



Mark Rutherford School

Motivated • Respectful • Successful

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Academic Year 2026



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Welcome

Welcome to your options booklet which we hope will provide you with the information, advice and guidance to support you in choosing your GCSE subjects. Courses are for two years so it is important you follow a pathway that is enjoyable and will lead to successful outcomes. Most students will study eight or nine GCSE or vocational courses and we expect you to work equally hard in all of them. Choosing options can be an exciting time and we would encourage you to think carefully about the choices you make. At this crucial time in your education, it is important that we give you clear and informed guidance about the choices available and how these are matched to your individual needs, interests and abilities.

You will study compulsory core GCSE subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science. You will also study the following non-examination subjects: core PE, core Philosophy and Ethics and PSHE which are an important part of the broad curriculum you experience during Key Stage 4 to prepare you well for the future.

In addition to your core subjects, you can select three options subjects to study for two years. Studying a variety of subjects will help broaden your knowledge as well as keep your career options open. We are proud to offer a range of GCSE, BTEC Tech Award and Cambridge Nationals, all at GCSE equivalent level. Studying GCSEs, the BTEC Technical Awards or Cambridge Nationals will provide you with a pathway into our highly successful Sixth Form or other pathways if you prefer. Within our options booklet you will find information regarding each qualification including an overview, assessment details and suggested reading around the subject as a guide.

You must choose your selected subjects using the online form which will be sent to you shortly. The form will require you to select your preferred choices of subjects but also reserve options; that you would like to study for two years. Please note that some courses have a limited capacity due to the nature of the subject so it is important that you consider carefully any reserve subjects. There is further guidance within this booklet around the EBacc. If you are advised to follow a bespoke pathway in discussion with your Head of Year or SENDCO, we ask that your parents or carers trust our professional advice when directing you in a particular direction.

It is our aim that you will receive your choices however, due to the nature of the options process we cannot guarantee this. Choices will need to be selected by students no later than Friday 20th February 2026. This will then allow us time to plan and arrange the timetable for the following academic year.

We look forward to helping you achieve success in Years 10 and 11 as you move into Key Stage 4 and also preparing for success post-16.



Mrs K Foster
Headteacher



Mr S Wilson
Deputy Headteacher

Information and Guidance

In order to make the right choices you need to be as informed as possible about what the courses involve and in particular how they are assessed.

Support from us will include:

- This booklet
- Options assemblies
- Options tutorial sessions
- Careers appointments with an impartial careers advisor
- Careers information in the Library

Assistance from other sources:

- Unifrog, an online careers platform to which all Year 9 students have access
- UCAS website to investigate possible careers: www.ucas.com/explore/career-list
- Informed Choices website to see how you subject choices affect degree options: www.informedchoices.ac.uk

Planning For The Future

Your choices now may affect the choices you make after your GCSEs, so please make sure you seek advice and consider what you would like to do in future and think about what you might want to study at university. Think about the subjects you enjoy and what you may want to study after Year 11. Also consider which career path you might like to follow when you leave education as well as investigating the subjects you need to study now in order to access your chosen career path in the future.

You must consider carefully subjects that you enjoy, as you will study them for the full two years.

Unifrog

All students in Year 9 are given access to Unifrog, an award-winning, online careers platform, via their email address.

Your choices now, may affect your future choices. You can use Unifrog to search every undergraduate university course, apprenticeship, and college course in the UK. You can compare and choose the best university courses, apprenticeships or further education courses for you as well as exploring exciting opportunities further afield by looking at English taught undergraduate programmes available in Europe and the USA.

You should also consider which career path you might follow and so investigating your subjects and where they might lead you is important.

The best places to start your exploration of Unifrog are the 'interest profiles', 'personality profile' and 'careers library'. We would encourage all Year 9 students to use this to support the decision making process.

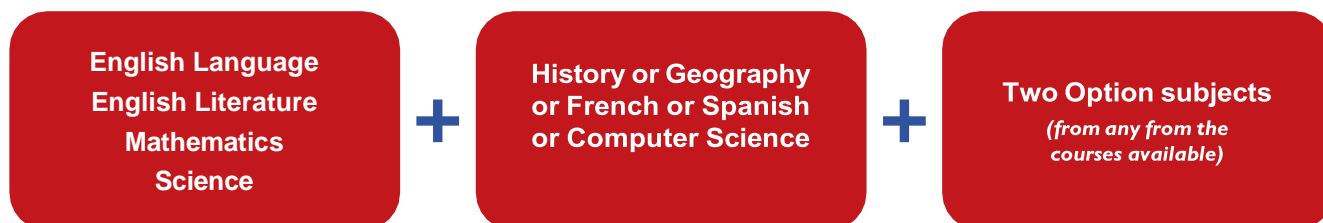


Choosing Your Options

As mentioned previously all students will study compulsory core GCSE subjects: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science.

