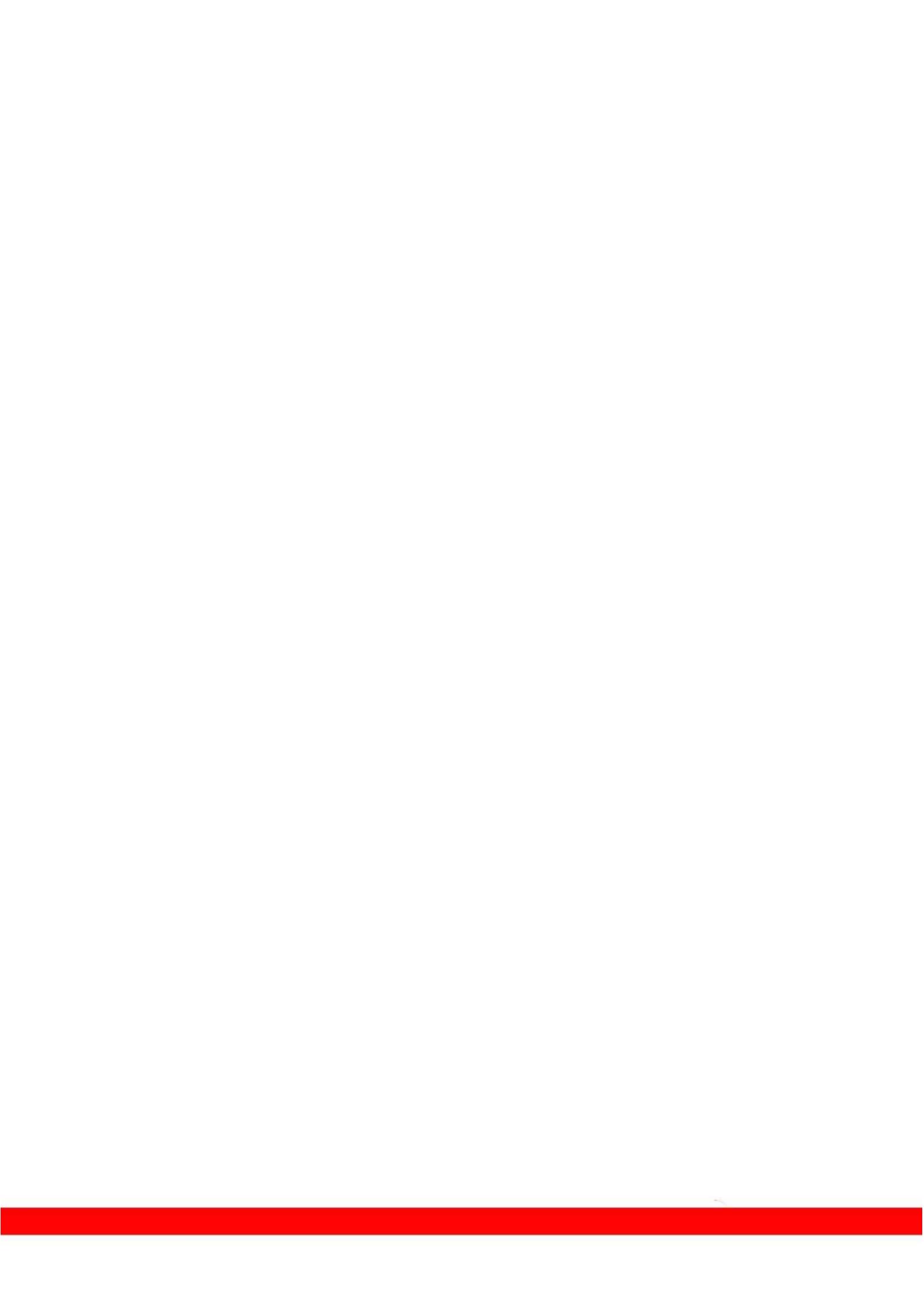


GCSE OPTIONS

GCSE OPTIONS HANDBOOK
KEYSTAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2021



Introduction

We aim to inspire, build confidence and prepare our students for life and work through a broad and balanced curriculum that is built on the interdependency of knowledge and skills.

To achieve this goal, we see it as our duty to provide a Key Stage 4 curriculum that will best equip your child to face the challenges of the future. We may not be fully clear about what the future workplace will look like but we do know that those who will be best placed to exploit the opportunities opening up will be technologically literate and have an adaptable set of high level skills.

To that end we seek to offer a range of courses at Key Stage 4 which will lead to a suite of recognised qualifications that we know universities and employers' alike value and trust.

Within the Key Stage 4 curriculum, we allow our students a degree of freedom to choose courses that best suit their interests and play to their strengths. They can feel confident that the choices they make will keep all the doors open for them to follow wherever their dreams and aspirations lead.

Even so, the choices you have to make are not easy ones. The current Covid situation makes the Options Process even more challenging this year, as it will be difficult to meet with you and your child in person to discuss whether the options you are considering are the right ones for your child. However we will aim to do our utmost to provide clear advice and guidance to ensure that this process is successful.

Mike Fieldhouse
Headteacher
January 2021



The Options Process

The time is fast approaching when your child will commence Year 10. This is therefore, an important period when school and parents/guardians must co-operate closely in determining the most appropriate subjects for your child to select and follow during the next two years at Key Stage 4.

In September 2021, they will start two year Key Stage 4 courses leading to a GCSE qualification (or equivalent). Together we must make certain choices about the subjects your child will take. Our decisions will depend on a number of factors:

- Your child's aims and ambitions.
- The academic progress your child has made to date.
- The need to preserve a good balance of subjects.

Please study this handbook carefully, including its explanation of the different subjects available at Key Stage 4, and be prepared to consult with us as to the choice of subjects which will best suit your child's future.

Normally we would be holding an Options Evening for students and their parents to discuss the process in more detail and to meet with teachers in order to find out more about the various GCSE courses on offer. Unfortunately this year, due to the current Covid restrictions- we will be unable to host this event. We have however created a short introductory video to GCSE Options which will help to explain this important process.

