- Written exam: **1 hour 10 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour 20 minutes** (Higher Tier)

The papers will include questions in French and English, students will also have to complete translation from French into English and vice versa.

Where could French lead me?

Choose French if you intend to pursue studies in any of the following fields: medicine, law, engineering, banking, journalism and media, import and export, hotel management, travel agencies / airlines, ICT or catering.

During French lessons, work hard, have fun and you will be given the opportunity to achieve a good GCSE grade. Bonne Chance!

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Gurruchaga** in **G5**.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2016.html>

Key information

You can only select French if you have studied it in KS3.

GCSE Russian (1RU0) (Pearson Edexcel)

What will I learn?

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is very excited to be offering a two year Russian language course leading to GCSE. During the Russian language course Key Stage 4 students will:

- Develop the ability to listen to and understand spoken Russian in a range of contexts and a variety of styles (+ video lessons with Moscow Gymnasium)
- Communicate in speech for a variety of purposes
- Read and respond to different types of written language
- Communicate in writing for a variety of purposes
- Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures
- Develop language learning and communications skills which can be applied broadly.

Russian is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Approximately 500,000 million people speak Russian. It is studied in 140 countries around the world.

How will I be assessed?

| <u>Listening and Understanding in Russian</u> | <u>Speaking in Russian</u> *Unit |
|---|---|
| <u>* Unit codes : 1RU0/1F – 1RU0/1H</u> | <u>codes:1RU0/2F – 1RU0/2H</u> |
| 25% | 25% |
| <u>Foundation tier :</u> | <u>Foundation tier :</u> |
| 30 minutes (5 minutes reading time) | 7-9 minutes (12 minutes preparation time) |
| <u>Higher tier:</u> | <u>Role play – 1 -1.5minutes</u> |
| 40 minutes (5 minutes reading time) | <u>Picture based presentation - 2.5-3 minutes</u> |
| | <u>Conversation - 3.5 - 4.5minutes</u> |
| | <u>Higher tier :</u> |
| | 10-12minutes (12 minutes preparation time) |
| | <u>Role play – 2-2.5 minutes</u> |
| | <u>Picture based task - 3-3.5 minutes</u> |
| | <u>Conversation – 5-6 minutes</u> |

| Reading and Understanding in Russian | Writing in Russian | *Unit |
|--|---|--------------|
| * Unit codes : 1RU0/3F - 1RU0/3H 25% <u>Foundation tier :</u> 50 minutes <u>Higher tier:</u> 1 hour 5 minutes | codes:1RU0/4F- 1RU0/4H 25% <u>Foundation tier:</u> 1 hour 15 minutes (4 parts of writing) <u>Higher tier:</u> 1 hour 25 minutes (3 parts of writing) | |

The Edexcel GCSE in Russian consists of four units based on the following skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. As of 2017 a new specification will be introduced. Papers will be tiered, with 25% assessment weightings per skill (listening, speaking, reading, writing).

The new 9-1 grading system will replace A* - G

Compulsory topics will be linked to identity and culture; local, national, international and global areas of interest; current and future study and employment.

Papers will include:

- Short translations from and into target language
- Some target language questions in the reading and listening papers
- Authentic stimuli in the reading paper, including literary texts

Where could Russian lead me?

In the near future most Universities may not accept anyone who does not have a foreign language GCSE. Choose Russian if you intend to pursue studies in any of the following fields: medicine, law, engineering, banking, journalism and media, import and export, hotel management, travel agencies / airlines, ICT or catering.

Who can I ask for more information?

For further information contact **Ms Dambrauskiene** in **F6**

Key information

You need to speak to Ms Dambrauskiene before selecting Russian.

GCSE Spanish (1SP0) (Pearson Edexcel)

What will I learn?

The course aims to:

- Develop understanding of the spoken and written forms of Spanish
- Develop knowledge and understanding of countries, cultures and communities where Spanish is spoken
- Provide suitable foundation for further study

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 3–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1 Listening - understand and respond to spoken language (25%)

- Written exam: **35 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **45 minutes** (Higher Tier)

Paper 2 Speaking - communicate and interact in speech (25%)

- Non-exam assessment, consisting of role play, photo card and general conversations.

Paper 3 Reading - understand and respond to written language (25%)

- Written exam: **45 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour** (Higher Tier)

Paper 4 Writing - communicate in writing (25%)

- Written exam: **1 hour 10 minutes** (Foundation Tier), **1 hour 20 minutes** (Higher Tier)

The papers will include questions in Spanish and English, students will also have to complete translation from Spanish into English and vice versa.