You will then need to choose from one of the following GCSE subjects: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science.

You will then need to choose two more options which can be from any of the subjects we offer (including those mentioned above – so for example you could choose to do History and Geography).



English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of pathways after your GCSEs. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a student will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths.

This would be the subjects you would need to study to qualify for the **EBacc**.



Option Choices

COMPULSORY Core Subjects

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Science
Core PE
Core Philosophy and Ethics
Core PSHE



COMPULSORY Choice

Please pick one subject:

History
Geography
Spanish
French
Computer Science

OPEN Choice

Please pick two subjects:

Art

Geography

Business Studies
Computer Science
Creative iMedia
Dance
Design and Technology
Digital Information Technology
Drama
Food Preparation and Nutrition
French

Health and Social Care
History
Media Studies
Music
Physical Education/Sport & Coaching
Religious Studies
Spanish

A link to the Options form will be emailed out shortly.

Please complete by

FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2026

English Language and English Literature

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)

Overview

GCSE English Language and English Literature are both core subjects which all Key Stage 4 students will study.

Studying English encourages students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through English Literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. GCSE English Literature requires you to explore texts from a personal perspective, and offers the opportunity to experience Literature of today, and from the Literary Heritage. You will study a range of texts from different genres and you will learn about poetry, prose and drama.

Course Content

Assessment

Both of the subjects will be assessed through written examinations at the end of Year 11. The GCSE English exam papers are un-tiered, meaning that there are no Foundation or Higher tier papers; all students take the same exams.

GCSE English Literature assessment:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.
Worth 40% of the final qualification.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes.
Worth 60% of the final qualification.

GCSE English Language assessment:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.
Worth 50% of the final qualification.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.
Worth 50% of the final qualification.

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language Assessed by the class teacher throughout the course.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE English Literature pupils: 19th Century Prose by writers such as Charles Dickens, Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and other 19th Century writers. The works of Shakespeare including Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, The Merchant of Venice and Julius Caesar. Modern Dramas such as Blood Brothers, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time and The History Boy. Poetry by British Poets both Pre and Post 19th century.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying English to GCSE level will support pupils considering further study in the following subjects: English Literature or English Language at A-Level. English and English Literature are popular choices for degree courses. Other subjects such as Business, Media Studies, Psychology and Criminology all require a good pass from English Literature.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE English Literature: Journalist, Copywriter, Teacher, Paralegal, Marketing executive, Editor, Museum curator, Freelance writer.

GCSE English is a core subject.



Further Info

Please contact
Mrs Curtis,
Head of English,
if you would like any
further information.

Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel (GCSE)

Overview

GCSE Mathematics is a core subject which will ensure that students understand a skill that they use in everyday life. All students will study GCSE Mathematics. Learning Mathematics will prepare students for the future, providing an important foundation for employment, further study, and is a requirement for many university courses. Students will be building upon knowledge learnt in Key Stage 3 and applying this knowledge towards GCSE exam questions. This course provides opportunity to acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems. Students will be able to reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.

The GCSE Mathematics content is divided into six key topics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change
- Statistics
- Probability
- Geometry and Measures

Course Content

Assessment

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (Grades 4-9). The Mathematics department will advise on the most appropriate tier to ensure success for the individual student. Students will take all 3 papers at the same tier in the summer of Year 11.

Paper 1: Non- Calculator

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Worth 33.33% of the final qualification.

Paper 2: Calculator

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Worth 33.33% of the final qualification.

Paper 3: Calculator

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Worth 33.33% of the final qualification.



Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Mathematics students: GCSE Edexcel Mathematics Exam Practice Workbook by CGP Books (Higher or Foundation), GCSE Edexcel Mathematics Revision Guide by CGP Books (Higher or Foundation) MathsBuster: GCSE Maths Interactive Revision Higher, MathsBuster: GCSE Maths Mock Exam Paper Book Higher, MathsBuster: GCSE Maths Interactive Revision Foundation, MathsBuster: GCSE Maths Mock Exam Paper Book Foundation.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Mathematics to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: A Level Mathematics, A Level Further Mathematics, Level 3 Certificate in Mathematical Studies (Core Mathematics), A Level Physics, A Level Psychology, A Level Geography and A Level Design Technology. All students will study Mathematics at GCSE. Studying Mathematics gives many valuable transferable skills and also leads to a variety of career paths including: Accountant, Engineering, Construction, Banking, Cyber Security, Data Analyst, Economist, Finance Officer, Investment Analyst, Software Developer, Teacher.

