

KS4 OPTIONS AND COURSE INFORMATION 2023



Shevington High School

Shevington High School Vision

Through our values and personalised approach to learning we expect students to achieve the highest academic excellence, recognise opportunities, have a positive view of challenge and dare to think in new ways-be creative-and realise that,

“Life is what you make it!”

Making careful and informed choices about your KS4 courses in your next step on your journey!



Headteacher's message to parents

During the five years your child is with us there are two key moments when they are expected to make a choice of subjects - at age 16 and now at Year 9. We want to provide each child with guidance and advice so that the best choice is made and the potential of every student is realised. Our aim is for everybody to leave our school with the grades to enter their next step in education and to lead happy successful lives.

Over the next few years we have set ambitious targets for our future results and confidently expect them to get even better. Of course, we know what a significant part parents play in the success of their child and we will provide you with a lot of information about our GCSE courses and the options process. Examination results are clearly important but please be assured that we also push very hard on developing the values and personal characteristics to make our students into good people as well as providing the qualifications to enter the best universities in the country and on to influential careers.

Mr J Grant
Headteacher



Deputy Headteacher's message to parents

Key Stage 4 allows more time for students to study subjects in more depth, and an element of choice is introduced. This information contains an overview of courses available at Key Stage 4. It is designed to help pupils and parents understand the implications of option choices and to assist pupils, in particular, to make wise choices.

All pupils in Key Stage 4 will study the core subjects. Pupils will be asked to choose subjects from the Option Subjects provided within this information. Whilst making choices of subjects, it is beneficial to keep careers and further education plans in mind, however, many Y9 students are not yet sure about their future career plans. It is, therefore, important for the majority of pupils to concentrate on a broad and balanced education. It is also advisable to assess the academic study required by different subjects and to consider the assessment methods used in each subject. Whilst some subjects are 100% examination, others have an element of controlled assessment.

It has always been important for pupils to make informed choices based on their own strengths, as once choices have been made, the scope for change is limited. It is also the case that, with regret, we may have to allocate pupils a reserve choice for popular subjects or those that are not popular enough to be run.

Mrs L Johnson



The Option Process

Friday 13th January 2023	The Option Process will begin with a Y9 Assembly
Thursday 18th January 2022	Parents and students will receive option information. It will be available via the school website.
Wednesday 25th January 2022	Y9 Parents Evening - to discuss the most recent screening.
From Monday 23rd January 2022	Students can experience GCSE subject taster sessions in school to help them make their choices
From Monday 30th January	Options meetings with a member of SLT to discuss preferred choices. Options forms will not be available until <u>after</u> these meetings.
Wednesday 15th February 2023	Option forms must be completed via Google Forms. Parents will be emailed a link to the form.



Shevington High School



CURRICULUM MODEL 2023-2025

Subjects	Number of Hours Per Fortnight in Y10
English	9 hours
Mathematics	8 hours
Science	10 hours
Physical Education	2 hours
PHSE	1 hour
Option 1	5 hours
Option 2	5 hours
Option 3	5 hours
Option 4	5 hours

This table explains how many hours of lesson time will be allocated to each subject. The number of hours per subject may change in Y11 depending on the needs of the cohort.



English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language.

These are subjects most likely to be required or **preferred** for entry to degree courses. Pupils wishing to apply for Sixth Form and University are strongly encouraged to follow an English Baccalaureate curriculum.

All pupils will study English, Mathematics and the Sciences as part of their Core Curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to choose to study a Language (French, Spanish & Mandarin) **and** a Humanity (History or Geography) as part of option subjects. **All students will need to choose at least one humanities or language subject.**



What courses are there?

On the page 10, there is a table with **17** different courses to choose from. Each year these are reviewed, taking into account the teachers available to teach courses, the success rates of students in previous years and new courses that become available. The list may be different to those offered in previous years.