Where could Spanish lead me?

Spanish is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and very important for today's business and industry. So, choose Spanish, work hard, have fun and you will be given the opportunity to gain a good grade at GCSE. ¡Buena Suerte!

Students are encouraged to opt for this subject especially if you would like to further your studies in any of the following fields: medicine, law, engineering, banking, journalism/ media, import/ export, hotel management or travel agencies/ airlines, ICT or catering.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Gurruchaga** in **G6**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2016.html>

Key information

You can only select Spanish if you have studied it in KS3.

GCSE Geography (2GB01) (Pearson Edexcel)

GCSE Geography teaches us about the fascinating and fast changing world in which we live. Geography is a varied and exciting subject that offers the chance to learn in a range of different ways including conducting fieldwork both in urban and natural environments. Geography also helps you better understand topics in other subjects like science and history!

What will I learn?

The GCSE specification for the discipline of geography gives students the opportunity to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and their place in it. This course will deepen understanding of geographical processes, illuminate the impact of change and of complex people, environmental interactions and develop student's competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

The geography course is designed to cover topics, which are current, exciting, and relevant to the world today. You will study global geographical issues such as tropical cyclones and tectonic hazards, global development and inequalities and challenges of rapid urban change. In UK geographical issues, you will study about UK's evolving landscapes and the physical processes that create these distinct landscapes. You will conduct fieldwork and research in an urban as well either a coastal or a river environment. In People and environment issues, you will investigate issues through a variety of scales –from consuming resources to forests under threat.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit 3 papers:

Paper 1: The Physical Environment – topics include the changing landscape of the UK, Weather hazards and climate change and ecosystems, biodiversity and management – (37.5%) 90 marks and 1 hour and 30 min exam.

Paper 2: The Human Environment – topics include changing cities, global development and resource management– (37.5%) 90 marks and 1 hour and 30 min exam.

Paper 3: Geographical investigations – a study drawing across knowledge of The Physical and The Human Environment. (25%) 60 marks and 1 hour and 30 min exam.

The exam includes multiple choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and extended responses.

Where could Geography lead me?

Geography is a respected and academically rigorous GCSE subject, which is highly favoured by top colleges and universities. Geographers acquire a vast range of valuable skills such as: map reading, spatial awareness, problem solving, data analysis, the ability to consider other viewpoints, decision making, team work, environmental awareness and essay writing. It is for these reasons that geographers are some of the most employable students in the country.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Ms. Padayachee** in **G13**.

GCSE History (1HI0) (Pearson Edexcel)

GCSE History is fun and helps develop intellectual and transferable skills that help with other subjects. History allows you to be able to analyse everything you see, and teaches you not to always believe what you see in the media. It requires a good level of literacy. Employers and universities value History highly and it is now regularly asked for by Russell Group Universities as it is seen as good indicator of all round ability. The skills that are taught within the subject are valuable to work, study and life in general. In this rapidly changing world employers want people who are independent thinkers, open minded, disciplined, adept at problem solving and confident in expressing themselves. Choosing History will equip you with all of these skills.

What will I learn?

Students will explore and develop an understanding of a real breadth of history in line with the national curriculum changes. Key topics covered are *Crime and Punishment in Britain C1000-present and Whitechapel 1870-1900: Crime, Policing and the inner city*; *Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588*; *Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91*; *The USA 1954-1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad*.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit three examinations:

Paper 1: Thematic Study - *Crime and Punishment in Britain C1000-present and Whitechapel 1870-1900: Crime, Policing and the inner city* **30%** of the overall qualification (Whitechapel – the ‘historical environment’ study accounts for **10%**)

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study - *Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91* AND *Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588* **40% (20% for each section)**

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study - *The USA 1954-1975: Conflict at Home and Abroad* **30%**

Where could History lead me?

History is particularly useful to those considering a career in journalism, business, education, politics, law or research. It is highly revered by universities who value the knowledge and skills learned and developed. These skills include: critical thinking, source evaluation, analysis and research skills.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Mr Gbadeyan** in **G12**.

GCSE Sociology (8192) (AQA)

What will I learn?

Sociology is the study of human society. It is about learning to understand how we organise our own lives and why we behave as we do. It is the study of groups and institutions within society and the interactions within and between them.

This course is in two parts. Both parts combined together will be equivalent to one GCSE grade

Unit 1:

Approach to Sociology, Sociological Research Methods, Family and Education.

Unit 2:

Sociological Research Methods, Crime & Deviance and Social Stratification.

