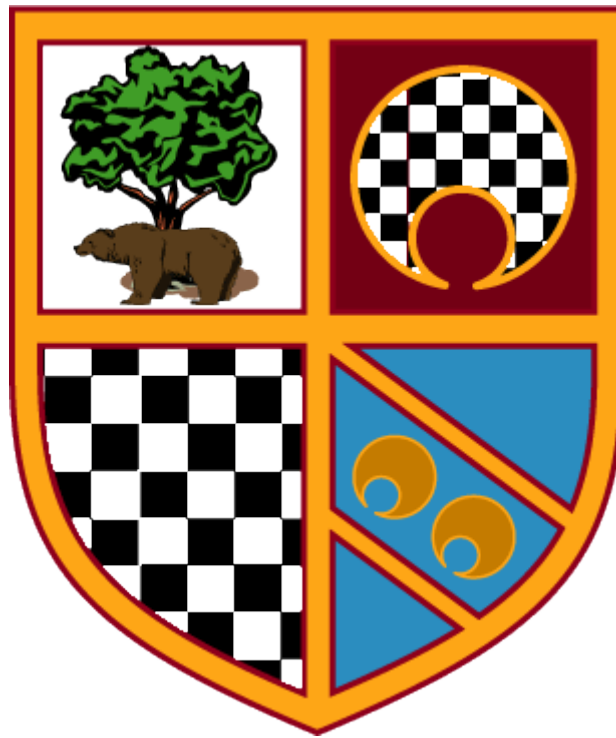


Year 9 Options Information Booklet 2024



What is this booklet about?

This booklet is about choosing the subjects that you will be studying for the next two years (Key Stage 4). You will be working towards examinations, from which important decisions will be made about your future.

This information booklet provides lots of information for you to read through with your parents or other adults at home so you have enough information about the subjects to enable you to make a decision about what new subject would be right for you. This is an exciting time so please consider the options carefully. All courses are offered conditionally and are dependent on enough pupils choosing the subject, which is why we ask you to choose 2 reserve option subjects.

We will discuss all of the important aspects of the new Options process with you in school, but in the meantime it is important that you talk about this at home.

If you have any questions about the subjects please speak to the Head of Department, your Form Tutor or Subject Teachers.

How will I know which course I need for a career?

In most cases, a broad choice of courses at this stage will keep your options open for the future. Remember that you are required to stay in education or training until you are 18, this could be at our Sixth Form, at college or in an apprenticeship. It is a good idea to make a list of careers which you are interested in. Get advice from the Careers Advisor, who is available for you to talk to.

Can I be sure that I will have all of my option choices?

It is hoped that most of you will get your first choice of option subjects, but with a large number of students all choosing different subjects, it is impossible to give everybody their top choices. **You should therefore make sure that all of your choices are subjects that you definitely want to study, because it may not be possible to change afterwards. Please ensure you select a reserve subject choice, as the Senior Leadership Team will make choices for any students whose forms are received without a reserve subject selected.**

You have been given plenty of time to make sure that you are certain about your decisions - use this time to speak to as many different people as possible.

The deadline for completing your Option selection is at the Progress evening on Wednesday 13th March.

Remember!

Choose the subjects you like, not the teacher you like. You may not have the same teacher next year. Do not choose subjects just because your friends choose them.

How do I make my choices?

1. Read the information in the covering letter and this booklet very carefully.
2. Discuss the subjects available with an adult at home and your teachers at school.
3. Before you make a decision, ask yourself these questions:
 - a. Does the new choice work well with my current options?
 - b. What am I good at?
 - c. Is this a practical subject or a traditional exam based subject?
 - d. What would I enjoy about this new subject?
 - e. Have I chosen the right reserve choices in case I don't get my first choice?
4. Complete the Option Form, make sure you include all three choices plus 2 reserve choices.
5. Make sure your parent or guardian has signed the form
6. Return the form at Y9 Progress Evening on Wednesday 13th March.

Useful Websites

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>
<https://icould.com/watch-career-videos/by-subject/>
<https://www.careerconnect.org.uk/>

Key People

Year 9 Pastoral Team

Mr Glover: Head of Year

Miss Hay: Pastoral Support Officer

Form tutors:

Almond - Mr Swan

Briant - Mrs Holmes

Campion - Mr Burke

Kemble - Mr Acuna

Lewis - Mrs Charlett

Mayne - Mr Stokes

Owen - Mr Green

Senior Leadership Team

Mr D Hayes: Headteacher

Ms K Byrne: Deputy Headteacher

Mr P Evans: Deputy Headteacher

Miss K Lindop: Senior Assistant Headteacher

Miss K. Arends: Assistant Headteacher

Miss A Fitzsimons: Assistant Headteacher

Ms P. Finlay: Director of Sixth Form

Miss A. Crickett: Pupil Safeguarding Lead

Mrs J Dudley: Senior Pastoral Leader

SEN

Mrs C Liddy: SENCO

Mrs D Fletcher: Assistant SENCO

Careers Advisor

Ms E. Meredith: Careers Advisor

Mrs M. Jezzard: Careers Advisor

Qualifications and Courses

As you are aware, due to a wave of Government changes in education, you are now assessed and will receive GCSE grades using a new grading system when you receive your examination results in August 2026. The new system grades from 9 to 1.

GCSE Grading System

Equivalence

Old GCSE Grade	New GCSE Grade	New GCSE Tiers	
A*	9	Higher	Higher
	8		
A	7		
A/B	6		
B	5	Foundation	
C	4		
D	3		
E	2		
F/G	1		

All Year 9 students will study new-style GCSE courses when they enter Year 10. These courses are graded using the 9-1 scale. The alignment between the old A*-G grading is shown in the diagram above. This may be useful for parents who have older children who sat their GCSEs under the old system.

Qualification at Level 4 to 8

These are usually taken at university or through a professional body

These qualifications include:

- National Vocational Qualifications at Levels 4 and 5
- Foundation and Honours Degrees
- Higher National Certificates and Diplomas
- Specialist professional qualifications
- Postgraduate qualifications

Qualification at Level 3

You can achieve a Level 3 when you have 2 A Levels or other level 3 qualifications.

These qualifications include:

- National Vocational Qualifications at Level 3
- A Levels
- Advanced and Progression Diplomas
- International Baccalaureate
- BTEC National Award and City and Guilds Advanced Awards

Universities require most applicants to be qualified to this level. Employers will increasingly look for applicants who are qualified to at least this level.

Qualification at Level 2

You can achieve Level 2 when you have 5+ 9-5 GCSEs or Technical qualifications at Level 2.

These qualifications include:

- GCSEs achieved at Grade 9-5
- BTEC First Award
- Technical qualifications

Most colleges use this level as their minimum entry requirement for Level 2 courses.

Qualification at Level 1

You can achieve Level 1 when you have 4-1 grade GCSEs or Technical qualifications at Level 1.