Another important part of the information gathering process is to attend the Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening which will take place virtually on **Wednesday 27th January between 4pm and 7pm**. This will be an opportunity to meet remotely with your child's teachers to discuss their current progress in their subjects.

There is no advantage of handing the options form back to us early - indeed the form tutors will not accept them until after the consultation evening has taken place. The deadline for the completed options form is **Monday 8th February 2021**. After this date- we cannot guarantee that your child will be able to follow their preferred option choices.

We hope that you find the options process both informative and useful.

Options Guidance

Please study the general guidance below to help you complete the option choices form. All subjects on offer are either GCSE or GCSE equivalent as noted.

CORE SUBJECTS

ALL students will be required to take the following Core Curriculum Subjects:

- English Language & English Literature (2 GCSEs) for 6 units per week.
- Mathematics for 4 units per week.
- Science (worth at least 2 GCSE grades) for 5 units per week.
- Personal Social Health Education (PSHEC) for 1 unit per week (non-exam).
- Physical Education (PE) for 2 units per week (non-exam).

NON-CORE SUBJECTS (EBACC choice & Open choice subjects)

All students will have the chance to choose a total of 4 GCSE subjects from the options choices.

The time allocation for each of these subjects is 3 units per week

EBACC CHOICES

Students **MUST** select **TWO subjects** from the EBACC Choice column.

Those students currently studying two languages in Year 9 must select a Language within their choices.

All of these subjects are also repeated in the non-core choice column so students can select more than two EBacc subjects if they wish to.

OPEN CHOICES

Students must select **TWO subjects** together with one reserve subjects from this column. (Please note that the reserve subject is only used if the subject combination does not fit the timetable. Students will be informed if this is the case)

There are certain combinations of subjects which cannot be selected together.

Art, Photography and 3D Art cannot be selected together- only **ONE** of these three subjects can be chosen.

GCSE PE and BTEC Sport Studies cannot be selected together.

Students will be notified of their successful option choices during the summer term 2021. In the majority of cases, students should be successful in being awarded their preferred choice of subjects, though this cannot be guaranteed.



Year 10 Options Form 2021

Student Name: _____

Form: _____

GUIDE TO SELECTING YOUR OPTIONS

Please select **TWO** subjects from the EBacc choice column and **TWO** subjects from the Open choice column.

Students currently studying two Languages in Year 9 **MUST** select a Language from the EBacc choice column.

One reserve subject must also be selected from the Open Choice column in case the combination of subjects chosen cannot be timetabled.

| EBACC CHOICES (Choose two subjects) | |
|---|--|
| French | |
| Spanish | |
| Geography | |
| History | |
| Computer Science | |

| OPEN CHOICES (Choose two subjects + one reserve) | |
|--|--|
| Either: Art & Design or 3D Art or Photography | Food & Nutrition French Geography German |
| Computer Science Creative iMedia (CNATs) Dance (BTEC) DT Resistant Materials or Drama Electronics | Health & Social Care (BTEC) History Music PE or Sports Studies (BTEC) Religious Studies Spanish |

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| <u>Subject 1</u> | <u>Subject 2</u> |
|------------------|------------------|

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

FORM TUTOR SIGNATURE: _____

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Subject 1</u> | <u>Subject 2</u> |
| <u>Reserve Subject</u> | |

English Language

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day – and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, English is a must have subject for college, university and life! This GCSE is studied alongside a separate GCSE in English Literature.

It is examined in two papers at the end of the course as outlined below.

Assessment

| English Language (All texts in the examination are unseen) | |
|--|---|
| <p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one literature fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> descriptive or narrative writing written exam; 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE | <p>Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing to present a viewpoint written exam; 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE |

Progression and Career Opportunities

From Architecture to Zoology, GCSE English will help you to:

- Work independently
- Be creative
- Think critically
- Communicate your ideas with confidence
- Think logically

It could also help you to land your dream job in (to name a few) . . .

Sports Journalism – Lawyer – Film Director – Public Relations Executive – Author – Actor



Specification

GCSE: English Language

8700

www.aqa.org.uk

"The limits of my language mean the limits of my world."

Ludwig Wittgenstein

English Literature

English Literature allows you to: be a time traveller; visit foreign countries; become a mind reader; and understand how a single word can change everything. Through the study of texts both from contemporary writers and those of the literary heritage, English Literature allows you to develop your close reading skills and justify fresh interpretations of texts which have been discussed for hundreds of years.



Specification

GCSE: English Literature

8702

www.aqa.org.uk

| GCSE English Literature | |
|---|---|
| <p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the C19th – novel</p> <p>Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</p> <p>Section B: The C19th- novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• 40% of GCSE | <p>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry</p> <p>Section Modern Texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.</p> <p>Section B: Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</p> <p>Section C Unseen poetry: students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes• 60% of GCSE |

“Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.”

Charles Dickens

Progression and Career Opportunities

Reading is only the beginning - GCSE English Literature will help you to:

- Think analytically
- Use evidence to propose an argument
- Be empathetic to points of view and cultures that are not your own
- Make links between writing and its context
- Appreciate Literature in all its forms

It could also help you to land your dream job in (to name a few) . . .

Lawyer – Acting – Media Relations – Teaching - Journalism

Mathematics

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

This qualification prepares students to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices.

Assessment

3 x 1 hour and 30 min examinations

- 1 non-calculator paper on each tier
- 2 calculator papers on each tier
- Anything can be tested on each paper
- Lots of content tested in a problem solving way
-

The syllabus will help students develop their mathematics in a flexible way, so that they can apply it across other subjects with confidence.

Foundation Tier - Students will need to be able to use and apply standard techniques (50%); Reason, interpret and communicate and solve problems in lots of contexts.

Higher Tier – Considerably less applying standard techniques.

Specification

Edexcel 1Ma1

2 Tiers of papers

- Foundation Tier grades 1 to 5 available
- Higher Tier grades 4 to 9 available

“Mathematics – the unshaken Foundation of Sciences, and the plentiful Fountain of Advantage to human affairs”

Isaac Barrow

Progression and Career Opportunities

It is recognised that mathematics gives students a range of skills that can be transferred across the majority of other subjects. We aim to help each student to develop these skills in a challenging and interesting way. Currently the more numerate and mathematically able are highly employable members of the workforce.