What makes a good Sociology student?

- An ability to write effectively
- An interest in social and political issues
- Effort and initiative
- Willingness to participate
- Respecting and listening to other people's views
- Commitment
- Personal organisation
- Meeting deadlines
- Reading a quality newspaper
- Listening to current affairs
- Watching documentaries

How will I be assessed?

Students will complete two exams at the end of year 11; both worth 50% each. Your final GCSE grade will be the average from both papers.

Where could Sociology lead me?

Sociology is particularly useful to those considering a career in teaching, law, media, and social research. It is increasingly sought after by employers and universities who value the skills learned and used within sociology. These skills include: critical thinking, evaluation, debating, analysing and research skills.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Mr. Bashir** in **G8**.

GCSE Computer Science (J277) (OCR)

What will I learn?

This linear course offers a new challenge for students to have the opportunity to learn how computers work (Computer Science), as opposed to how computer systems are used (IT). It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Computing is a growing industry and of enormous importance to the economy. Students studying this specification will learn about what is 'computational thinking'. Computational thinking involves applying a set of problem-solving skills and techniques that are used to write programs.

How will I be assessed?

Course outline: This specification has one tier of assessment that covers all of the Grades 9-1

Paper 1: Computer systems 1 hour 30 minutes, 50%

What's assessed

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithm and programming 1 hour 30 minutes, 50%

What's assessed

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming

Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study, which allows 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, in particular component 02 (section B).

Where could Computer Science lead me?

You could become a software developer, engineer, data analyst, programmer, computer game designer, animator or tester. Computer Science sharpens many transferable skills, such as analytical thinking and mathematics.

Seven compelling reason to study Computer Science

1. Computer Science related careers have a positive job outlook and salary potential
2. Computer Science can lead to versatile career opportunities
3. Computer Science takes you behind the scenes of everyday tech
4. Computer Science taps into your curiosity
5. Computer Science skills can be empowering
6. Computer Science values continuous learning
7. Computer Science benefits society

Work Based Training Notes

Most opportunities are currently in finance, retail, and e-commerce. However, the field is expanding into many other industries including sports, energy, telecoms, transport, medicine and politics. Opportunities are likely to increase over time. The digital age needs computer scientists. *‘To make money, study maths, economics, physics or computing’* – The economist.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information, see **Mr. Milki** in **G7** or **Mr. Hussain** in **G6**

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

“The best time to learn computer programming was 25 years ago. The second best time is now”

GCSE Art and Design (AQA)

This course is designed to give students a thorough understanding of Art and Design through informative investigations and responses to artists, issues and environments. This is achieved through refining practical skills; in particular, drawing, painting, sculpture and photography while making links to artists' work and the world around them to challenge and extend their creativity.

What will I learn?

Throughout the GCSE students will be provided opportunities to study the work of historical and contemporary artists. Students will also be encouraged to research themes and issues to provide context to their practical outcomes. In year 10 students will study two projects, each providing opportunities to work in a wide range of mediums including painting, drawing, photography, print work and 3D techniques. Each student builds a body of work in portfolios and large scale / 3D work to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working. Knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures is the building blocks to the course.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is split into two components.

Component 1 is worth 60% of the GCSE grade. This component is taught during year 10 and term one of year 11.

Component 2 is set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. This unit culminates in a 10-hour practical exam.

Where could GCSE Art and Design lead me?

A GCSE in Art could take you to Art College/ University, after studying A Level Art for 2 years.

There are many careers that follow on from studying a one year Foundation Art Course at University such as: architect, accessory designer, advertising designer, animation director, animator, art director, artist, cartoonist, colorist, comic book creator, fashion designer, food stylist, furniture designer, game artist, graphic designer, interior designer, jewelry designer, landscape architect, make-up artist, photographer, potter, printmaker, sculptor, set decorator and stage director, plus many more!

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms. Roberts** in **F18**

3D Design (AQA 8205)

Three-dimensional design is defined as the design, prototyping and modelling or making of primarily functional and aesthetic products, objects, and environments, drawing upon intellectual, creative and practical skills.

What will I learn?

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of three-dimensional design, such as those listed below:

- architectural design
- sculpture
- ceramics
- product design
- jewellery and body adornment
- interior design
- exhibition design
- 3D digital design

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Within the context of three-dimensional design, students must demonstrate the ability to:

- use three-dimensional techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:
 - model making
 - constructing
 - surface treatment
 - assembling
 - modelling
- use media and materials, as appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:
 - drawing materials
 - clay
 - wood
 - metal
 - plaster
 - plastic
 - found materials

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is split into two components.