GCSE Maths is a core subject.

Science

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)

Overview

GCSE Science is a core subject which all Key Stage 4 students will study. Studying Science provides students with essential skills such as undertaking research and thinking analytically which is important in many other fields. We offer Combined Science and Triple Science to our students. The Science department will advise which pathway will gain each student the most success.

Most students take Combined Science which is worth two GCSEs and covers aspects of all three sciences.

If you have a particular aptitude for Science then it is possible to take the Triple Science option if this is recommended by our Science department. This will allow you to study separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics in distinct lessons each week. Studying separate sciences will be particularly suitable for those students who may wish to specialise in the sciences at A Level and beyond, but taking Combined Science does not prevent further study of the Sciences at A Level.

- **Biology topics** include cell biology, infection and response, inheritance, variation and evolution, ecology and bioenergetics.
- **Chemistry topics** include atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, the rate and extent of chemical change and organic chemistry.
- **Physics topics** include forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, radioactivity (and space for separates only).

Course Content

Assessment

All students will take six exams in the summer of Year 11. Students take two exams in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics. GCSE Science has a Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (Grades 4-9). The Science department will advise on the most appropriate tier to ensure success for the individual student. Students will take all 3 papers at the same tier in the summer of Year 11. Combined Science exams last 75 minutes and Separate Science exams last 105 minutes. There is no coursework, but the written exams include questions about the required practical work done in class.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Science pupils: The Complete Human Body by Alice Roberts, DK Chemistry: Big Ideas Simply Explained (also in this DK series: Big ideas in Astronomy, Biology, Science, Physics), That's Life by Robert Winston, Why Don't Penguins' Feet Freeze? New Scientist, Ask an Astronaut by Tim Peake, Wonders of the Solar System by Brian Cox, A Brief History of Black Holes by Dr Becky Smethurst, The Awesome Power of Sleep: How Sleep Super-charges Your Teenage Brain by Nicola Morgan, Fourteen Wolves: A rewinding story by Catherine Barr and Jenni Desmond.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

If you achieve high grades in Combined Science or Separate Sciences you could go on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Achieving Grade 4 or above would enable you to take the Level 3 BTEC Course in Applied Science which is equivalent to one A-Level.

Studying Science gives many valuable transferable skills and also leads to a variety of career paths including: Aeronautical engineer, Animal technician, Archaeologist, Architect, Astronaut, Astronomer, Biochemist, Biologist, Biomedical scientist, Botanist, Car mechanic, Chemist, Chemical engineer, Civil engineer, Climate scientist, Computer engineer, Dentist, Dietician, Ecologist, Electrical engineer, Electrician, Engineering technician, Farmer, Fingerprint officer, Food scientist, Forensic scientist, Gardener, Geneticist, Geologist, Hairdresser, Healthcare assistant, Journalist, Marine biologist, Mechanical engineer Medical doctor, Microbiologist, Neuroscientist, Nurse, Nutritionist, Oceanographer, Palaeontologist, Paramedic, Pathologist, Physicist, Physiotherapist, Pharmaceutical scientist, Plumber, Robotics engineer, Science technician, Seismologist, Sports scientist, Sound engineer, Teacher, Teaching assistant, Vet, Veterinary nurse, Volcanologist, Zoologist.

GCSE Science is a core subject.



Further Info

Please contact
Mr Edwards,
Head of Science,
if you would like any
further information.

Art

Exam Board: Edexcel (GCSE)

Overview

The course is designed to be flexible and to allow pupils to work in a variety of media; however, pupils will predominantly work within painting and drawing and need to have passion for the subject and a degree of drawing skill in order to be successful.

There will be opportunities to try some photography and printmaking processes. It is a requirement of the course that students continue to improve and develop their work outside of lessons.

In Year 10, students build confidence with observational skills and different media. The course is structured to give students a greater awareness of their own work in relation to that of other artists and to gain confidence in developing their own way of working.

The projects focus on themes such as portraits and still life.

The teacher will guide students towards their area of strength when they develop their coursework portfolio, which will start in Year 10 and conclude with a final piece in the first term of Year 11. The rest of Year 11 is given to the Controlled Assessment preparation and refinement.

Course Content

Assessment

Artwork comprised of two elements:

Coursework portfolio 60% of the GCSE grade

This is worked on throughout Year 10 and into Year 11.

Controlled Assessment 40% of the GCSE grade

This paper given in Year 11. The theme for the project is set by the exam board. The students work on this theme in class, and as homework with their teacher culminating in a final outcome that is produced over 10 hours in exam conditions.