We offer a successful A level and Further Maths A level in the sixth form for those who want to take their studies beyond GCSE level.



Separate Sciences

The GCSE courses in Biology, Chemistry and Physics lead to three separate qualifications.

They are suitable for students who are passionate about Science. They focus on the development of the core of knowledge and skills which prepare students for further learning in science.

Assessment

| GCSE Biology | GCSE Chemistry | GCSE Physics |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forces 2. Energy 3. Waves 4. Electricity 5. Magnetism and electromagnetism 6. Particle model of matter 7. Atomic structure 8. Space physics |
| <p>For each subject there are 2 examinations of 1 hour 45 minutes, each accounting for 50% of the final qualification. There is no Controlled Assessment.</p> | | |

**GCSE
Specification:**



AQA Biology

AQA Chemistry

AQA Physics

“My goal is simple. It is complete understanding of the Universe, why it is as it is and why it exists at all.”

Stephen Hawking

Progression and Career Opportunities

The separate sciences courses build up a body of scientific knowledge which will give students a coherent picture of the scientific world. In addition they will develop a range of independent practical skills and a critical approach to the reliability of information. Students will make extensive use of mathematical ideas such as algebra and graphical work.

Students obtaining high grades in the separate sciences will have a good preparation for A level courses in biology, physics and chemistry, or any related KS5 qualification.

Combined Science

Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and be awarded 2 GCSEs.

It provides students with a breadth of scientific understanding needed for the informed citizen alongside the key principles of modern scientific knowledge and prepares students for further study of Science beyond GCSE.



AQA Combined Science: Trilogy

| Assessment- GCSE Combined Science | | |
|---|--|---|
| Biology | Chemistry | Physics |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forces 2. Energy 3. Waves 4. Electricity 5. Magnetism and electromagnetism 6. Particle model of matter 7. Atomic structure |
| <p>There are six papers two biology, two chemistry and two physics. There are required practicals students must carry out but no assessed coursework</p> <p>The papers are 1 hour 15 minutes and each will account for 16.7% of the overall qualification.</p> | | |

“Not only is the Universe stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we can imagine”

Arthur Eddington

Progression and Career Opportunities

The course builds up a range of skills required for the acquisition, assessment and interpretation of scientific data as well as developing logic. It also makes use of mathematical ideas such as algebra and graphical analysis and provides students with highly transferable skills for their future careers.

Students obtaining good grades in Combined Science will be well prepared to follow A-level courses in the traditional sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) or any related KS5 qualification.



Physical Education - core

Physical Education develops pupils' competence and confidence to take part in a range of physical activities that become a central part of their lives, both in and out of school. A high-quality physical education curriculum enables all pupils to enjoy and succeed in many kinds of physical activity. They develop a wide range of skills and the ability to use tactics, strategies and compositional ideas to perform successfully. When they are performing, they think about what they are doing, analyse the situation and make decisions. They also reflect on their own and others' performances and find ways to improve them

The course is completed over two years. During Key Stage 4 students tackle complex and demanding activities applying their knowledge, skills, techniques and effective performance. They will experience different roles competing, performing, promoting health and well-being and developing personal fitness. They will act as coach, choreographer, leader and official. During the two year course opportunities will be taken to promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, key skills such as IT, numeracy, literacy and citizenship.

In year 10, students rotate around activities from the areas listed below. In year 11 they get to opt from at least two categories. A key aim is to develop the resilience, respect, adaptability and the aspiration for lifelong participation and physical activity.

The content covers the following topics:

- Games - invasion, net / wall and striking.
- Dance.
- Gymnastics.
- Health related exercise.
- Athletics

Progression and Career Opportunities

Life long healthy and active lifestyle gives physical, Social, intellectual and moral benefits which are well documented. A career in the vast and broad market of sport, fitness, leisure and recreation.

This is a Non Examination Compulsory Subject

“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity”

John F. Kennedy

Assessment

No formal assessment

French/German/Spanish

The Chase offers students the opportunity to study French, German or Spanish to GCSE level.

Foreign language study can provide essential academic benefits. Among these are communication skills, cultural knowledge, links with other subject areas and a deeper understanding of one's own language and culture. Learning a foreign language results with improvements in students' creativity, self-awareness, critical thinking, memory, and listening skills. Mental flexibility is enhanced by the reasoning, problem-solving and analytical processes that are used in learning a language. It can also bring great personal satisfaction.

Prior knowledge of German is not essential for the GCSE course; this will be a fast paced course going from beginner's level to GCSE standard in two years.



Specification

GCSE:

French 8658

German 8668

Spanish 8698

Assessment – GCSE French/German/Spanish

Unit 1 – LISTENING

Unit 2 – SPEAKING

Unit 3 – READING

Unit 4 – WRITING

Three themes will be covered. They are:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest.
3. Current and future study and employment.

Listening: 25% of the qualification

Speaking: 25% of the qualification 60 marks

Role-play, photo card and general conversation

Reading: 25% of the qualification 40 marks

Questions in English, questions in French and translation from French to English.

Writing: 25% of the qualification 60 marks

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.”
Nelson Mandela

Progression and Career Opportunities

There are excellent employment prospects both in the UK and abroad for people who enjoy learning languages. Many employers like to employ linguists not just for their ability to communicate in a foreign language, but also because of their broad education, their creative approach to problem-solving, and their ability to be good team players and good communicators. People who can speak a foreign language find that a wide range of careers are available to them not only in language teaching or translation, but also in government, law, journalism, tourism, and the business world.

Geography

Geography helps people to make sense of their immediate surroundings and the wider world, particularly the environment. We focus on developing and improving students' knowledge and understanding in several key areas:

- To develop geographical knowledge and understanding.
- To develop a sense of identity through learning about the UK and its relationship with other countries in the world.
- To appreciate and be concerned about environmental issues facing our planet.
- To develop academic and life skills from writing, teamwork and communication to analytical skills.