Component 1 is worth 60% of the GCSE grade. This component is taught during year 10 and term one of year 11.

Component 2 is set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. This unit culminates in a 10-hour practical exam.

Where could GCSE Art and Design lead me?

A GCSE in 3D design could take you to Art and Design College/ University, after studying A Level Art / 3D Design / DT for 2 years.

There are many careers that follow on from studying 3D Design such as

- Furniture Designer.
- Set Designer in film and the theatre.
- Jewelry designer
- Product Design
- CAD design
- Teacher of Art or Design.
- Architect
- Sculptor / potter (working with clay).
- Gallerist / museum curators.

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see Ms. Roberts in F18

Textiles (AQA 8204)

Textile design is defined as the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non-functional purpose.

What will I learn?

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of textile design, such as those listed below:

- art textiles
- fashion design and illustration
- costume design
- constructed textiles
- printed and dyed textiles
- surface pattern
- stitched and/or embellished textiles
- soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors
- digital textiles
- installed textiles.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the Subject content to realise personal intentions relevant to textile design and their selected area(s) of study.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is split into two components.

Component 1 is worth 60% of the GCSE grade. This component is taught during year 10 and term one of year 11.

Component 2 is set by the exam board and is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade. This unit culminates in a 10-hour practical exam.

Where could GCSE Art and Design lead me?

Textiles typically fall into 3 categories; printing, weaving and knitting. After GCSE's students can progress on to an Art and Design or DT A level course and specialise within Textiles. This can then lead on to university courses, apprenticeships or straight into employment.

Common career paths for Textile designers are:

- Luxury textiles (selling designs to high end fashion brands)
- Designer maker (bespoke products at clients request).
- Fashion designer
- Sportswear designer - specialising in the science and technology of textiles.
- Textile technician (manufacturing processes).
- Print designer
- Soft furnishings (carpets, cushions, curtains etc.)
- Jewellery designer
- Trend forecasting - researching new fashions.
- Retail - Buyer or Visual merchandiser
- costume designer / stylist
- Teacher

Who could I ask for more information?

For more information see Ms. Roberts in F18

GCSE Drama (AQA)

Drama fosters your creativity, personal growth, self-confidence, communication and analytical skills through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding. You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both academic and creative.

What will I learn?

Through the study of this GCSE, you will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret your own and others' work which also includes the creation of original work as well as looking at plays written by other people. You will investigate the forms, styles, and contexts of drama and will learn to work collaboratively to develop ideas and experiment with technical elements.

Would it suit me? Yes if:

1. You want to and can **work well with others**
 - You are confident or **are prepared to build your confidence performing in front of an audience**
 - You have strong **written analytical and evaluative skills**
 - You are prepared to **rehearse outside of class**

How will I be assessed?

The course is in three parts:

- The first assessment involves you **creating a piece of devised Drama** from a stimulus and keeping a portfolio of your artistic choices and intentions (either in written or in filmed form). Your devised piece will be filmed, marked by your teacher and sent off to be moderated.
- The second assessment is when an examiner comes to school to watch you **perform a scripted piece** you have been working on.
- The final written exam asks you to respond to questions about a set text you have explored and write a theatre review based on a live or digital performance you have seen

Where could Drama lead me?

Drama helps you with:

- Creative and presentational skills
- Interpersonal and group skills
- Analytical and evaluative skills. It prepares you for workplaces like:
 - Law and education
 - Retail and Marketing
 - Film, television and theatre industries.

Can I study Drama beyond GCSE?

You can take:

- AS/A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies
- Vocational A Level in Performing Arts
- BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts

For more information see **Ms Noélise** in **G20**

Music Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award

What will I learn?

The BTEC Music course is suitable for pupils who play a musical instrument or sing/rap. Over the two years, pupils work towards four units of work where they develop existing skills in performing and composing, and explore the inner workings of the music industry.

Would it suit me? Yes if:

- You can perform confidently, accurately and with a level expression on your chosen instrument
- You are used to composing your own music and presenting musical ideas in written notation
- You are interested in having a career within the music industry

How will I be assessed?

You will be internally assessed via three large pieces of coursework and one external examination.

- Unit 1: The Music Industry (External: Exam)
- Unit 2: Managing a Musical Product (Internal: Coursework)
- Unit 4: Introducing Music Composition (Internal: Coursework)
- Unit 5: Introducing Music Performance (Internal: Coursework)

Where could Music lead me?