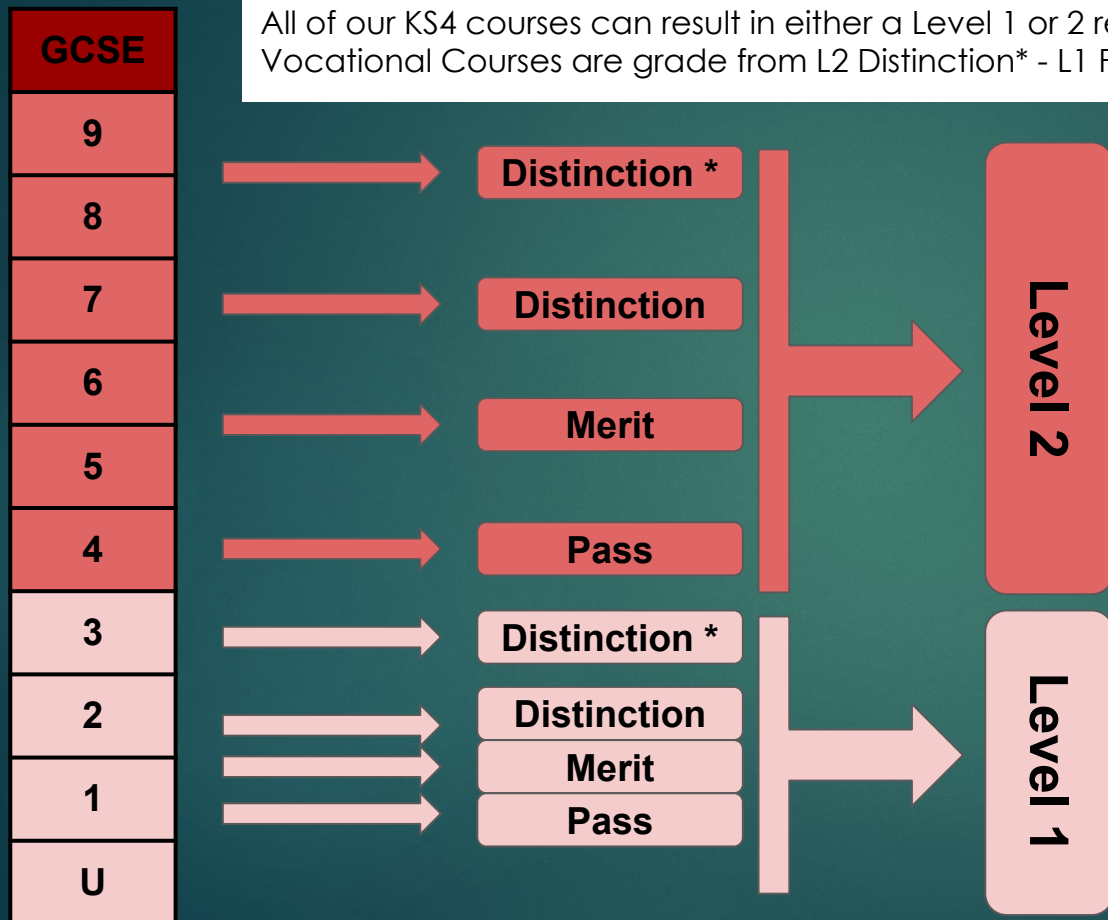
In the rest of this document, there are pages with a brief overview about each course, but more information can be found on the examboard websites if you want even more detail about them.

Many of the courses are GCSEs, but there are also some vocational courses that are BTECs, Cambridge Nationals, Level 1 /2 Vocational Awards and BTEC Tech Awards. These are assessed and graded in slightly different ways as explained on the next page. The main difference is in the style of learning. There is typically less focus on end of course exams in the vocational courses and more internal assessments.



How are the different types of qualifications graded?

All of our KS4 courses can result in either a Level 1 or 2 result. GCSEs are graded 9-1 and Vocational Courses are grade from L2 Distinction* - L1 Pass.



Achieving a Level 2 qualification is Grade 4-9 at GCSE or L2 Pass-L2 Distinction *

Level 2 qualification grades lead to Level 3 courses at college or Level 3 Apprenticeships.

Achieving a Level 1 qualification is Grade 1-3 at GCSE or L1 Pass-L1 Distinction *

Level 1 qualification grades lead to Level 2 courses at college or Level 2 Apprenticeships.