Specification:



GCSE:
Geography

8035

www.aqa.org.uk

| GCSE Geography Assessment | |
|---|--|
| Unit 1 – Physical Geography: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Hazards• Landscapes of the UK• Ecosystems Unit 2 – Human Geography: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban Issues & Challenges• Changing Economic World• Resource Management Unit 3 – Geographical Application: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-release issue evaluation• Fieldwork | 2 x 1 ½ hour examinations (70%) Consisting of short answer and mini-essay style questions based on the physical and human topics (units 1 & 2). 1 x 1 ¼ hour examination (30%) Consisting of short answer and mini-essay style questions based on a pre-release issue evaluation, and fieldwork carried out by the students (unit 3). 100% examined (no coursework or controlled assessment). |

“Geography is one of those richly comprehensive subjects whose relevance is all around us. More than ever we need the geographer’s skills and foresight to help us learn about our planet. How we use it. How we abuse it.”

Michael Palin

Progression and Career Opportunities

GCSE Geography leads into the A level Geography course or even geography based courses at university. Geography graduates have diverse career destinations and the subject has one of the highest rates of graduate employability. This is on no small part down to the flexibility of Geography and the very wide range of skills it helps you to develop.

Not all Geography students become Geography teachers or weather presenters! Potential careers related to Geography include cartography (map maker), meteorology (weather forecaster), hydrology and flood management, environmental health, conservation, leisure and tourism, urban planning, aid worker, mining, navigation, surveying, transport services, data analysis, civil service, and of course teaching!

History

GCSE History will help you understand how the world you live in was shaped, and make you consider today's society in a different way.

The new GCSE History enables the study of a wide range of topics:

- Study world-changing developments in depth, from the rise of the Nazis to superpower tensions in the Cold War.
- Examine the impact of Elizabeth I, her victory against the Spanish Armada and her relationship with Mary Queen of Scots.
- Examine how medical knowledge has changed over a thousand years – from the bewilderment of the Black Death to modern day, hi-tech operations like organ transplants.

Assessment

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Paper 1 | Medicine through time and a study of medicine in the trenches in WW1. | 1 x 1hr 15 hour exam This comprises 30% of the qualification |
| Paper 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elizabeth I• Superpower relations and the Cold War | 1 x 1hr 45 hour exam This comprises 40% of the qualification |
| Paper 3 | Weimar and Nazi Germany | 1 x 1hr 20 exam This comprises 30% of the qualification |



Specification

GCSE: **1HIO**

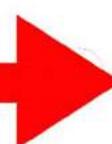
“The more you know about the past, the more prepared you are for the future”

Theodore Roosevelt

Progression and Career Opportunities

History qualifications are highly regarded by businesses and universities because history students develop skills in communication, research, independent thinking, problem solving, and analysis. The skills learnt when studying History are relevant to all jobs. GCSE History can lead to A Level History, which is a very well regarded qualification by top universities, including Russell Group and Oxbridge universities.

History is particularly beneficial to careers in Law, Journalism, Archaeology, Politics, Education, Social Policy Researching, Television production and research.



Computer Science

This is an engaging, contemporary course with an emphasis on giving you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on “behind the scenes”. You also write your own code and “create” things rather than just “consuming” software written by others.

The critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills developed are at the centre of a 21st century skill base, regardless of the career to be pursued. Indeed, Computer Science has been described as “the new Latin”, and writing code as “21st Century literacy”.

Specification



GCSE:

J277

www.ocr.org.uk

Assessment

GCSE Computer Science

Unit 1 – Written Examination

- 50% of total GCSE
- Computer systems

1 ½ hour examination

Focussing on Computer Systems, Networking and Cyber Security

Unit 2 – Written Examination

- 50% of total GCSE
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

1 ½ hour examination

Focussing on problem solving and computational thinking

Unit 3 – Programming Projects

Practical Assessment

Coding tasks. Design, develop, test and refine solutions to given practical problems.

“I was pleasantly surprised to find out how challenging and enjoyable writing code is!”

Year 11 student

Progression and Career Opportunities

Traditional jobs are disappearing and ones in new areas such as technology are growing rapidly. There is enormous demand for professionals who are qualified in this subject. If students want to go on to higher study in the field of Computer Science, Engineering, Science or Technology, then they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone. Learners who have taken a Computer Science GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an excellent underpinning knowledge of this subject area. The GCSE prepares you for life and work and provides an excellent foundation for any further courses, including those specific to the use of computers. A good pass at GCSE allows you to progress onto Advanced level courses. A range of very attractive Higher Apprenticeship and sponsored Higher Education opportunities are on offer from local companies in the IT sector.

Art and Design/Photography

Art at this level will enable you to build on all the skills you learned during KS3. This course will suit you if you enjoy using your imagination and like being creative. All of our projects aim to give you a range of starting points, encouraging you to take an idea in a direction of your choosing.

Photography will teach you how to take control of your camera and move away from auto settings, enabling you to create stunning pictures and to get the very best from the technology available. Developing Adobe Photoshop skills will be part of the course.

You will use sketchbooks to record your learning processes, media trials and artist research. You will be expected to work in your own time on your projects as well as in lessons.

NOTE- Art, 3D Art or Photography cannot be selected together, you will have to choose **ONE** of either of these options.

Assessment

| GCSE Art and Design/Photography | |
|--|--|
| Component 1 – 8201C <ul style="list-style-type: none">Portfolio of Work60% of grade | This part of your course is your coursework. You will complete several different projects to cover a wide variety of media and skills. |
| Component 2 – 8201X <ul style="list-style-type: none">Externally Set Task40% of grade | This part of your course will still be project based, but the project theme(s) are set by the exam board. During this Unit you will work for 10 hours under exam conditions. |

Progression and Career Opportunities

Employers and courses in Higher or Further education increasingly place value on creative thinking. The transferable skills acquired in Art and Design will stand pupils in good stead. Progression onto an Art A level or college course will be the natural progression if you wish to take your Art studies further. Career opportunities in Art & Design are plentiful and varied, for example a career in interior design, architecture, hairdressing, graphic design, photography, illustration or ceramics will all require an art background.