BTEC Music helps you with:

- Critical and creative thinking
- Self-discipline and self-motivation and prepares you for workplaces like:
 - Recording Studios and Live Performance Venues
 - Media and the Arts Industries

Can I study Music beyond BTEC?

You can take:

- AS and A level Music / Music Technology (College Level)
- BA Hons in Music (Degree Level)

For more information please ask **Ms. McWha** in F5

please note that this course is under review and subject to change

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (8585) (AQA)

What will I learn?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a full GCSE course. Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills. Students develop understanding of Nutrition and Health, Food Provenance, Food Science, Food Choice and Food Safety.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in two parts:

1. Food Preparation and Nutrition Exam (**1 hour 45 minutes**) which forms **50%** of the final GCSE grade
2. Non - Exam Assessment (NEA)
The NEA consists of:
 - (A) Food Investigation Task (15%)
 - (B) Food Preparation Task (35%) which forms **50%** of the final GCSE grade.

Food Investigation: A report of (1,500 to 2,000 words) including evidence of practical investigation.

Food Preparation: A written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence of dishes that demonstrates application of technical skills and practical outcomes.

Where could Food Technology lead me?

This course helps to develop students' culinary skills and prepare them for different careers in the food industry: catering and hospitality industry e.g. chef, sensory analyst, dietician, nutritionist, health and safety officer, food and nutrition teacher, marketing officer of different food products and many more.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms. Koomson** in **G15**

GCSE Design and Technology (8552) (AQA)

What will I learn?

Design and Technology is a full GCSE course under the new Design and Technology specification. It is an exciting, challenging and rewarding subject that prepares students for careers in the building trades, furniture design, apprenticeships, Engineering and many more.

Students design and manufacture a portable Bluetooth speaker in year 10, learning about material applications, manufacturing processes, prototyping, computer aided design and are able to show this in a design portfolio from design to point of sale of the product.

In year 11, students are tasked with a design and make project from AQA which changes each year. This year, students are required to either make a product to help someone with a disability or to design a product to help in developing countries. We have so far had some fantastic ideas ranging from product to help children to learn braille, treating seasonal affective disorder as well as products to help sufferers of arthritis. We feel these real-life briefs help prepare students to become competent designers.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in two parts:

1. A **2 hour** written paper which forms **50%** of the final GCSE grade.
2. A Controlled Assessment project which is **50%** of the final GCSE grade.

The Controlled Assessment requires students to work on a given context set by the exam board.

Photographic and physical evidence will form part of the final assessment.

Where could The New GCSE in Design and Technology lead me?

Design and Technology develop students' manufacturing skills and prepares them for the building industry: flat pack furniture designing, plastic and wooden toy designing, board games designing and much more. It is an exciting, challenging and rewarding subject that prepares students for careers as furniture designers, apprenticeships, engineering and many more.

Who can I ask for more information?

For more information see **Ms Price** in **G19**

Subjects and Exam boards

| Subject | Qualification | Exam Board | Spec code |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mathematics | GCSE | Edexcel | 1MA1 |
| English Language | GCSE | AQA | 8700 |
| English Literature | GCSE | AQA | 8702 |
| Biology | GCSE | Edexcel | 1BI0 |
| Chemistry | GCSE | Edexcel | 1CH0 |
| Physics | GCSE | Edexcel | 1PH0 |
| Combined Science | GCSE | Edexcel | 1SC0 |
| Statistics | GCSE | Edexcel | 1ST0 |
| French | GCSE | Edexcel | 1FR0 |
| Spanish | GCSE | Edexcel | 1SP0 |
| Russian | GCSE | Edexcel | 1RU0 |
| Geography | GCSE | Edexcel | 1GA0 |
| History | GCSE | Edexcel | 1H10 |
| Religious Education | GCSE | AQA | 8062 |
| Sociology | GCSE | AQA | 8192 |
| Computer Science | GCSE | OCR | J276 |
| Art | GCSE | AQA | 8201 |
| 3D Design | GCSE | AQA | 8205 |
| Textiles | GCSE | AQA | 8204 |
| Physical Education | GCSE | OCR | J587 |
| Food & Nutrition | GCSE | AQA | 8585 |
| Design & Technology | GCSE | AQA | 8552 |
| Further Maths | Level 2/GCSE | AQA | 8360 |
| Drama | GCSE | AQA | 8261 |
| BTEC Music | BTEC Award | Edexcel | FXE93 |
| BTEC Sport | BTEC Award | Edexcel | BNHR5 |