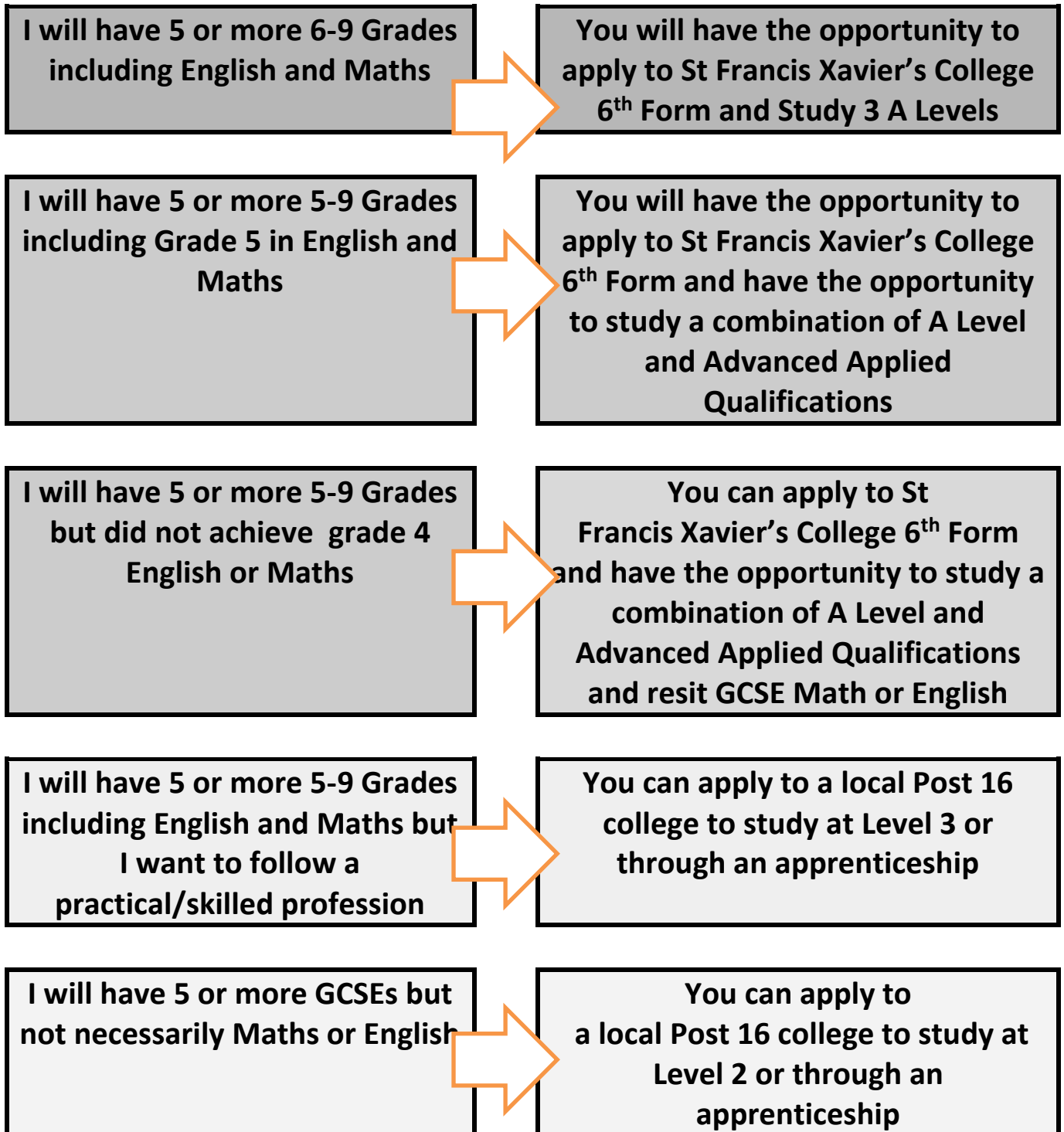
These qualifications include:

- GCSEs achieved at Grade 4-1
- BTEC First Award
- Technical qualifications

Most colleges use this level as their minimum entry requirement for Level 1 courses.

Where will I be at the end of Year 11?

Calculate your situation:



Year 10 Core Curriculum

Below are the subjects which every student must study in year 10. These subjects form the GCSE year 10 core curriculum.

Subject
English Literature
English Language
Mathematics
Science
Religious Education
Physical Education

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The English Baccalaureate

The Government is strongly encouraging Students to study a combination of subjects which will gain them extra recognition as having obtained the English Baccalaureate, which is not a qualification but a certificate, confirming that you have achieved the required grades in a range of subjects. The English Baccalaureate consists of English Language and English Literature, Maths, Science/Computer Science, Geography or History and one Modern Foreign Language (MFL).

As most Students study English Language and English Literature, Maths and at least Combined Science, you would need either Geography or History and an MFL GCSE to have the full allocation of subjects for the complete English Baccalaureate. You will have to obtain a grade 5 – 9 in each subject to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

If you are aspiring to attend The Russell Group of Universities you are strongly recommended to study the full range of English Baccalaureate subjects.

Technical Awards, BTECs and Cambridge Nationals.

Technical Awards, BTECs and Cambridge Nationals are work related qualifications suitable for all Pupils. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory. They can be taken alongside and are equivalent to GCSEs and offer natural progression along a technical path, from and to academic qualifications and university.

Facilitating Subjects

Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses. They can help students keep their options open when choosing a degree and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A level in a facilitating subject when you apply.

What are facilitating subjects?

The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines facilitating subjects as: English Literature, History, Modern Languages eg French and Spanish, Classical Languages eg Latin, Maths and Further Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, and Geography.

The following link further explains facilitating subjects: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bx7O12-t5g>

Why these subjects?

These are all subjects that universities require students to have to get on to many degree courses. For example, lots of Science degrees require students to have two or sometimes three A-levels in Maths, Physics, Chemistry or Biology.

Lots of specialist courses at A-level and beyond also take a large part of their content or structure from facilitating subjects, e.g. engineering includes elements of Maths and Physics, and communication and culture includes skills from English, so choosing a facilitating subject will prepare you for a range of courses.

The following website contains advice about choosing GCSE subjects. Thinking about your future career goals can help you choose. <http://Successatschool.org>

Year 10 Option Subjects

The number of subjects and types of qualifications that you can choose from will depend on which pathway you are recommended to take. Below are the option subjects available:

GCSE Subjects	BTECs and Technical Awards (Vocational Subjects)
Art	Cambridge National in Information Technology
Business Studies	Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Engineering
Computer Science	OCR National Certificate in Sports Studies
Design and Technology	
Geography	
History	
Spanish	
Music	
Photography	
Triple Science	

Courses are offered conditionally on achieving the appropriate number of students in a class.

Pathways at Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4, pupils have enhanced time for the core subjects of English and Maths. As a Catholic school, it is a priority that all pupils study GCSE RE. All pupils study Science and PE.

Our curriculum offers flexibility and choice within a guided structure. In response to government curriculum changes, the options are more varied and increased in number than in previous years. Within this framework, which can accommodate the 'English Baccalaureate', pupils can take between ten and twelve GCSEs according to their abilities. Predominantly our level 2 courses are GCSE. We have the same academic, technical or vocational ambitions for all learners, and offer a small number of other level 2 Qualifications; BTEC Diplomas, Cambridge National and OCR National Certificates and Technical Awards for those who find this assessment pathway more accessible.