Specification

GCSE

8202/8206

www.aqa.org.uk

Imagination is more important than knowledge.

Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

Albert Einstein



Art and Design: 3D Design

3D Design is the designing, prototyping and modelling/making of primarily functional and aesthetic products, objects and environments. We will cover a wide range of materials and skills in order for you to develop the confidence to work in your chosen media. You will use sketchbooks and design portfolios to record your learning processes, media trials, creative and practical skills and artist research. You will also be expected to work in your own time on your projects as well as in lessons.

Areas of study: Architectural design, sculpture, product design, jewellery and body adornment, interior design, environmental/landscape/garden design, exhibition design and designs for theatre, film and television.

NOTE- Art, 3D Art or Photography cannot be selected together, you will have to choose ONE of either of these options.

Assessment

| GCSE Art and Design: 3D Design | |
|---|--|
| <p>Component 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portfolio of Work• 60% of grade | <p>This is the coursework part of the course. You will complete several different projects to cover a wide variety of media and skills.</p> |
| <p>Component 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externally Set Task• 40% of grade | <p>This part of the course will still be project based, but the project theme(s) are set by the exam board. During this Unit you will work for 10 hours under exam conditions.</p> |

Progression and Career Opportunities

A level Art, A Level Product Design or a college course in Art and Design.

Career opportunities in Art & Design are plentiful and varied, for example a career in theatre – behind the scenes, architecture, landscape design, jewellery making/designing and product design will all require an art and/or design background.



Specification

GCSE

8205

www.aqa.org.uk

“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will get you everywhere.”

Albert Einstein

Creative iMedia (CNATs)

Cambridge Nationals are a new and modern qualification that have GCSE equivalency and are widely recognised by colleges and employers. The Creative iMedia course can challenge the most able students while still being accessible to everyone.

Students learn the important steps taken in the creation of exciting multimedia products on the computers. They use Adobe PhotoShop to manipulate and adapt images to a wide range of uses. They then learn how to create digital comic strips and short videos. It requires students to show imagination and helps them gain the skills to put their vision into practice.

The course is ideal for students who wish to gain a qualification related to IT but with a more creative edge. An excellent course in its own right, it can also complement the Computer Science course that we offer.

Assessment

Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---|
| R081 | Pre-production skills | 1 x 1 Hour Examination Based on pre-released scenarios which give students the best opportunity to prepare for the exam. Worth 25% of the qualification. |
| R082 | Creating digital graphics | |
| R084 | Creating a digital comic strip | 3 x Coursework Assignments Based on assignments relating to the manipulation of graphics and the creation of animation and video |
| R089 | Creating a digital video | |

Progression and Career Opportunities

Creative iMedia is the perfect lead into the BTEC Level 3 Creative Media course we offer in Sixth Form. It gives students an excellent foundation for the individual and team challenges that are set in higher level courses. The artistic nature of the course also benefits students who are considering other creative study paths, including Art, Drama, and Film Studies. The course provides an exciting introduction to the media industry. Many students will consider the option of a career in this sector, be it relating to traditional print media, television and film, or web productions. Adobe PhotoShop is the industry standard graphics editing package and gaining experience in its use from Year 10 will greatly enhance student abilities as they progress through their education. The experience of creating animations and video will also help those who wish to move into a range of creative careers.

Specification

Cambridge
Nationals

J817

www.ocr.org.uk



"I enjoy Creative iMedia because we learn lots of new skills. These relate to real-life scenarios which make it more relevant. I have progressed well in this subject because I am assessed on my practical skills."

Year 11 student

Dance (BTEC)

The performing arts are a major part of the creative and cultural industries in the UK. Overall, the industry contributes £3.5 billion to the UK economy. There are 5,480 businesses and 101,593 people working in the performing arts sector (Pearson BTEC Spec, 2016).

The qualification is equivalent in size to 1 GCSE. The study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical exploration and application alongside conceptual study, leading to strong opportunities to progress post-16.

The course extends pupils' learning following on from Dance at KS3. The course offers an engaging programme for those who are keen to broaden their knowledge, understanding and experiences in a variety of dance styles.

Exam board info



Specification:

www.edexcel.com

Assessment

As part of the qualification, pupils will perform in various situations, completing components in performance, dance skills and dance appreciation. Students studying Dance must be willing to perform individually and as part of a group in front of an audience.

There are 3 Components over the 2 years and only 1 component is external. Written coursework 50% and Practical 50%.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

You will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

You will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of Dance and/or musical theatre repertoire.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus from the exam board.

"BTEC Dance has helped me develop my physical skills and expressive skills. My favourite part is learning professional repertoire and performing it!"

Year 10 student

Progression and Career Opportunities

- BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) Level 3.
- AS / A2 Performing Arts (Dance).
- Degree in Performing Arts, Dance.
- Enter employment or apprenticeships in the performing arts industry.

Drama

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course. Students who pursue this course can develop an insight into and an understanding of a wide range of dramatic activities. A balance between controlled practical assessment tasks and the written examination gives the candidates the best opportunity to succeed. Opportunities to visit the theatre; devise own performances; act out and study published plays; work with professional theatre practitioners and work individually and in small groups, are all unique characteristics of this course.

'Drama is life with the dull bits cut out'- Alfred Hitchcock



Specification:

GCSE: Drama

8261

www.aqa.org.uk

| Assessment | |
|---|---|
| <p>Drama is divided into three components: 1. Understanding drama; 2. Devising drama; 3. Texts in practice.</p> <p>Component 1: Understanding Drama: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. Study of one set play from a choice of six Assessment: Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes; Open book; 80 marks; 40% of GCSE; Marked externally</p> | <p>Component 2: Devising Drama (practical): Devising log (60 marks) Devised performance (20 marks) 80 marks in total; 40% of GCSE; Marked by teachers; Moderated by AQA</p> <p>Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical): Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) and Extract 2 (25 marks) 50 marks in total; 20% of GCSE; Marked by AQA</p> |

'Drama is great fun; it gives me lots of confidence in school; in other subjects and in my life generally'

Year 11 student

Progression and Career Opportunities

The content of this course enables a smooth transition to GCE specifications in Drama and Theatre Studies and other performing arts courses. It provides a basis for pursuing a career in the Arts in future; yet students from a wide subject background, including Humanities and Science find skills gained in Drama really add breadth and depth to their academic experience. It also develops confidence and public speaking skills which are invaluable for all courses at KS5 and beyond at university level. Past students have moved on to work in business, law, marketing, acting, journalism, teaching, as well as stage management, lighting and set design and other jobs linked to the theatrical profession.