Both elements are marked internally by the Art Department, then moderated by the Exam Board.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is strongly recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Art students: *Ways of Seeing* by John Berger, *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier, *Art: The Definitive Visual Guide* by Andrew Graham Dixon, *Amazing Artists and Designers (Brilliant Women)* by Georgia Amson-Bradshaw and Rita Petruccioli, *Artists: Their Lives and Works* by Andrew Graham Dixon, *The Arrival* by Sean Tann, *If Paintings Could Talk* by Michael Wilson, *The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece* by Edward Dolnick, *The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves, and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History* by Robert M. Edsel, *Why Your Five Year Old Could Not Have Done That: Modern Art Explained* by Susie Hodge, *50 Women Artist you Should Know* by Christiane Weidemann, *Art Matters: Because Your Imagination Can Change the World* by Neil Gaiman.

In addition to this, regular visits to museums, galleries and exhibitions are essential for a GCSE Art student as this enables students to experience art at first hand, and to see work in context. Nothing compares to seeing the texture and scale of an artwork up close.

Local museums and galleries: The Higgins, Bedford, Milton Keynes Gallery, The Fitzwilliam and Kettles Yard, Cambridge. Museums and galleries in London: The National, The National Portrait Gallery, Tate Modern, Tate Britain, The V and A, The Saatchi Gallery, The British Museum, The Royal Academy.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Art to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Fine Art, Architecture, Applied Art (which includes textiles, ceramics), Fashion, Theatrical Design, Gaming Design, Photography, Graphic Communications, Illustration, Art History, Animation, Product Design.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Art: Architect, Fine Artist, Illustration, Teacher, Museum Curator, Art Historian, Muralist, Photographer, Art Conservationist. Design in any of the following areas: Fashion, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Furniture Design, Industrial Design, Theatrical Design, TV and Film design, Textiles, Gaming Design (scenic and character).



Further Info

Please contact
Ms Saunders,
Head of Art,

if you would like any
further information.

Business Studies

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel (GCSE)

Overview

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to know and understand business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society. Students apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts. They also develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems.

Course Content

Assessment

At the end of their two-year study, students write two 1 and half hour papers which are equally weighted. These are divided into Theme 1 and Theme 2.

Theme 1

Concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business. This forms **Paper 1** of the examination. Students answer short and long questions including basic business calculations.

Theme 2

This examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows. This forms **Paper 2** of the examination.

Further Reading

How I Made It: 40 Successful Entrepreneurs Reveal How They Made Millions by Rachel Bridge, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference by Malcolm Gladwell, The Google Story by David A. Vise, Quiet leadership by Carlo Ancelot, The Toyota Way: 14 Management Principles from the World's Greatest Manufacturer by Jeffrey Liker, Business Stripped Bare: Adventures of a Global Entrepreneur by Sir Richard Branson.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Business Studies will support students considering further study in the following subjects: A Level Business Studies, Sociology, Politics, Law. There is also a clear link between Business Studies and Information Technology.

At Higher Education students can take a number of career paths including Business Studies, Finance and Data Analytics, Law, Business and Management, Change Management and Accountancy.



Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR (GCSE)



Further Info

Please contact
**Mr Mataire, Head of
Computer Science and IT,**
if you would like any
further information.

Overview

The GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Computer Science students analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs building on the programming skills they have learnt at Key Stage 3. In addition to this, students further develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators. Students are given the opportunity to undertake a programming task during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, and test and refine programs using the Python high-level programming language.

Course Content

Assessment

Component 1: Computer systems

Written Examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes.

This assessment tests students on their understanding of computer systems including; the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. This also includes ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Worth 50% of final qualification.

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written Examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes.

This assessment tests students on skills and understanding of computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Worth 50% of final qualification.

Component 3: Programming Project

It is a requirement for all students to complete and submit a Practical Programming Project. Although this does not contribute to the final grade, it is essential in developing the skills required in components 1 and 2.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for Computer Science students: Alan Turing: The Enigma by Andrew Hodges, Learning to Program in Python by PM Heathcote, The Bletchley Park Code Breakers, In Their Own Words by Joel Greenberg, 50 Codes that Changed the World by Sinclair McKay, GCSE Computer Science for OCR Student Book, GCSE Computer Science OCR Revision Guide, GCSE Computer Science OCR Exam Practice Workbook, Coding Practice, Learning Python, 5th Edition by Mark Lutz.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Computer Science to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Computer Networking, Software Systems, Data Science. Specific areas of study include: Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Software Development, Computational Biology, Game Design and Computer Security. The GCSE Computer Science course also lays a firm foundation for those students wishing to take the subject at A Level.