In an increasingly competitive market place it is important that the options process is taken seriously to ensure that you select a combination of subjects that keeps your future options open, and that you are not disadvantaged relative to students in other Schools. We have three Pathways to ensure you follow a curriculum which will lead to you fulfilling your academic potential and pursuing suitable progression routes.

BURGUNDY PATHWAY

If you follow the Burgundy pathway you will study the full allocation of English Baccalaureate subjects of English Language and Literature, Maths, Science, a Humanity subject (either Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language (either French or Spanish). You will also study Religious Education and Physical Education. These subjects are highlighted as desirable from the best universities and the business community. You will then have one further option subject to choose.

Students following the **BURGUNDY** Pathway will have 3 option choices and must choose **ONE** subject from Block A, **ONE** subject from Block B and **ONE** subject from Block C.

- Pupils are advised to choose either History or Geography. Pupils can choose both if they wish.
- Pupils are advised to choose Spanish.
- Pupils can then choose 1 other option subjects we would recommend they choose GCSE subjects

Option A	Option B	Option C
History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Business	Business	Business
Design Technology	Design Technology	Design Technology
IT	Computing	IT
Sports Studies	Sports Studies	Sports Studies
Art	Photography	Music
Triple Science		

BLUE PATHWAY

This combination of subjects provides a broad and balanced curriculum and ensures that no future opportunity is closed to you. Students who are successful with this combination will ensure they are competitive in all further education and employment scenarios. The Blue pathway involves studying English Language and Literature, Maths, Science, a Humanity subject (either Geography or History), Religious Education and Physical Education. You will then have two further option subjects to choose from the list of GCSE and Vocational subjects offered.

Students following the **BLUE** Pathway will have 3 option choices and must choose **ONE** subject from Block A, **ONE** subject from Block B and **ONE** subject from Block C.

- Pupils are advised to choose either History or Geography. Pupils can choose both if they wish.
- Pupils can then choose 2 other option subjects.

We recommend pupils on the **BLUE** pathway choose a combination of GCSE, BTECs and Technical Awards (Vocational Subjects).

Option A	Option B	Option C
History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Business	Business	Business
Design Technology	Design Technology	Design Technology
IT	Computing	IT
Sports Studies	Sports Studies	Sports Studies
Art	Photography	Music
Triple Science		

YELLOW PATHWAY

The Yellow pathway provides you with an opportunity to study technical qualifications alongside your core academic curriculum. This combination of subjects provides you with an opportunity to study qualifications within a vocational setting. These subjects will support your journey into further vocational education or Level 2/3 apprenticeships. The Yellow pathway involves studying English Language and Literature, Maths, Science, Religious Education and Physical Education). You will then have three option subjects to choose from, focusing on some of the vocational qualifications offered.

Pupils following the **YELLOW** Pathway will have 3 option choices and must choose **ONE** subject from Block A, **ONE** subject from Block B and **ONE** subject from Block C.

We recommend pupils on the **YELLOW** pathway choose a balance of GCSE, BTECs and Technical Awards (Vocational Subjects).

Option A	Option B	Option C
History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Business	Business	Business
Design Technology	Design Technology	Design Technology
IT	Computing	IT
Sports Studies	Sports Studies	Sports Studies
Art	Photography	Music
Triple Science		



English Language

CORE COMPULSORY

NON-QUALIFICATION

OPTION

EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: **AQA**

Course code: **8700**

Subject contact: Miss A Hayes Curriculum Leader

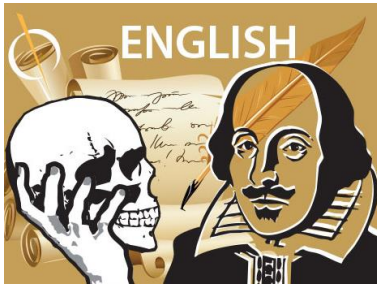
Course description
<p>All pupils follow the AQA GCSE course in English Language. Pupils explore a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction, they will also be taught how to write creatively in terms of both fiction and non-fiction writing. They will be taught how to write in a variety of different forms including letters, newspaper articles and speeches.</p> <p>This course will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. They will also be taught how to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary, sentence and paragraph structures and punctuation.</p> <p>The course is divided into a variety of schemes of work, relating to key exam skills, and is designed to help students receive timely feedback on their progress and identify areas for intervention across the two years of the course leading up to the final exams. There are no coursework components involved but pupils must complete the Spoken Language Endorsement by the end of Year 11 (they are then awarded pass, merit or distinction).</p> <p>‘English Google Classroom’ has a wealth of resources, practice papers and revision materials.</p>

Key Skills
<p>The aim of the English course is to equip you with the vital skills of communication that you need to live and work effectively as an English speaker/writer/reader both in and outside of school. The English course will inspire and motivate you to deepen your knowledge and love of the subject.</p>
Careers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Digital copywriter ● Editorial assistant ● English as a foreign language teacher ● Lexicographer ● Publishing editor/proofreader ● Web content manager ● Media ● PR ● Marketing ● Teaching ● Journalist ● Librarianship

Assessment
<p>At the end of the course, pupils will sit two papers for English Language, both of equal weighting. Paper 1 will focus on fiction reading and writing, Paper 2 will focus on non-fiction reading and writing from a point of view (writing to argue, persuade or explain).</p>

Enrichment and Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Debating and Public Speaking Society ✓ Reading and Creative Writing Club ✓ Film Club ✓ Drama Club

Further education opportunities
<p>GCSE English Language is not only a mandatory subject; it is also a requirement for all universities, further education and apprenticeships. English fits well with many other subjects including: History, Psychology and Media Studies. Creative Writing, Law, Politics, Theology, Journalism and the Arts.</p>



English Literature

CORE COMPULSORY
 NON-QUALIFICATION
 OPTION
 EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: **AQA**

Course code **8702**

Subject contact: Miss A Hayes Curriculum Leader

Course description
<p>All pupils have the opportunity to study a variety of texts from the English literary heritage. The course has been designed to inspire and motivate students, instilling a love of literature whilst ensuring that the assessments and texts are accessible to our full range of pupils.</p> <p>The course takes a skills based approach to the study of English Literature that is consistent across the genres. This course offers excellent preparation for A-level English Literature, as well as giving pupils a grounding in a wide variety of literature. We encourage theatre visits and we want pupils to read extensively in their free time.</p> <p>Pupils have the opportunity to study prose, poetry and drama from across the English literary heritage. Texts studied include: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by J.B Priestley; <i>Macbeth</i> by William Shakespeare and <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens. In addition, students will also study a selection of poetry, including the works of Simon Armitage, Seamus Heaney, Carol Ann Duffy, Robert Browning and Tennyson from the AQA Poetry Anthology (Power and Conflict section). They will also be taught how to analyse and compare/contrast unseen poetry.</p> <p>'English Google Classroom' has a wealth of practice papers, revision materials and resources.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Studying English Literature will enable you to develop your reading skills through a range of texts. The focus of the study of English Literature is the text itself. You will discuss plot, character, themes and ideas and think about the writer's intentions.</p>
Careers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital copywriter • Editorial assistant • English as a foreign language teacher • Lexicographer • Journalist • Publishing editor/proofreader • Web content manager • Media • PR • Marketing • Teaching • Librarianship