DT Resistant Materials

GCSE in Design Technology & Resistant Materials enables students to understand and apply a range of design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. This qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.

Assessment

| GCSE Design Technology: Resistant Materials | |
|--|---|
| Component 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes. 50% of the qualification 100 marks | <p>Assessment overview</p> <p>The paper consists of two sections. Section A is assessed on the core content and Section B is assessed on the material category students have chosen – Resistant Materials.</p> <p>There are four parts to the assessment:</p> <p>1 – Investigate This includes investigation of needs and research, and a product specification</p> <p>2 – Design This includes producing different design ideas, review of initial ideas, development of design ideas into a chosen design, communication of design ideas and review of the chosen design</p> <p>3 – Make This includes manufacture, and quality and accuracy</p> <p>4 – Evaluate This includes testing and evaluation.</p> |
| Component 2: Non-examined assessment 50% of the qualification 100 marks | |

Specification:

GCSE Design and Technology

www.qualifications.pearson.com



"I do Resistant Materials because I can express my creative side and see the outcome of a design I have chosen and made to that specification. The joy of achieving something you have never done before is truly amazing. You also look forward to that lesson every week because you know that you will learn a great deal in a short period of time."

Year 11 student

Progression and Career Opportunities

A-level Product Design or High Level Apprenticeships
University Degrees in Product Design, Engineering, Architecture etc.

These are directly related careers to Design and Technology:

Architects, Surveyors, Mechanical Engineer, Industrial Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, Computer Animation, Interior Design, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Automotive Design, Automotive Engineering, Production Engineering, Jewellery Design, Website Design, Trades inc Electrician, Carpenters, Bricklayers, Builders, Plumbing, Telecommunications, Teaching, Landscape Architecture.

Electronics

The specification ensures that learners have the scientific and mathematical knowledge and understanding, and the engineering skills, to tackle problems in an electronics context.

Studying GCSE in Electronics enables learners to:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of the behaviour of analogue and digital electrical/electronic circuits including a wide range of electronic components.
- develop and learn how to apply observational, practical, problem solving and evaluative skills in the identification of needs in the world around them and to propose and test electronic solutions.

Specification:

GCSE (9-1)
Electronics



Assessment

| GCSE Electronics | |
|--|--|
| Component 1: Discovering Electronics | Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification. A mix of short answer questions, structured questions and extended writing questions, with some set in a practical context. |
| Component 2: Application of Electronics | Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification. A mix of short answer questions, structured questions and extended writing questions, with some set in a practical context. |
| Component 3: Extended System Design and Realisation | Non-Exam Assessment 20% of qualification. An extended system design and realisation task to assess electronic skills. |

"I chose Electronics because the things I make are useful to me now and will allow me to create incredible items in later life."

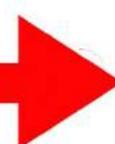
Year 11 student

Progression and Career Opportunities

A-level Electronics

University Degrees in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Robotic Engineering etc.

Electronic Engineer, Product Designer, Engineering, Architecture, Motor Vehicle, Aerospace, Medical equipment design and manufacture, Electronic Servicing Technician, etc.



Food & Nutrition

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills, a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

The major focus is on developing your practical cookery skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation cooking skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

Assessment

| GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition | |
|---|--|
| Non Exam Assessment – NEA The assessments are both completed in Year 11. Task one - The Food Investigation. (15%) This is where you will investigate how a particular ingredient works and why. Task two – The Food Preparation Assessment. (25%) You will plan, prepare, cook and serve a three course meal. All assessment work is completed in lesson time. It is internally marked and externally moderated. | Written Examination (50%) One paper which will be externally set and marked. All questions are compulsory and targeted at the full range of GCSE marks. The paper will contain multiple choice, short-answer, structured and free response questions drawn from the subject content. |

Progression and Career Opportunities

Upon completion of this course, you will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the food industries and the Health and Social Care sector.

Specification

GCSE: **8585**

www.aqa.org.uk



“Choose this subject if you love cooking, and would like to cook every week”

Year 11 student

Health and Social Care (BTEC)

About 3 million people in the UK work in health and social care. In healthcare, this includes jobs such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and administrators, while social care roles include care assistants, social workers, occupational therapists and counsellors. Demand for both health and social care is likely to continue to rise, so it is sure to continue to play a key role in UK society, and the demand for people to fill these vital jobs will increase. This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major life-changing events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them.

You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get what they need

Assessment

You will carry out tasks during the course. Your teacher will mark these, which will give you an idea of how you are getting on. Towards the end of the course you will do one larger task, where you use the knowledge, skills and techniques you have learned to design a health improvement plan. All the work you do throughout the course prepares you for this larger task, which is sent away to be marked.

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development . Internally assessed – 30% of final grade.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values. Internally assessed – 30% of final grade

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing. Externally assessed – 40% of final grade

Progression and Career Opportunities

When you have completed this qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the health and social care sector. Because you will be building useful skills not generally covered in GCSE courses, you will have a better understanding of whether this is an area you want to continue to study. This course will also help you develop transferable skills and knowledge, such as self-evaluation and research skills, which will benefit you wherever you progress to next. After you have finished this course, you may want to go on to further study, such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. Or you might want to find work in the health and social care sector as a trainee or apprentice.

Edexcel

BTEC Technical
Award in Health
and Social Care

www.qualifications.pearson.com

“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing. Not merely an absence of disease or infirmity”

World Health Organisation

Music

Music GCSE is much more than simply doing instrument grades: you will improve both practical and academic skills and learn about a wide range of musical styles. It is a mixture of performing, composing and musical analysis.