Students with an interest in the following career would consider studying GCSE Computer Science: Web Development, Database Administrator, Game Designer, Software Developer, Information Security Analyst, APP Developer, Network Administrator. A career in the computer science field can offer exciting opportunities to contribute to innovations in technology and to find new ways for businesses to use computers.



Creative iMedia

Exam Board: OCR (CNAT)

Overview

Creative iMedia students have a strong desire to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by investigating, exploring and creating media products. Students will need to develop their technical skills and learn the use of specialistic media and IT equipment. Students will be introduced to a wide range of new terminology and skills to help support them in their future media careers. This qualification will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry. This qualification will help students 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.

Due to the specialised equipment required for this course please note places are limited.

Course Content

Assessment

The qualification is made up of three mandatory units.

Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry.

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minute written examination.
OCR set and marked.

Worth of the final qualification.

Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

This set assignment contains two practical tasks and take approximately 10-12 guided learning hours to complete.

OCR-set assignment.

Centre-assessed and OCR moderated.

Optional unit:

Students choose one unit from a number of optional units. Each of these units will help you develop understanding and skills related to different digital media products from a number of sectors of the media industry.

This is assessed by completing a set assignment.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for Creative iMedia students: Creative and Media by Jan Champney, Making New Media: Creative Production and Digital Literacies by Andrew Burn, Design with Adobe Creative Cloud by Adobe Creative Team, Animation Production by Robert B. Musburger.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Creative iMedia will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Level 2 or Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technicals in Digital Media and/or Information Technology; Game design, computer science, art and photography, marketing, business studies.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying Creative iMedia: Media Industry, Radio And TV Opportunities, Social Media Marketing, Print Marketing, Game Design, Animation Design.



Dance

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)



Further Info

Please contact
Miss Halsey,
Head of Dance,
if you would like any
further information.

Overview

GCSE Dance students will need a love and passion for creating original work and performing repertoire using a range of different stimuli and styles of dance. Students will develop their organisation, communication and creative skills through both performance and choreographic aspects of the course.

They must be willing to work and perform in both group and solo situations, and they will also be expected to analyse and appreciate existing dance works. Extra-Curricular activities and rehearsals are essential to student's development in this course as they will be expected to attend rehearsals outside of lesson times.

Over the course GCSE Dance students study:

- Physical, Technical, Expressive and Mental skills
- Different dance styles and fusions of style
- A selection of established and emerging choreographers
- Different numbers and combinations of dancers
- A variety of choreographic approaches and processes
- Different choreographic structures
- A variety of types of performance environment
- A variety of aural settings
- Inclusive dance
- Dance influenced by other cultures

Course Content

Assessment

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Performance: Set phrases through a solo performance and duet/trio performance.

Worth 30% of the final qualification.

Choreography: Solo or group choreography - solo (2-2½ minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (3-3½ minutes).

Worth 30% of the final qualification.

Component 2: Theory

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.

Critical appreciation of own work.

Critical appreciation of professional works.

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Worth 40% of the final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Dance students: Dance Sense by Linda Ashley, The Essential Guide to dance by Linda Ashley, The Dancers study Guide by Anthony King, AQA GCSE Dance Textbook by Pam Howard and Fifty Contemporary Choreographers by Martha Bremser.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Dance to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Dance, Drama, Music, Sport, English language, English Literature, Biology.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Dance: Musical Theatre, Professional Dance Companies, Entertainment Industry, Teaching, Special Educational Needs Teacher, Fitness Instructor, Yoga teacher, Pilate's teacher, Corporate events, West End shows, Music videos, Cruise ships, Sports events, Movement Therapist, Physiotherapist, Sports Therapist.



Design and Technology

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)

Overview

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will enjoy working creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. As there are clear links with Maths and Science it benefits our students to have a sound knowledge in those subjects. Studying Design and Technology opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable.

You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers.

GCSE Design and Technology is a two year linear course with a written examination in the summer of the final year. Students also study a Non-Examination Assessment (coursework) which is a design task with a portfolio of design work and prototype outcome(s). While the study of materials and processes will support your work in the NEA (coursework) lessons will be scheduled where you will learn the theoretical content necessary for the examination. These will often be referred to as 'theory' lessons.

The theory will be taught in around 52 lessons over the course of the two years alongside your practical or NEA lessons.

Course Content

Assessment

Examination

Written exam: 2 hours.

In the written examination, questions will address maths and science knowledge.

Worth 50% of the final qualification.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

A substantial design and make task lasting approximately one school year. This will be in response to one of three design contexts released by the AQA towards the end of Year 10.