Assessment
<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel (40%) Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60%) Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes</p> <p>All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Drama Club ✓ Film Club ✓ Reading and Creative Writing Club ✓ Debating and Public Speaking Society

Further education opportunities
<p>GCSE English Literature is a subject that can help students to obtain a place in university, college or an apprenticeship. English Literature fits well with many other subjects including: History, Psychology, Sociology, Media Studies, Creative Writing, Law, Politics, Theology, Journalism and the Arts.</p>

Mathematics

CORE COMPULSORY
 NON-QUALIFICATION



OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board
Edexcel(Higher)/OCR(Foundation)

Course code:
1MA1 (Higher)
J560 (Foundation)

Subject contact: Mrs D Hennigan: Curriculum Leader

<p>Course description</p> <p>At the heart of this course is the study of mathematical concepts and patterns which explain much of the world we live in. Key numerical, algebraic and statistical skills studied also provide valuable support for topics in other areas of the curriculum. Successful completion of this course will prepare students to continue onto A Level mathematics.</p> <p>Students will study the following areas in detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number: percentages, highest common factors and least common multiples, decimals, fractions and surds. • Algebra : indices, expanding and factorising, quadratic equations, algebraic fractions, inequalities and simultaneous equations and graphs • Geometry and measures: Constructions and Loci, angles, transformations, area and volume, trigonometry and vectors. • Probability and statistics: Venn diagrams, tree diagrams, cumulative frequency and averages. 	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Application of number, interpretation, working with others, communication, problem solving, mathematical reasoning, deduction and inference and drawing conclusions.</p> <p>Careers</p> <p>Colleges require you to have a minimum grade 4 at GCSE. Most employers have this requirement for apprenticeships. There are so many different career paths you can follow: accountancy, aerospace and defence, automotive, biosciences, business support services, chemicals, construction, education, engineering, financial services, healthcare, insurance, IT and computer programming.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>All Students follow a linear Mathematics course, at either Higher or Foundation tiers. The GCSE qualification is 100% exam based. Examinations will be made up of three papers each worth 1/3 of the final grade. You will have the use of a calculator on two out of three papers. In Mathematics you can study for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foundation Tier – you can achieve grades 1 - 5 ▪ Higher Tier – you can achieve grades 4 – 9 <p>As there are two tiers of entry, you will be entered for the tier that is most suited to your ability, but there is some overlap of subject content between the tiers.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UKMT maths challenge • Night Owl sessions • Lunchtime revision • PiXL Maths App • www.corbettmaths.com • www.justmaths.co.uk • www.hegartymaths.co.uk
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>GCSE Mathematics provides access to numerate AS and A Levels, such as: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, the Sciences, Geography, Business Studies, Economics and other qualifications which require mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding.</p>	

Science

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION



Examination board **AQA**

Course codes: **8464**

Subject contact: **Ms E. Griffiths: Curriculum Leader**

<p>Science is important and the aim of the Science course is to encourage every student to enjoy and excel in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>There will be a variety of learning activities and opportunities including practical work to make sure that learning is varied, engaging and challenging.</p> <p>Students will work independently and with others to investigate science in general and will research the latest developments in the subjects.</p> <p>The course will be delivered by subject specialists ensuring that the best expertise is available to support students through the two year programme.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Mathematical Skills Written communication Investigative skills Problem solving Critical thinking</p> <p>Careers</p> <p>Doctor, Veterinary Surgeon, Engineering, Materials Science, Marine Biologist, Geneticist, Sports Scientist, Pharmacist, Ecologist, Astronaut, Astrophysicist, Meteorologist, Environment Officer, Conservationist, Accountant, Telecommunications, Physiotherapist, Microbiologist, Nursing, Archaeologist, Zoologist, Civil Servant, Pharmaceutical Sales, Accountancy, Aerospace and Defence, Automotive, Biosciences, Business Support Services, Chemicals, Laboratory Work, Construction, Education, Engineering, Financial Services, Healthcare, Insurance, IT and Computing, Law.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>The course is 100% externally assessed through examination so there is no coursework.</p> <p>There are 10 required practicals for Biology, 8 for Chemistry and 10 for Physics. These are covered during the course and are assessed through examination questions that test students' practical skills. There will be questions testing knowledge, understanding and scientific skills. An increased requirement for mathematical skills is also tested.</p> <p>Students will sit 6 examinations all together, two for each discipline; 1 hour 15 minutes each. Each examination is 16.7% of the overall grade. All examinations are taken at the end of the course.</p> <p>Foundation tier covers grades 1-1 to 5-5 and Higher tier covers grades 4-4 to 9-9. In Physics, students will have to recall and apply Physics equations.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>http://seneca.io</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize</p> <p>https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/</p> <p>Use of the Freesciencelessons YouTube channel is also encouraged.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqbOeHaAUXw9II7sBVG3_bw</p> <p>Students are offered raising attainment sessions both at lunch time and after school covering all three disciplines of science</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>Science allows you to progress to Advanced level Sciences. This could lead to University degrees and careers in either of the three sciences, applied sciences, medicine, dental studies, veterinary science and other health related degrees.</p>	



Triple Science

NON-QUALIFICATION

OPTION

EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **AQA**

Course codes:

GCSE Biology **8461**

GCSE Chemistry **8462**

GCSE Physics **8463**

Subject contact: **Ms E. Griffiths: Curriculum Leader**

This course is offered for students who are enjoying their science studies in school currently and wish to study in more depth for three GCSEs in science. It is well suited to students who demonstrate enthusiasm and ability in the subject in KS3. It aims to encourage you to explore, explain, theorise and model in science, develops a critical approach to scientific evidence and helps to prepare you for further studies in science. The course includes all of the elements from Combined Science (Trilogy) that is studied compulsory by all students, plus additional units in biology, chemistry and physics.

The course will be delivered by subject specialists ensuring that the best expertise is available to support students through the two year programme.

Key Skills

Mathematical Skills
Written communication
Problem solving
Critical thinking

Careers

Doctor, Veterinary Surgeon, Engineering, Materials Science, Marine Biologist, Geneticist, Sports Scientist, Pharmacist, Ecologist, Astronaut, Astrophysicist, Meteorologist, Environment Officer, Conservationist, Accountant, Telecommunications, Physiotherapist, Microbiologist, Nursing, Archaeologist, Zoologist, Civil Servant, Pharmaceutical Sales, Accountancy, Aerospace and Defence, Automotive, Biosciences, Business Support Services, Chemicals, Laboratory Work, Construction, Education, Engineering, Financial Services, Healthcare, Insurance, IT and Computing, Law.

Assessment

The course is 100% externally assessed through examination so there is no coursework.

There are 18 required practicals across the three Sciences. These are covered during the course and are assessed through examination questions that test students' practical skills. These questions make up 15% of the marks in each paper. There will be questions testing knowledge, understanding and scientific skills. An increased requirement for mathematical skills is also tested.