KS4 COURSE OPTIONS 2023-2025

Column A	Column B
Geography	French
History	Spanish
French	Mandarin
Spanish	History
Mandarin	Geography
	Drama
	Film Studies
	Music
	Triple Science
	Religious Studies
	Art and Design*
	Photography*
	Design Technology**
	Hospitality and Catering** (V)
	Creative i-Media*** (V)
	Digital Information Technology*** (V)
	Sport Studies (V)

To achieve the EBACC you need to select either Geography and History and a Language, so to get the EBACC pick one these subjects from column B. Many top universities like students to have the range of GCSEs needed for the EBACC.

Choose 4 subjects in total

Choose 1 subject from Column A.
Choose 3 subjects from Column B.
Choose 1 reserve subject from each of Column A and 1 reserve subject from Column B

*It is not possible to choose Art and Design and Photography as they include similar content.

**You are not advised to choose Hospitality and Catering and also study Design Technology.

***You should only select one of these 2 subjects as they have some similarities.

Courses marked with a (V) are vocational courses. You are advised NOT to choose more than 1 of these. It may be possible to choose 2 after discussing this at school if you feel this is best for you.



The Option Process

DO Choose a subject because:

- You enjoy studying the subject
- You believe that you will gain success with the subject
- You understand that the subject will help you achieve future career goals

DO NOT choose a subject because :

- You think it is easy
- You like the teacher in that subject-you may not be taught by them next year
- Your best friend has chosen it.

You should do your best to find out about your choices and check they are right for you!
You should think about the ways that courses are assessed. Do you think you are better at final exams, completing assessments in school, or a mixture of both.



OPTION CHANGES

Occasionally, pupils may feel they have made a wrong decision with an option and may request a change. However, please note that not all requests for option change can be granted due to staffing and timetable schedules.

Requests for Option Changes must be submitted via a Google Options Change form. This can be requested via the Office and emailed to the parent/carer to complete.

This will then be passed to Mrs Johnson, Deputy Headteacher.

The deadline for all option changes is **October Half Term 2023**. Requests after this time will not be considered due to pupils having missed a number of teaching hours in the subject they wish to change to.



KS4 COURSE INFORMATION OVERVIEW 2023



Shevington High School

SUBJECT: GCSE English Language (English Baccalaureate Subject)

Head of Faculty: Ms Jones

GCSE Exam Board AQA

Course Description

The English Language GCSE assesses the skills of reading and writing. In this GCSE pupils will develop their skills of inference and deduction which will equate to 50% of their final English Language GCSE. Pupils will also develop their writing skills which will involve writing creatively and for a specific purpose.

Assessment

The course is 100% exam with pupils sitting two papers at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: 'Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading' (50% of final GCSE)

Paper 2: 'Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives' (50% of final GCSE).

All pupils will also undertake a Spoken Language Endorsement which will be videoed and teacher assessed.

Teachers

Mrs Johnson Ms Jones Mrs Gleeson Mrs Reid Mrs Harwood Mr Lunt Miss Worsley Mrs Douglas Miss Worrall



SUBJECT: GCSE English Literature (English Baccalaureate Subject)

Head of Faculty: Ms Jones

GCSE Exam Board AQA

Course Description

The Literature GCSE focuses on the skills of reading and inference, exploring characters, plot and themes within the social and historical context of the texts. In this GCSE pupils will study works of poetry, a play and a novel.

Assessment

The course is 100% exam with pupils sitting two papers at the end of the course:

Paper 1 'Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel' (40% of final GCSE)

Paper 2 'Modern texts and poetry' (60% of final GCSE).

The set texts currently studied are; *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Sign of Four*, *An Inspector Calls* and the *Power and Conflict* poetry collection.

Teachers

Mrs Johnson

Ms Jones

Mrs Gleeson

Mrs Reid

Mrs Harwood

Mr Lunt

Miss Worsley

Mrs Douglas

Miss Worrall



SUBJECT: GCSE Mathematics (English Baccalaureate Subject)

Head of Faculty Miss Williams

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Description

The GCSE covers six areas of the Mathematics National Curriculum and will build on work studied at Key Stage 3. These six areas are 'Number', 'Algebra', 'Ratio, proportion and rates of change', 'Geometry and measures', 'Probability' and 'Statistics'.