Worth 50% of the final qualification.

The NEA will assess the practical application of core, specialist technical and designing and making principles and consist of a substantial design and make task covering the following:

- identifying and investigating design possibilities
- producing a design brief and specification
- generating design ideas
- developing design ideas
- realising design ideas in prototype form
- analysing & evaluating

The contextual challenges are released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Design and Technology pupils: D&T AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology 8552 (2022 Edition) by MJ Ross, AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology: Timber, Metal-Based Materials and Polymers by Bryan Williams, Louise Attwood, GCSE AQA Design and Technology: Illustrated Revision and Practice by L Sheppard and PG Online, AQA GCSE 9-1 Design & Technology Complete Revision & Practice: Ideal for home learning by Collins.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Design and Technology to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: A Level Design and Technology Project work in areas such as: Engineering, Fashion and Textiles, Product Design and vocational qualifications in areas such as: Building Computing/IT, Construction, Design, Engineering, Fashion, Manufacturing, Textiles.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Design and Technology: Apprenticeships (Earn as you learn without student loans) in areas such as: Building, Computer Aided Design (CAD), Construction, Engineering, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Design, Information Communication Technology, Manufacturing, Planning.

Further Info

Please contact
Mr Hansraj
if you would like any
further information.

Digital Information Technology

Exam Board: Pearson (BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2)

Overview

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is for students who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying project planning, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection. This course teaches Information Technology skills through vocational contexts. It broadens students' experience and understanding of the many applications of Information Technology in industry and business. It covers processes that underpin effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as; the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.

Students are taught how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues. Students learn about the various digital devices and how they are interconnected to form the backbone of today's workplaces.

Course Content

Assessment

Students are assessed throughout the duration of Year 10 and Year 11. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment under formal supervision to ensure that learners' work is authentic and that all learners have had the same assessment opportunity. The non-exam internal assessment for these components has been designed to demonstrate application of the conceptual knowledge underpinning the sector through realistic tasks and activities. Component 1 and 2 are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and applied to realistic contexts.

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours under formal supervision.

This will be assessed in the spring term of Year 10. This assessment is worth 60 marks - 30% of the final grade.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours under formal supervision.

This will be assessed in the autumn term of Year 11. This assessment is worth 60 marks - 30% of the final grade.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices

Effective Digital Working Practices requires learners to apply decision-making skills and techniques in line with different organisations' use of digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

This examination will take place in the summer term of Year 11. This assessment is worth 60 marks - 40% of the final grade.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for Digital Information Technology students: Pearson Revise BTEC First in ICT Revision Guide, BTEC Level 2 First IT Student Book, Information and Communication Technologies in Everyday Life: Opportunities and Challenges paperback by Ali AL-Dahoud, Loved: How to Rethink Marketing for Tech Products by Martina Lauchengco, Crypto for Beginners: A Simple Non-Technical Guide on the Blockchain Revolution and Crypto Investing for Creating Multi-Generational Wealth by Hudson Lee.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Digital Information Technology will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Level 3 BTEC IT, Digital Marketing, Information Technology degree or study ICT as a module of many other courses such as Psychology, Human Sciences, and Economics.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying Digital Information Technology: Website Developer, Database Analyst, Privacy Coordinator, UX Designer, Online Community Coordinator, Web Marketing Management, Information Security Analyst, Digital Strategist, Staff Technologist.



Further Info

Please contact
**Mr Mataire, Head of
Computer Science and IT,**
if you would like any
further information.

Drama

Exam Board: Eduqas (GCSE)



Further Info

Please contact
Mrs Farnsworth,
Head of Drama,
if you would like any
further information.

Overview

Drama is a practical subject suitable for students who like to be both creative and active, and is highly valued in both educational settings and the work place. It is a valuable subject for those students who wish to develop, performance and analysis skills. Lesson time is split between practical exploration, development of performance and design skills, and written theory work. Students will continue to develop skills gained at Key Stage 3, and start to apply these to a variety of theatre styles and practitioners to create their own original work for performance.

Students are also required to write about live theatre they have seen, therefore it is essential that students choosing GCSE Drama understand that they will be required to attend up to three theatre visits over the course. GCSE students also attend rehearsals after school as part of their development and rehearsal process for their practical exams.

The GCSE Drama course offers two pathways; Acting or Production Design. Production Design is based on sound and lighting design, and it is the design element that is assessed and not the operation of the technical equipment. Students are able to opt for either pathway and will be taught within one class with access to specialist teaching in their chosen field. GCSE Drama provides a contrasting learning environment to many other subjects, and our students comment enthusiastically on how this different learning environment impacts positively on their mental wellbeing and motivation for all subjects.