Students will sit 6 examinations all together, two for each subject; 1 hour 45 minutes each. Each examination is 50% of the grade for that subject. All examinations are taken at the end of the course.

Foundation tier covers grades 1 to 5 and Higher tier covers grades 4 to 9. In Physics, students will have to recall and apply Physics equations.

Enrichment and Support

<http://seneca.io>

<https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/>

Use of the Freesciencelessons YouTube channel is also encouraged.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqbOeHaAUXw9II7sBVG3_bw

Students are offered raising attainment sessions both at lunch time and after school covering all three disciplines of science

Further education opportunities

Science allows you to progress to Advanced level Sciences. This could lead to University degrees and careers in either of the three sciences, applied sciences, medicine, dental studies, veterinary science and other health related degrees.



Religious Education

CORE COMPULSORY

NON-QUALIFICATION

OPTION

EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **Edexcel**

Course code: **IRA0 ZS**

Subject contact: Mr L. Mythen: Curriculum Leader

Course description
<p>The Religious Studies GCSE at SFX enables you to focus in depth on the Catholic faith, by looking at beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression within Catholic Christianity.</p> <p>In addition to this, you will broaden your understanding of religion by studying the beliefs and practices within Judaism. Finally, you will study some contemporary ethical issues through Catholic, Jewish and non-religious perspectives.</p> <p>Over the two years of GCSE study you will also develop the skills to challenge stereotypes and intolerance by exploring different cultures and beliefs. You will also be introduced to Philosophy (thinking skills) and Ethics (what is the right thing to do?) – Skills that are highly prized by employers, colleges and universities who are increasingly looking for students and a workforce that can think for themselves and solve problems.</p>

Key Skills
<p>Understanding and application of key terms. Explanation of religious teachings and views Application of religious scripture Evaluation of ethical issues Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</p>
Careers
<p>Doctors and nurses need a firm understanding of medical ethics and many religious teachings have a direct influence on their job. Solicitors, barristers, judges, police officers, social workers and probation officers..</p>

Assessment
<p>All Students follow a linear Religious Education course. The GCSE qualification is 100% exam based. Examinations will be made up of three papers:.</p> <p>Paper 1: Catholic Christianity- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of grade <i>Catholic beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression in relation to six topics.</i></p> <p>Paper 2: Judaism: 25% of grade <i>Beliefs, teachings and practice</i></p> <p>Paper 3: Philosophy and ethics - Written exam: 50 minutes 25% of grade <i>Arguments for the existence of God, Relationships and families in the 21st century.</i></p> <p>Throughout the course, pupils will complete diagnostic tests in class to master knowledge and develop skills essential for the GCSE. After each end of unit assessment pupils will be given feedback so that they can clearly see strengths and gaps in their knowledge and skills. This allows pupils and staff to then target the areas that they need to develop. It also allows parents/guardians to monitor and track their son/daughter's progress easily throughout the course.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lessons and revision provided on google classroom ✓ Revision classes after school ✓ Notes and sources are provided for each topic ✓ Targeted intervention in class to support with revision

Further education opportunities
<p>You could study A Level Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at SFX. In addition the skills that Religious Studies develops will help with other subjects such as history, science, geography etc.</p>

Geography

CORE COMPULSORY

NON-QUALIFICATION



OPTION

EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **AQA**Course code: **8035****Subject contact: Mr A. Burke: Curriculum Leader****Course description**

Students will complete the AQA GCSE Geography specification; comprising three units of work all assessed by external examination.

Unit 1 involves the study of physical geographical processes and landforms across our earth. Students will investigate the factors that produce diverse and dynamic landscapes. Topics include tectonic processes and hazards, weather hazards, rivers, coasts, rainforest and desert ecosystems. Human interactions with these processes and features are also investigated.

Unit 2 involves the study of human geographical processes and features. Topics investigated include the process of urbanisation; plus opportunities and challenges for people in the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Liverpool. The management of important resources (food, water and energy) are investigated; plus uneven economic development across the world, focussing on the economies of Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Unit 3 involves analysis of the fieldwork studies which take place in Liverpool city centre and at Ainsdale sand dunes; plus an issue evaluation sent by the AQA exam board 12 weeks prior to the examination. This course will help students to develop vital skills for the future including communication, literacy, problem solving, ICT, and debating skills.

Key Skills

GCSE Geography involves the development of literacy, numeracy, ICT, and cartographic skills. Communication, problem solving, and decision making skills will also be developed.

Careers

GCSE Geography is excellent preparation for any job that requires people to think and make decisions.

Many geographers successfully enter careers in law, accountancy, insurance, advertising, retail (clothing companies), banking, tourism, journalism, media, the public sector, the armed forces, the police and environmental management.

Assessment

Paper 1 will focus on Living with the Physical World; worth 35%.
Paper 2 will focus on Challenges of the Human Environment; worth 35%.
Paper 3 will analyse fieldwork findings and an issue evaluation; worth 30%.

Enrichment and Support

The Geography fieldwork excursions investigating both Human and Physical Geography to Liverpool CBD and Ainsdale sand dunes.

Further education opportunities

Geography teaches you about a range of places across the world in which you live. It is important in every aspect of life. Further study at degree level can be undertaken at many universities across the country and beyond.

History

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION

OPTION



Examination board **AQA**

Course code: **8145**

Subject contact: Mr R Swan: Curriculum Leader

Course description

GCSE History is a great subject to learn. It is a challenging one but also highly enjoyable and valuable. Understanding past events and people and their significance gives students a better insight into the world around them. Universities and employers value the contribution that History makes to your lifelong learning. This course will help students to develop vital skills for the future including communication, literacy, problem solving, ICT, and debating skills.

Lessons are active, engaging and are designed to get you to think analytically, be critical, evaluate, analyse and challenge, acquire new knowledge, strive to understand, make connections between old and new knowledge and debate. **Most importantly, we want our students to enjoy it and show enthusiasm.**

You will study:

This qualification is linear meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE History students must take assessments in both of the following papers in the same series:

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

GCSE History comprises the following elements: one period study, one thematic study, one wider world depth study and one British depth study including the historical environment.

Key Skills

History provides students with opportunities to improve the ability to present information in precise, balanced and persuasive ways.

The ability to analyse differing interpretations and the context in which those interpretations were formed

Work on your diction and extended writing which equips you for A-Level/University study.

Thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills which are required for all lines of work including banking, teaching, law, government and social work.

Careers

Research, Politics, Government, Banking and Finance, Law, Accountancy, Marketing, Advertising, Social Work, Human Resources, Business start-up, Teaching, Archaeology, Library Work

Assessment

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

Period Study (Germany 1890-1945) and Wider world depth studies (East and West Tension 1945-1975) Written exam (50%).

Paper 2: Shaping the nation

Thematic Study(Health and People) and British Depth Study (The Elizabethan Era). Written exam (50%).

Enrichment and Support

- Weekly after school Night Owl or Targeted Intervention
- Voluntary dinner times / before school / after school
- Virtual Visits

Further education opportunities

Students studying GCSE History at St Francis Xavier's College will hopefully go on to study History A-Level and Politics A Level at St Francis Xavier's College and beyond at University.