In Year 11, all pupils will sit 3 1.5 hours Edexcel linear papers. This course is designed to test all aspects of the Mathematical course including their ability to solve problems.

Assessment

- GCSE Linear Mathematics
- 100% Examination
- 3 Exams (1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers)

Teachers

Mrs Holcroft Mr Flower Mrs Crow Miss Atherton Mr Morgan Mr McIntyre Mrs Daniels Miss Williams



SUBJECT: GCSE Science (English Baccalaureate Subject)

Head of Faculty: Mr Wigham

Examination Board:AQA

Course Description

All pupils at Shevington High School Study Trilogy Science at GCSE. Pupils will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and it is worth **two GCSEs**. This will include practical work to aid understanding and help prepare you for further education. In Biology, pupils will study Classification, Inheritance and the Environment. In Chemistry, pupils will study the Earth, Acids, Metals and Fuels. In Physics, pupils will study Light, The Electromagnetic Spectrum, Waves and Energy.

Assessment

The assessment at the end of Year 11 will consist of a 6 x 1 ¼ hour written examination.

There will be short answer questions, which will then build up to longer answers to test knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Teachers

Mrs Martin Mrs Parkinson Mr Johnson Mrs Mason Mrs Barrow Mrs Blundell Mrs Gopalan Mr Clarke



SUBJECT: GCSE Triple Sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics (English Baccalaureate Subjects)

Head of Faculty: Mr Wigham

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

Pupils who have demonstrated a very high ability and understanding of science can study the triple science courses at GCSE. This is usually the 'top ability set'. Pupils will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and it is worth **three GCSEs**. This will include practical work to aid understanding and help prepare pupils for further education. Pupils will study the same topics as for the Combined Science GCSEs and also additional content to provide a broader range of knowledge and understanding in the three main science disciplines.

Assessment

The assessment at the end of Year 11 will consist of a 6 x 1 ¾ hour written examinations.

There will be short answer questions, which will then build up to longer answers to test pupils understanding of the subject.

Teachers

Mrs Martin Mrs Parkinson Mr Johnson Mrs Mason Mrs Barrow Mrs Blundell Mrs Gopalan Mr Clarke

Pupils will not be able to select Triple Sciences unless they are working at the highest levels in Science and also in Maths/English. Typically this would be those currently in Set 1 in their Core Subjects.



SUBJECT: GCSE Modern Foreign Languages - Choose from French, Spanish or Mandarin (English Baccalaureate Subjects)

Head of Faculty: Miss Whittaker

Examination Board: AQA Course Description

All pupils are offered the opportunity to study for a language GCSE qualification in French, Spanish or Mandarin. Learning a language is a skill for life, the course offers the opportunity for pupils to, not only practise their verbal and written language skills, but also to expand their cultural knowledge to develop our understanding of the world in which we live.

The course covers three main themes as listed below:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture

Theme 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Theme 3: Current and Future Study and Employment.

Assessment

Students are assessed on the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

All four skills will have an equal weighting and will all be worth 25%. Pupils will complete a final examination in each skill at the end of Year 11.

Teachers

Miss Whittaker Mrs Chen Miss Aneiros Mrs Hames

Pupils should not choose a GCSE in a language that they have not studied in Year 7-9 unless they have skills in that language. E.g They speak the language at home.



SUBJECT: GCSE Geography (English Baccalaureate Subject)

Head of Faculty: Mr Nichols

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Assessment GCSE Geography 100% Examination

- **Paper 1 – Living with in the physical environment**
- **Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment**
- **Paper 3 – Geographical application**

Teachers

Ms McGonigle

Mr Houseman

Miss Lonsdale



SUBJECT: GCSE History (English Baccalaureate Subject)

Head of Faculty: Mr Nichols

Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Description

The GCSE History course covers over 1000 years of History, enabling pupils to have a wide understanding of how events have shaped our world. The key features of the course include:

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment - Crime and Punishment through Time and Whitechapel