Course Content

Assessment

Component 1: Devising Theatre

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. Non-exam assessment: Students are assessed through non-exam internal assessment and externally moderated. Worth 40% of final qualification.

Component 2: Performing from a Text

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre. Learners participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts. Non-exam assessment: Students are externally assessed by a visiting examiner. Worth 20% of final qualification.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Section A: Set Text for assessment.

A series of questions on one set text from a choice of seven:

1. Macbeth William Shakespeare
2. An Inspector Calls J.B. Priestley
3. Find Me Olwen Wymark
4. Noughts & Crosses Malorie Blackman
5. Refugee Boy Benjamin Zephaniah
6. I Love You Mum – I Promise I Won't Die Mark Wheeler
7. The IT Vivienne Franzmann

Section B: Live Theatre Review. Requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course. Worth 40% of final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Drama students: An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley, The Frantic Assembly Book of Devising Theatre by Scott Graham, GCSE Drama: Live Theatre Evaluation by Annie Fox, WJEC/Eduqas GCSE Drama (New spec from Sept 2016) by Gary Nicholas, Stanislavski For Beginners by David Allen, Brecht: A Practical Handbook by David Zoob. In addition, we would also recommend seeing as much live theatre as possible.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Drama to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Drama and Theatre Studies, Performing Arts, English Literature, Psychology, History, Design, Media Studies.

Students with an interest in the following career paths should consider studying GCSE Drama: Acting, Design, Director, Playwright, Journalism, Media, Communications, Entrepreneur, Lawyer, and Teacher.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)

Overview

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course equips students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. It develops an awareness of diverse needs and includes; Health, fitness, food science as well as the moral and social aspects of food.

At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are divided into five topics:

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

Course Content

Assessment

AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition is a linear course with non examination units and a written examination in the summer of Year 11.

Examination

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes.
Worth 50% of the final qualification.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

Written report: Food investigation looking at the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Completed over 10 hours and students are expected to produce 1,500–2,000 words and photographic evidence.

Worth 15% of the final qualification.

Portfolio: Food preparation assessment tasks which demonstrate students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition. Completed over 20 hours and students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Worth 35% of the final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Science pupils: Use the GCSE textbooks by A Rickus *et al*, Anita Tull and Garry Littlehood and revision Guide, *The missing ingredient* by Jenny Linford, *Ingredient* by Ali Bouzari, *On Food and Cooking* by Harold McGee.



What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Food Science and Nutrition A Level, Hospitality and Catering.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition: Food science, Food Technology, an apprenticeship in the Hospitality and Catering Industry.



French

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)

Overview

Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities for our students. Language skills are in high demand in a competitive job market and an international career can be extremely rewarding. The GCSE French course not only prepares students well for the international job market allowing them to communicate confidently but enriches their knowledge of our global society outside of the UK. Students studying GCSE French are expected to work hard and undertake regular vocabulary practice at home to support their memory of a new language. Student's study all of the following themes across the two-year course:

- **Theme 1: People and Lifestyle**
- **Theme 2: Popular Culture**
- **Theme 3: Communication and the World around us**

Course Content

Assessment

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students will be entered for the most appropriate tier to ensure success for the individual. Students take all four question papers at the same tier in the summer of Year 11.

Paper 1: Listening

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

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 2: Speaking

Students are expected to speak in French for:

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier),

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier).

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 3: Reading

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

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 4: Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier).

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE French students: AQA GCSE (9-1) French Vocabulary Crosswords by Samiul Hassan, GCSE French AQA Exam Practice Workbook by CGP Books, GCSE French Translation Skills Workbook by CGP Book, French Short Stories for beginners by Lingo Mastery, Les Etrangers – Book 1 - Un garçon mystérieux by Dr Gianfranco Conti, Le Petit Prince: bilingue avec le texte parallèle by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Journal d'un dégonflé (French Edition) by Jeff Kinney.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying French to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: French A level, Law, Politics, European Studies, Translation, Interpreting, International Relations, Marketing.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE French: Interpreter, Translator, Lawyer, Politics, Economist, Working in the EU, Bilingual PA, International Accountant, Teacher, Journalist.

GCSE French is one of the EBacc group of options.



Further Info

Please contact
Mrs Soto,
Head of Languages,
if you would like any
further information.

Geography

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)



Further Info

Please contact
Mr Welton
Head of Geography,
if you would like any
further information.