Performing and composing are 60% of the course, and **you may choose which instrument (including voice) you use.**

The exam covers a range of different styles, including close study of two contrasting pieces of music. Students will learn to analyse and describe the different styles as well as developing their general musical skills.

Assessment

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Unit 1 – Performing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensemble Performance• Either 2nd Ensemble Performance OR Solo Performance <p>Unit 2 – Composing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two compositions – one to a brief set by WJEC, one free brief. <p>Unit 3 – Listening & Understanding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study of two Set Works and general aural & theoretical skills, examined at the end of the course | <p>Controlled Assessment (60%) This is split into 30% Performing and 30% Composing, completed during the course and submitted at the end.</p> <p>One 1¼ hour examination (40%) This is based on the four Areas of Study (Musical Forms & Devices; Music for Ensemble; Film Music; Popular Music) and includes short-answer questions and a short essay on extracts heard during the exam.</p> |
|--|---|

Progression and Career Opportunities

Having Music GCSE rather than just instrument grades shows employers and interviewers that you are **creative** (increasingly important in today's society); that you can work both **independently and in a group**; that you can **organise your time** and much, much more. Music is highly-valued as a subject for university applications as it develops a wide range of academic and practical skills.

Many students go on to A Level or BTEC Music courses and some then progress to study music at university or music college. If you decide not to continue the subject beyond GCSE, you will still have gained much background knowledge, analytical skills and an understanding of cultures which can only help further the study of any subject.

The creative sector is one of the UK's fastest-growing employment providers: popular careers involving music include performing (classical, jazz, rock etc...), composing (films, video games, song writing, concert items, advertising...), music journalism, school or instrumental teaching, radio/TV presenting, arts administration, orchestra or band management, concert promotion, recording engineer, music therapy, research, music law, musical instrument manufacture, and many more.

Specification

Eduqas (WJEC)
GCSE Music

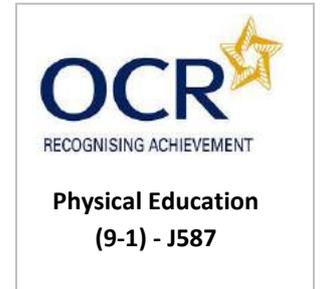
"Music is about communication, creativity and cooperation, and by studying music in schools, students have the opportunity to enrich their lives and experience the world from a new perspective."

Bill Clinton

Physical Education

This GCSE course allows pupils to immerse themselves in the world of sport and PE. They will have the opportunity to perform in several sports and develop wide-ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity.

The combination of physical performance and academic challenge is a unique and stimulating experience for all learners. Why do some out perform others mentally and physically? What are the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs in sport? What are the consequences of inactivity and poor diet? These are just a few of the many questions that will be answered throughout the duration of the course.



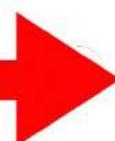
| Assessment | |
|--|---|
| Component 1: Physical Factors Affecting Performance. | A 1 hour examination worth 30% of the final grade. Covers Anatomy and Physiology along with Physical Training worth a total of 60 marks. Questions include short answers, extended response and use of data. |
| Component 2: Socio cultural Issues and Sports Psychology. | A 1 hour examination worth 30% of the final grade. Covers Sports Psychology, Sociocultural influences, Health fitness and Well being worth a total of 60 marks. Questions include short answers, extended response and use of data. |
| Component 3: Performance within Physical Education | Practical performance in 3 activities. 1 team, 1 individual plus one other. Analysing and evaluating performance. Worth 40% of the final grade which is externally moderated. |

“Sport has the power to change the world...it has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than government in breaking down racial barriers.”

Nelson Mandela

Progression and Career Opportunities

- AS/A2 Physical Education or BTEC level 3 in Sport.
- Governing body and coaching awards.
- Career in the Armed Forces, Police, Fire or Ambulance services.
- Career in sports development, leisure and recreation, within sports centres, gymnasia, hotels and sports stadia.
- Degree in sports science, sports management, sports coaching, sports development, strength and conditioning, education, sports therapy, physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports journalism or sports nutrition.



Sport Studies (BTEC)

This BTEC course is a great choice if you are enthusiastic about a career in the sport industry. The course provides the opportunity to improve the student's knowledge of fitness and sports performance. It is coursework based and students are assessed on the quality of assignments produced. The course is a combination of theoretical and practical units with one online externally assessed unit.

Over the two years, students work through a number of different practical and theory units, producing a portfolio of coursework along the way. The current specification also includes one compulsory unit where students are assessed by a 1 hour on-screen exam in year 11, worth 25% of the whole course. This course offers an engaging programme for those interested and passionate about sport; it is equivalent to one GCSE and is recognised by colleges and sixth form centres.



Specification:

www.edexcel.com

Assessment

There are 4 units over the 2 years and only 1 unit is external.

Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise- Externally assessed unit completed in year 11

In this unit students will learn about; A know about the components of fitness and the principles of training; B explore different fitness training methods and; C investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

Unit 2: Practical Performance in Sport- completed in year 10

In this unit students will learn about; A understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports; B practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports and; C be able to review sports performance.

Unit 3: Training for Personal Fitness- completed in year 11

In this unit students will learn about; A design a personal fitness training programme; B know about exercise adherence factors and strategies for continued training success; C implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives and; D review a personal fitness training programme.

Unit 6: Leading Sports Activities- September – completed in year 10

In this unit students will learn about: A know the attributes associated with successful sports leadership; B undertake the planning and leading of sports activities and ;C review the planning and leading of sports activities.

“The practical aspect of the course has enabled me to make progress and excel as a coach, leader and organiser. This has confirmed my aspirations to become a fitness instructor/PE teacher”

Y11 student

Progression and Career Opportunities

- BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport
- Enter employment or apprenticeships in the sports industry
- Degree in Sports Science, sports coaching, Strength and conditioning

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a lively and stimulating GCSE subject that provides a great opportunity for students to engage with current issues, developing social, cultural, political and historical awareness.

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help to prepare students for further study.