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study - Superpower Relations and the Cold War and Early Elizabethan England

Paper 3: Modern depth study - Weimar and Nazi Germany

Assessment

GCSE History - 100% Examination

Teachers

Mr Nichols

Mrs Simpson



SUBJECT: GCSE Religious Studies

Head of Faculty: Mr Nichols

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

Students learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. The GCSE course includes an in depth study of Christianity and Islam considering beliefs, teachings and practices and how these may vary within the religion. Students also study a range of contemporary ethical themes to ensure students have a diverse and intriguing range of topics to explore. Students develop analytical and critical thinking skills and the ability to work with abstract ideas which will prepare them for further academic study.

Assessment

100% Examination

Paper 1 - The study of religions (Christian and Islam)

Paper 2 - Thematic studies

Teachers

Mrs Ince-Sargeson

Mr Mackay



SUBJECT: Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

Head of Faculty: Mr Edey

Examination Board: OCR

Course Description

This qualification will help you to develop knowledge, and understanding relating to different sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. You will learn how media codes and conventions are applied to create digital media products which engage audiences. You will also learn the purpose of, and reasons for legislation applicable to the media industry and what media producers must do to comply with this legislation. In addition, you will gain an understanding of the properties and formats of media files. You will also learn how to develop visual identities for clients and apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Units of work in this course will help you develop understanding and skills related to different digital media products from a number of sectors of the media industry including: designing and creating comic characters, planning animations with audio and using digital camera equipment to plan and capture photographs and video footage.

Assessment

Non Exam Internal Assessment- 60%: 3 Components completed in class.

Examination - 40%: 1 hour 15 min exam on Pre-production skills.

Overall this course is graded from Level 2 Distinction* to Level 1 Pass.

Teachers

Mr Chow

Mr Edey

This course should not be taken alongside the BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology due to overlap in the courses.



SUBJECT: BTEC Tech Award -Digital Information Technology

Head of Faculty: Mr Edey

Examination Board: Pearson

Course Description: This course gives learners the opportunity to development of key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology.

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices Learners will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use

Assessment

Non Exam Internal Assessment: 60% - Component 1 and 2

Examination : 40% - 1 hour 30 min examination for Component 3

Overall this course is graded from Level 2 Distinction* to Level 1 Pass.

Teachers

Mr Edey

Mr Chow

This course should not be taken alongside the Creative iMedia course due to overlap in the courses.



SUBJECT: GCSE Drama

Head of Faculty: Mrs Green

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

Component 1: Understanding Drama - 40% of the qualification.

Students will visit the theatre to review a play alongside studying a complete play-text to prepare them for answering questions in an exam paper.

Component 2: Devising Drama - 40% of the qualification.

Students will create and develop a devised piece of theatre for performance (from stimulus) and will document and evaluate the devising process.

Component 3: Text in Performance 20% of the qualification.

Students will rehearse and perform 2 key extracts from a play to a visiting examiner.

Assessment

Written examination, Devised performance and logbook, scripted performance

Teachers

Mr Hughes-Alty



SUBJECT: Design & Technology

Head of Faculty: Mr Edey

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and other's needs, wants and values.

Our course covers core technical, designing, and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment.

Assessment

The course consists of one controlled assessment project and one written exam. The controlled assessment is structured to give the pupils the opportunity to be creative within their designs and portfolios and stretch their technical skills.

Controlled Assessment- 50%

Written exam- 50%

Teachers

Mrs Haines Mr Poland

There are a few new technology courses that have just come out and we are considering running. This may replace GCSE Technology. We will update you on this before you fill in your options form.

You are not advised to take this course if you are also choosing Hospitality and Catering due to similarities in the courses



SUBJECT: LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Head of Faculty: Mr Edey

Examination Board: Eduqas

Course Description

This qualification is made up of 2 units.

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value.
- Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.
- Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering

Assessment

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment.

Unit 1-40% Examination.

Unit 2-60% You will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will take about 12 hours of lessons in school.