Spanish

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION

OPTION



Examination board **AQA**

Course codes: **8968 (Spanish)**

Subject contact: Mr B. MITCHINSON

<p>Course description</p> <p>For MFL GCSE we use the AQA exam board of which there are 3 main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theme 1: Identity and culture ● Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest ● Theme 3: Current and future study and employment <p>The course enables you to develop the 4 attainment skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing through a range of topics from each of the key themes. The topics will <u>all</u> be assessed in all 4 skills areas examinations at the end of the GCSE course. Assessment will include a broad range of question styles including role plays, general conversation, Q&A in the target language and in English, written composition and translation, both into English and target language. Whilst there are two tiers of entry available, students must select either foundation or higher tier for all 4 units.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Prior study of chosen language</p> <hr/> <p>Careers</p> <p>Many jobs now link with other countries in the European Union and the ability to communicate in another language, both for holiday travel and as a career, is a great advantage to every young person! Jobs where languages are used include: Teacher, Translator, Travel Agent, Interpreter, International Law, United Nations, Diplomatic Corps, Public relations, Air Steward, Business Executive, Banking and Finance Director, Journalist, Doctor, Nurse, Veterinarian, Sports Coach and many more.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Terminal examinations at the end of the course.</p> <p>Listening – 25% - a range of questions in English and the target language to test understanding of the topic areas.</p> <p>Speaking – 25% - a role play and description of a photocard followed by a general conversation in the target language.</p> <p>Reading – 25%- a range of questions in English and the target language to test understanding of the topic areas.</p> <p>Writing – 25% - a mix of shorter and more extended writing tasks on a range of topics.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Raising Achievement sessions during holidays. ✓ Use of online revision tools such as Memrise, Quizlet and Google Classroom ✓ Targeted Foundation and Higher intervention after school ✓ One to one speaking sessions
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>Learning Languages is for everyone!</p> <p>Languages open doors to so many opportunities for work and travel in the interconnected globalised world in which we live; employees with language skills are highly employable and earn on average 20% more than their monolingual counterparts. Language GCSEs are highly regarded by the top universities in the UK and can really set you apart from other candidates. The communication skills that you develop will also help you in other areas of your study, social or work life and through your learning you will develop knowledge of the culture, history and society of Spanish speaking areas.</p>	



Art

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **AQA**

Course code: **8201**

Subject contact: Mrs V. Charlett: Curriculum Leader

<p>Course description</p> <p>This is an unendorsed course. Candidates will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and three dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. Critical studies underpin the course and contextual references to society and culture within the arts are both historical and contemporary. Schemes of work are devised with the aim of developing imaginative, independent and ultimately intuitive ways of working. Art involves working outside of school time on your projects and working with your own creative ideas. It is essential that pupils develop independent learning skills, especially if they are to achieve higher grades. Artwork must include at least two of the following disciplines: Fine Art (drawing/painting/printmaking), graphic design, textile design, three-dimensional design, photography</p> <p>Unit 1: Portfolio of work</p> <p>Each candidate's portfolio must include a minimum of two extended collections of work. Candidates must present sketch book evidence of research and preparation work for each project and this should include a high proportion of art critical work and experimentation in different media.</p> <p>Unit 2: Externally Set Task</p> <p>A question paper is set by AQA and issued to candidates in February of the Examination year; this precedes a 10 hour sustained period of focused study. Candidates are expected to produce a final piece / pieces of work based upon preparatory studies and research. Both sketchpad, preparatory work and final piece are marked in accordance with AQA Assessment criteria as is the Portfolio Unit.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formal elements ● Problem solving ● Communication ● Critical thinking ● Independent learning <p>Careers</p> <p>Art Therapist, Documentary Photographer/Filmmaker, Fine Art Photographer, Fashion Photographer, TV and Film Production, Set Designer, Environmental Artist, Makeup or Prosthetics for Theatre, Creative, Director, Makeup Artist, Florist, Product Designer, Jewellery Designer, Illustrator, Architect, Graphic Designer, Animator/Cartoonist, Games Designer, Landscape Garden Designer, Curator, Art Restorer Art Dealer, Web Designer, Food Stylist, Fashion Designer, Fashion Buyer/Merchandiser, Sportswear Designer, Footwear Designer, Milliner, Antiques Dealer, Art Historian, Teacher, Typographer, Influencer</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Two units of practical work, including a compulsory written element.</p> <p>Unit 1 – Portfolio – 60%</p> <p>Unit 2 – Exam – 40%</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Lunchtime and after school sessions. Visits to galleries and museums will be made whenever possible. Entry into local competitions</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>A Level: Art, Craft & Design, Fine Art, Photography, 3d Design, Fashion Design, Fashion & Textiles, Textile Design.</p>	



Photography

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **AQA**

Course code: **8206**

Subject contact: Mrs V. Charlett: Curriculum Leader

<p>This is an unendorsed course. Candidates will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of processes to produce images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. Areas of study could include portraiture, installation, photo-journalism, moving image: film, video and animation and fashion photography. Critical studies underpin the course and contextual references to society and culture within the arts are both historical and contemporary. Schemes of work are devised with the aim of developing imaginative, independent and ultimately intuitive ways of working.</p> <p>Photography involves working outside of school time on your projects and working with your own creative ideas. It is essential that pupils develop independent learning skills, especially if they are to achieve higher grades.</p> <p>Unit 1: Portfolio of work Each candidate's portfolio must include a minimum of two extended collections of work. Candidates must present sketch book evidence of research and preparation work for each project and this should include a high proportion of art critical work and experimentation in different media.</p> <p>Unit 2: Externally Set Task A question paper is set by AQA and issued to candidates in February of the Examination year; this precedes a 10 hour sustained period of focused study. Candidates are expected to produce a final piece / pieces of work based upon preparatory studies and research. Both sketchpad, preparatory work and final piece are marked in accordance with AQA Assessment criteria as is the Portfolio Unit.</p>
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<p>Key Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal elements • Problem solving • Communication • Critical thinking • Independent learning
<p>Careers</p> <p>A photographer specialising in:</p> <p>Documentary Fine Art Fashion Food and Drink Landscape Animals Portrait Forensic/medical Architecture Journalism Advertising Science Events Travel Sports Commercial/ industrial</p> <p>Aslo:</p> <p>Filmmaker TV and Film Production Influencer</p>

<p>Assessment</p> <p>Two units of practical work, including a compulsory written element. Unit 1 – Portfolio – 60% Unit 2 – Exam – 40%</p>

<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Lunchtime and after school sessions. Visits to galleries and museums will be made whenever possible. Entry into local competitions</p>
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<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>A Level: Photography, Art, Craft & Design, Fine Art, 3d Design, Fashion Design, Fashion & Textiles, Textile Design.</p>
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Business



CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **OCR**

Course code: **J204**

Subject contact: Ms L McParland: Curriculum Leader

<p>Course description</p> <p>The course content is divided into seven units:</p> <p>Unit 1 – Business activity The purpose of business activity, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.</p> <p>Unit 2 - Influences on business The importance of external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.</p> <p>Unit 3 – Business operations What business operations involve , their role within the production of goods and the provision of services, and how they influence business activity.</p> <p>Unit 4 – People The purpose of human resources, its role within the business and how it influences business activity</p> <p>Unit 5 – Marketing The purpose of marketing, its role within the business and how it influences business activity</p> <p>Unit 6 – Finance The purpose of the finance function, its role within the business and how it influences business activity</p> <p>Unit 7 – The interdependent nature of business The interdependent nature of business operations, finance, marketing and human resources within a business context .</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>Learners will develop as enterprising individuals with an ability to think creatively and demonstrate a critical and reflective approach.</p> <p>Careers</p> <p>A wide range of careers can be linked to Business including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banking Stockbroker Financial Adviser Law Accountancy Marketing Sales Human Resources Production Management Logistics <p>Careers in the curriculum are interlinked during lessons, alongside video posts to Google Classroom of professionals connected to the theme of study and how they entered their occupations.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>Business 1: business activity, marketing and people 80 Marks 1 Hour 30 Minutes paper 50% of total GCSE.</p> <p>Business 2: operations, finance and influences on business 80 Marks 1 Hour 30 Minutes paper 50% of total GCSE.</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>Additional support and intervention is provided to further support subject knowledge and examination techniques. Resources, video links are posted to Google Classroom to assist with progress outside of lessons.</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>You can progress to study A Level Business, A Level Economics or Cambridge Technical qualifications in the Sixth Form. Business Studies provides you with many relevant skills whether you are planning to go straight into employment or on to Post-16 education. Remember, whatever your aspirations you will either work in a business / organisation or own a business therefore Business Studies is a subject for everyone.</p>	

Computer

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION



Science

OPTION

EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **OCR**

Course code: **J277**

Subject contact: **Mrs J. Holmes: Curriculum Leader**

Course description
<p>This course will give you valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace and a deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions. Although most people use computers every day, in this course we 'look behind the scenes' at exactly how computer technology works and instead of just using software and applications, we learn how to create them using programming skills.</p> <p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Study how processors work. ● Investigate computer memory and storage. ● Explore modern network layouts and how they function. ● Build skills in the ever important realm of cyber security. ● Gain wider comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues. ● Study algorithms and programming ● Understand computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation <p>**Course Requirements: Set 1 or Set 2 Maths**</p>

Key Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem solving ● Communication ● Critical thinking ● Computational thinking
Careers
<p>There are a variety of jobs that this qualification will allow you to do such as: IT consultant, Cyber Security Consultant, Information Systems Manager, Database Administrator, Systems Analyst, Games Developer.</p> <p>Computer scientists have a great job market to look forward to - in addition to accessing further education, there is a high demand for skilled computer scientists and a computer science salary can be very high even for entry level positions.</p>

Assessment
<p>Unit 1 Computer systems This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems on which the examination will be based. (50%)</p> <p>Unit 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming An externally examined unit covering programming techniques, computational logic and algorithms (50%)</p> <p>Programming Task Mandatory Programming task. Analyse, design, develop and test a solution to a problem</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>We use a wide range of multimedia learning resources to support students. These resources include videos, online tutorials and a bank of comprehensive resources accessible through Google Classroom.</p> <p>We offer after school drop in sessions and provide a course textbook/revision guide to all students.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>After completing the GCSE in Computer Science, students will be in a great position to continue in this highly skilled field. This qualification prepares students for progression to the Computer Science A level. The vast majority of UK business leaders also say there is a real shortage of digital and technical skills.</p>

CORE COMPULSORY



Design & Technology (including Engineering)

NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **AQA (GCSE) / Eduqas (L1/L2)**

Course code: **8552**

Subject contact: Mr D Bowers: Curriculum Leader

Course description

Design & Technology is an ever evolving subject area that impacts on everything we use, interact with and need on a daily basis. It involves the use of Mathematics, Science, Computing and various other cross-curricular links in order to solve real-life problems and relate to whole world issues; including environmental and social issues. Design & Technology encourages students to become creative, independent problem solvers with a capacity to work as individuals or as part of a team to achieve an outcome.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing theory, along with making principals and a broad range of design processes. This also includes material techniques and effective use of tools and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principals in greater depth. The course is split equally in weighting between coursework (NEA) and a final exam. Many students who succeed at GCSE move onto the A-level course at SFX.

Students will be allocated either the GCSE Design and Technology option or be placed into the equivalent course (L1/L2 Vocational Award in Engineering) based on their suitability for the course.

The Engineering course is weighted differently to the GCSE with more emphasis on coursework (60%) and less weighting on the final exam (40%).

Key Skills

DT offers the opportunity to develop a range of skills that are transferable, such as ICT, maths and written skills. This also includes the obvious development of creative and problem solving skills along with practical awareness.

Careers

Architect, Engineering, Robotics, Product Designer, Interior Designer, CAD specialist, Quantity Surveyor, Automotive Designer, Aerospace Designer, Games Designer, Civil Engineer

Apprenticeship pathways - Trades and construction

Assessment

NEA (Non-Exam Assessment) - 50% of the final grade.

This consists of a 'design and make' project with a given theme provided by AQA each year. Students will produce a portfolio of evidence that contains research, analysis, design and development along with feedback and evaluations from a client of a final manufactured product.

Exam (2 hours) - 50% of the final grade.

This exam will be taken at the end of Year 11 and consists of many subject areas, ranging from material and manufacturing theory to environmental and sustainability questions. There are also contextualised maths and science-based questions within the exam that account for up to 15% of the paper.

Enrichment and Support

You will have the opportunity to attend extra intervention and raising achievement sessions. This will further support your subject knowledge and examination techniques. Access to resources via Google Classroom will also be provided to assist with progress outside of lessons.

Further education opportunities

A-level Design and Technology (Product Design AQA).



GCSE Music

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Course code: **C660QS**

Examination board: **Eduqas**

Subject contact: **Mr D. Stokes: Curriculum Leader**

Course description	Entry requirements
<p>The Eduqas specification encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study. The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context. The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of Musical Forms and Devices (area of study 1), and you should take the opportunity to explore these forms and devices further in the other three areas of study. Music for Ensemble (area of study 2) allows you to look more closely at texture and sonority. Film Music (area of study 3) and Popular Music (area of study 4) provide an opportunity to look at contrasting styles and genres of music.</p>	<p>No previous requirements are needed, although if you have an aptitude for music then you have an advantage.</p>
	Key Skills
	<p>You can use acoustic instruments or ICT to complete your composing and/or performances. You need to be willing to give up extra time at lunchtime.</p>
	Careers
	<p>Solo artist, Session Musician, Producer, Music Engineer, Folio Artist, Composer, or work for a record company to name but a few.</p>
Assessment	Enrichment and Support
<p>Component 1 - Performing music – 30% As an instrumentalist and/or vocalist (singing, rapping, beatboxing) and/or via technology (music sequencing or djing) : Performance 1: Solo performance Performance 2: Ensemble performance</p> <p>Component 2 - Composing Music – 30% Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by Eduqas. You will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition for which you set their own brief.</p> <p>Component 3 – Appraising - 40% This component is assessed via a listening examination. Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study. Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble Area of study 3: Film Music Area of study 4: Popular Music Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by Eduqas.</p>	<p>To support your musical development throughout the course we provide music Nightowl after school as well as a GCSE music theory clinic during lunchtime in MU1. Access to resources via Google Classroom will also be provided to assist with progress outside of lessons. Your performance choices will be supported to further enhance your talents and grades Opportunities to be involved in internal and external concerts within the local and wider community. Musical workshops and trips to further enhance music learning, enjoyment and inspiration.</p>
Further education opportunities	
<p>RSL Level 3 Music Practitioners Diploma or A-Level Music, plus other FE Music courses.</p>	