GCSE:
Religious Studies A

8062

www.aqa.org.uk

Assessment

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings & practices.

1 x 1 ½ hour examination (50%)

Consisting of short answer and mini-essay style questions based on the study of religions paper.

Each religion has a common structure of 2 5 mark questions of 1,2,4,5,12 marks.

Paper 2: Thematic studies

1 x 1 ½ hour examination (50%)

Consisting of short answer and mini-essay style questions based on the Thematic Studies paper.

Each Theme has a common structure of 2 5 mark questions of 1,2,4,5,12 marks.

Students answer questions on 4 themes.

Theme A: Relationships & families.

Theme B: Religion & life.

Theme C: The existence of God & revelation

Theme D: Religion, crime & punishment

Theme E: Religion, human rights & social justice.

*“The unexamined life
is not worth living.”*

**Socrates
(470-399 BCE)**

Progression and Career Opportunities

Studying Religious Studies enables you to develop analytical, evaluative and persuasive writing skills. Religious Studies students go on to pursue careers in law, journalism, teaching, politics, health care, social work, criminology, and many more.

Religious Studies is a popular subject to study at A Level and at University. Well known people who have taken related courses at university include Martin Luther King Jr, Bill Clinton, Ricky Gervais, Moby, David Cameron & Katy Brand.



Careers Information

Thinking about and planning for further education and future careers are an important part of the personal development of all students in years 10 and 11.

The Chase has been praised for the high quality of information, advice and guidance earning us the national Inspirational IAG Gold Award (the first school in the county to have achieved this), Winner and Runner Up of the Worcestershire Apprenticeship Award School of the Year and an 'outstanding' for this area by OFSTED.

Within school, students have access to the most current information concerning Further and Higher Education training and Apprenticeships – in books held in the library, leaflets, DVDs/videos, computer programs (such as Unifrog and eClips). Opportunities for further information, advice and guidance in the form of Open Days, Events, work experience and employment opportunities are also regularly advertised in Assemblies, via Form Tutors, in the Careers Newsletter and on our Career Notice Boards. Students' pathways are frequently analysed and reviewed and students are offered a 1:1 Careers Interview with the School's Careers Adviser over the course of Year 10 and 11. We also offer a referral system for a Careers Interview. In the Summer Term of Year 10 students are invited to attend presentations and attend taster day events across the county. We encourage students to make full use of all our facilities and to research further education and career pathways as much as possible, details of which are on the Chase Hub.

Guidance

All students will receive careers education and guidance in Years 10 and 11 through both the Tutor Programmes and through Curriculum areas. In tutor sessions students study three careers based modules: Marketing You; What are my Options: Planning for the Future. Through these modules students practise all of the key employability skills; learn vital information regarding the local labour market and national employment trends and meet employers and employees in our local community. All Form Tutors, subject teachers, Pastoral Leaders and our Careers Adviser are on hand to offer information advice and guidance to enable students to make informed choices.

Planning for the Future

If our young people are to look forward to a better future, they must have a wide range of sources of advice. For this reason, The Chase is hosting a virtual Careers Fair in January, the only one to do in any school in Worcestershire (*at time of printing*), comprising people in a host of different careers talking about their journey to their current role. As a School, we have also made links with Apprenticeship providers and frequently have presentations and advertise opportunities provided by the companies involved. Students also have the opportunity to take part in various activities across Years 10 and 11 to inspire their career choices within curriculum areas and in Year 10 as part of our SMSC day they will engage in a Sixth Form or Apprenticeship Taster Day.

Looking Ahead....

The Chase Sixth Form

The Chase Sixth Form is based in the Sixth Form Centre which provides a central hub for over 200 students. The centre includes purpose built study facilities and cafeteria which serves food throughout the school day.

A wide range of A level courses are on offer together with a number of BTEC qualifications which build on the courses offered at Key Stage 4. There is also the provision to re-sit GCSE English and Mathematics for those who have not achieved a Grade 4 in these subjects.

We are proud of our students and their outstanding record of success, both in academic and social contexts. Our A Level results are invariably amongst the best of any school in the area with a pass rate in 2018 of 99%. Every year, many students go on to degree courses at the top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. Others gain high level apprenticeships, employment or prepare for professional qualifications. We aim to provide appropriate opportunities and challenges for students of all abilities and aptitudes.

All sixth form students are invited to participate in an Elective recreational/ cultural programme which takes place on Wednesday afternoons. Many students participate in a variety of school and inter-school activities and competitions, including team and individual sports, sailing, mountaineering, dramatic productions, public speaking and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Pastoral care and counselling in academic progress and Higher Education matters are provided by an experienced team of Sixth Form Tutors and Head of Sixth Form.

Further information about the Sixth Form and full details of courses, as well as a brief guide to Higher Education, are included in the Sixth Form Prospectus. This is issued to all students in Year 11 well in advance of the Sixth Form Open Evening. It is also available as a downloadable PDF file on the school website. Individual interviews are then used to discuss and determine students' Sixth Form programmes.

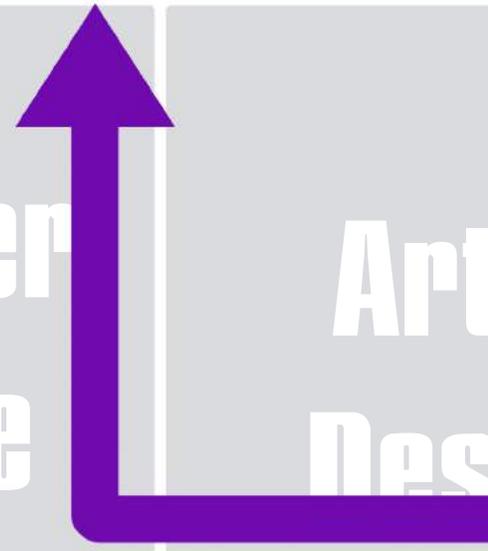
Richard Williams
Head of Sixth Form



**Religious
Studies**

**Computer
Science**

**Ar
Des**



Drama

Music

Hist



**Food &
Nutrition**

**DT
Materials
les**

**Health
Social**