Teachers

Miss Marsden Mrs Haines



SUBJECT: GCSE Art

Head of Faculty: Mrs Green

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

This innovative course is best suited to those who wish to channel their creative energies into producing original art pieces that reflect their individuality, and to investigate and respond to the world around them. This course provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in Art and Design in independent ways. Students will study Art and Design in both breadth and depth. Students will be encouraged to take photographs, be inspired by artists and develop their work in creative ways using a variety of materials, for example clay and printing. It provides natural progression from Key Stage 3 and a strong and appropriate foundation for further progression to Art and Design related courses such as A-level.

Assessment

60% Controlled Assessment -2 distinct projects Waterlife Project and The Everyday

40% Externally set exam - January to March/April of Year 11)

Teachers

Miss Parker Mrs Penman

This course can not be taken with
Photography due to overlaps in
the course



SUBJECT: GCSE Art and Design : Photography

Head of Faculty: Mrs Green

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

The GCSE Photography course will challenge the way you see and take photographs from a variety of sources. You will use research to inspire your ideas and become analytical and critical about your own photography, picking apart the reasons you have taken the photograph. The lessons will consist of research, analysing photographers work, taking photographs, drawing, digital and physical manipulation of your photographs to produce a sketchbook/portfolio of your work. You will learn the basics about how to use a camera and photography equipment. This course is a great starting point if you would like to develop your photography skills in college and further education.

Assessment

60% Coursework - Architecture and The Everyday

40% Externally set exam - January to March/April of Year 11)

Teachers

Miss Parker Mrs Penman

This course can not be taken
alongside Art due to overlaps in
the course



SUBJECT: GCSE Film Studies

Head of Faculty: Ms Jones

Examination Board: Eduqas

Course Description

The WJEC Eduqas specification in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from Europe, including the UK, South Africa and Australia. There is the opportunity to experience a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as they are drawn into characters, their narratives and the issues films raise.

Assessment

Component 1: Written examination paper 1 hour 30 minutes (35% of qualification) - Development in US Film

Component 2: Written examination paper 1 hour and 30 minutes (35% of qualification) - Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style

Component 3: Production Non-exam assessment - Film extract or screenplay with an evaluation. (30% of qualification)

Teachers

Mrs Johnson Ms Jones



SUBJECT: GCSE Music

Head of Subject: Mr Beaton

Examination Board: AQA

Course Description

All pupils complete the AQA GCSE in Music. Pupils are encouraged to take private instrumental lessons and all are expected to bring their musical instrument and any relevant sheet music/books in addition to their regular equipment for school. This course is mainly coursework-based but does include a listening examination based on the musical elements of The Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music of the 20th and 21st Centuries and World Music. It is recommended that pupils begin to work towards Rockschoool or ABRSM grading before commencement of this course.

Assessment

Controlled Assessment-60% - This includes individual performing and composing coursework for Component 2 and 3.

Examination - 40%: There is a 1 hour and 30 minute examination for Component 1.

Teachers

Mr Beaton

Wigan Music Service Instrumental Teachers



SUBJECT: Cambridge National Sports Studies

Head of Subject: Mr Crookes

Examination Board: OCR **Course Description**

Our Cambridge National in Sport Studies will encourage students to think for themselves about the study of sport and the application to real life practical sport, leadership and evaluation of the skills required there. They will study up to the minute topics affecting sport through the contemporary issues unit, both play and lead sporting activities, as well as having the chance to either explore the world of outdoor sport or the media.

Assessment

This course is split into units - 1 externally assessed (exam) and 2 internally assessed by staff.

- Unit R184 - Contemporary issues in Sport - 1 written exam = 40%
- Unit R185 - Coursework based: Sports Leadership - Planning and delivering a practical session to improve the ability of others. Developing sports skills. Practical performance in 2 sports which are internally assessed by staff.
- Unit R187 - Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Both internally assessed units are worth 60%. In the internally assessed units students will produce pieces of coursework to meet the given criteria under the supervision of staff and done on Google Classroom.

Teachers

Mr Crookes Miss Duggan



If you need more information please ask us.

Option Choices must be sent in on the GoogleForm by Wednesday
15th February 2023.

Your parents or carers will be sent this form after your meeting with a
member of the Senior Leadership Team

Life is what you make it!



Shevington High School