TBC: RSL Level 2 Certificate in Performance/ Technology & Composition for Music Practitioners

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: **RSL**

Course code: 600/6655/6
600/6656/8 &
600/6657/X

Subject contact: Mr D Stokes: Curriculum Leader

Course description
<p>Music Practitioners, Rock School Level 2 is a vocational course run by Rock School. A Rock School Level 2 is an alternative pathway, but is equivalent to a GCSE. It is graded by pass, merit or distinction. A pass is the equivalent of a GCSE grade 4, a merit a 5, and a distinction is the equivalent of a GCSE grade 6.</p> <p>If you play your instrument to a high level then you might be best doing GCSE, but if you are just starting out on your instrument or have not yet started playing one, then RSL Level 2 would suit you.</p> <p>What will I need to succeed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enjoy listening to and learning about many different styles of music.• To enjoy performing (singing or playing) in any style – it is not crucial that you have instrumental lessons already but you must have an interest in one specific instrument or voice.• To enjoy creating and recording their own music.• To enjoy using music technology.• To enjoy working on your own and with others.

Entry requirements
<p>No previous requirements are needed, although if you have an aptitude and a passion for music then you have an advantage.</p>
Key Skills
<p>You can use acoustic instruments or ICT to complete your composing and/or performances. You need to be willing to give up extra time at lunchtime.</p>
Careers
<p>Solo artist, Session Musician, Producer, Music Engineer, Folio Artist, Composer, or work for a record company to name but a few.</p>

Assessment
<p>Rock School Level 2 has 2 core, and 1 optional component:</p> <p>Core: Musical knowledge & Live Musical Performance or Music Sequencing/Production</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>One of either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Instrumental Study (learn an instrument in lessons)• Composing music (compose some music)• Sound recording (set up a recording and capture it)• Using a DAW (learn how to use a DAW) <p>Musical knowledge:</p> <p>Students study 2 contrasting musical styles and write about how they were born, who were the key musical contributors and then write about it, or record a vlog.</p> <p>Students then analyse a chosen song of any genre and write about it, or record a vlog.</p> <p>Live Musical Performance:</p> <p>Students plan their own performance either in groups or as individuals or as a combination of both. RSL gives us a brief, and we decide on what songs to perform. Students write their own practice plan and evidence their planning through a written task or a vlog. They also need to consider health and safety aspects of a performance. Students then perform something that is no more than 15 minutes to a live audience.</p>

Enrichment and Support
<p>To support your musical development throughout the course we provide music Nightowl after school as well a music theory clinic during lunchtime in MU1. Access to resources via Google Classroom will also be provided to assist with progress outside of lessons. Your performance choices will be supported to further enhance your talents and grades</p> <p>Opportunities to be involved in internal and external concerts within the local and wider community. Musical workshops and trips to further enhance music learning, enjoyment and inspiration.</p>

Further education opportunities
<p>RSL Level 3 Music Practitioners course or A-level Music & other FE music courses.</p>



PE and Sports Studies

CORE COMPULSORY

NON-QUALIFICATION

OPTION

EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **OCR (Sports Studies)**

Course code: **J829**

Subject contact: Mr M. Platt: Curriculum Leader

<p>Course description</p> <p>In the Cambridge Nationals in Sport, learners will have the opportunity to apply to gain accreditation through their performances in a range of sporting performances and through sports leadership and coaching. They will also learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media.</p>	<p>Key Skills</p> <p>The development of transferable skills including: decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking, acting and reacting under pressure.</p>
<p>Careers</p> <p>The OCR national is relevant if pupils would like to work in sports coaching or for those interested in sports performance analysis. Either course can lead to further study at Level 3 in an A level, OCR Technical Award or a Btec National qualification.</p>	<p>Entry Requirement</p> <p>Sports Studies candidates must have a willingness to develop the techniques in a variety of sports and coaching skills.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p><u>OCR Sports Studies -</u></p> <p>For Unit R184: Contemporary issues in sport, pupils will complete a 1 hour written paper at the end of year 11.</p> <p><u>2 further units to be completed:</u></p> <p>R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities</p> <p>R186: Sport and the Media</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>All tasks will be shared with pupils and parents on Google Classroom and the SFX PE Website:</p> <p>https://sites.google.com/sfx1842.org/sfxgcsepe/home</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>Students can progress to study A Level PE or a Cambridge National in Sport. Pupils could also move into coaching through a 1st4sport Level 3 Award in the Principles of Coaching Sport.</p>	



Cambridge National in IT

CORE COMPULSORY
NON-QUALIFICATION
OPTION
EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board **OCR**

Course code : **J836**

Subject contact: Mrs J. Holmes: Curriculum Leader

<p>Course description</p> <p>This qualification will enable you to learn about the different design tools that can be used, the principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing when creating IT solutions or products. You will also understand the uses of the 'Internet of Everything' and the application of this in everyday life.</p> <p>You will develop the skills to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet a client's requirements. You will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create the spreadsheet solution which will be tested, and you will learn to evaluate your spreadsheet solution.</p> <p>Finally, you will develop the knowledge and skills relating to the purpose, use and types of Augmented Reality (AR) in different contexts and how it is used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to design, create, test and review an AR model prototype</p> <p>This course will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give you digital skills required in almost every industry • Allow clear progression onto Level 3 study 	<p>Key Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products • creating a data manipulation solution • creating an Augmented Reality prototype <p>Careers</p> <p>Creative digital skills span all industries in the modern world; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. There is currently a shortage of people with these skills.</p> <p>The average digital salary in the UK is £50,663 which is 44% higher than the average non-digital salary.</p>
<p>Assessment</p> <p>This course is divided into 3 units:</p> <p>Unit 1 (R050): External examination: IT in the digital world.</p> <p>Unit 2 (R060): Internally assessed: Data manipulation using spreadsheets</p> <p>Unit 3 (R070): Internally assessed: Using AR to provide information</p>	<p>Enrichment and Support</p> <p>We use a range of multimedia and interactive learning resources to support students.</p> <p>We offer after school drop in sessions and provide a course textbook/revision guide to all students.</p>
<p>Further education opportunities</p> <p>After completing the Cambridge National in IT, students will be in a great position to continue in the digital information technology sector. This qualification prepares students for progression to Level 3 courses in Information Technology in Year 12 and 13.</p>	