Overview

GCSE Geography students have an interest and knowledge of the world around them and will be hungry to learn more about how the human and physical (natural) world interact to create distinct landscapes. Our students are curious around the processes that lead to changes in these environments. Students considering GCSE Geography will need to be hard working with strong literacy and numeracy skills to allow them to make the most of the extended written answers and the analysis of data, images and maps. There are mathematical elements throughout all papers and an understanding of working out percentages, mean, mode, median and range are vital, along with interpreting information, data and map skills. These will be developed throughout the course but a sound knowledge to begin with would be beneficial. Students will be expected to deepen their learning at home through tasks set that will strengthen their case studies and help them practice their written responses. Exposure to other forms of media is also important to gain a more critical understanding of the subject, such as documentaries and podcasts.

The GCSE will look at a range of geographical concepts, processes and then these will be applied to detailed examples that students will need to learn and recall in the examinations; known as geographical case studies.

The core themes of the GCSE are as follows:

- **Physical Geography** – Tectonic Hazards, Weather Hazards and Climate Change. Global Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, and Hot Desert Environments. UK Landscapes including Coastal and River Landscapes.
- **Human Geography** – Urban growth and reasons for this, with a focus on London and Rio de Janeiro. Global development, with focuses on the economies of The UK and Nigeria. Global Resource Management, with a focus on the provision of Energy in the UK and globally.
- **Field work** – there is a fieldwork element to the GCSE. Students will need to collect data to answer a geographical question and will be examined externally on their findings in an exam setting. There is a small cost involved with these visits that will require a parental contribution, but ability to pay should not be a factor in deciding on this as an appropriate course.

There is support available for qualifying students.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Geography to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Geography, Geo-engineering, Mathematics, Biology, Environmental Sciences, Geology and Development Studies.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Geography: Teaching, Oceanography, Business analyst, Cartographer, Data analyst, Environmental consultant, Engineering, Tourism and Travel Agency, Environmental Officer, Park Ranger, Political Analysis, Charity Work (NGO), Development Economist and Geologist.

Geography is one of the EBacc group of options.

Course Content

Assessment

Students are assessed over 3 separate examinations in the summer of Year 11. The breakdown of the examinations is as follows:

Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment

Written examination 1 Hour and 30 minutes.

Worth 35% of total qualification.

Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment

Written examination 1 Hour and 30 minutes.

Worth 35% of total qualification.

Paper 3 – Geographical Applications

Fieldwork and a geographical issue, given in a pre-release booklet.

Written examination 1 Hour and 30 minutes.

Worth 30% of total qualification

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Geography students:

Factfulness: Ten reasons we are wrong about the world by Hans Rosling, any book by Tim Marshall (Prisoners of Geography and Divided are good starting points), There is No Planet B by Mike Berners-Lee and any National Geographic publication.

Health and Social Care

Exam Board: Edexcel (BTEC)

Overview

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. It is estimated that by 2035 approximately 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled. Studying Health and Social Care at Key Stage 4 provides a good foundation of knowledge about the key principles which run throughout the sector.

Students will be given the opportunity to apply their understanding to practical scenarios. There are strong opportunities for post-16 progression in this important sector. Our Health and Social care qualification is suitable for students on a bespoke pathway. Over the course Health and Social Care pupils study:

- **Component 1: Human Lifespan Development** – Students will investigate how, in real situations, human development is affected by different factors and that people deal differently with life events.
- **Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values** – Students will explore the health and social care services that are available and why individuals may need to use them.
- **Component 3: Health and Wellbeing** – Students will study the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and how to design a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

Course Content

Assessment

Students are assessed throughout the duration of Year 10 and Year 11. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment under formal supervision to ensure that learners' work is authentic and that all learners have had the same assessment opportunity. The non-exam internal assessment for these components has been designed to demonstrate application of the conceptual knowledge underpinning the sector through realistic tasks and activities. Component 1 and 2 are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and applied to realistic contexts. This external exam is based on a written assessment that requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole qualification.

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of formal supervision.

This will be assessed in the spring term of Year 10.

Worth 30% of the final qualification.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

The Pearson-set Assignment will be completed in approximately 6 hours of formal supervision.

This will be assessed in the autumn term of Year 11.

Worth 30% of the final qualification.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

Written exam: 2 hours.

Worth 40% of the final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for BTEC Health and Social Care pupils: Student Book - BTEC Tech Award 2022 Health and Social Care (2022), CGP Revision Guide - BTEC Tech Award 2022 Health & Social Care (2022).

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Health and Social Care will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Health and Social Care Level 3 BTEC, Psychology, Criminology, Sociology, Applied Science, English Language.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying BTEC Health and Social Care: Health Care roles such as healthcare assistants, health visitors, midwives, nurses, paramedics. Social Care roles such as care assistants, careers advisors, foster carers, nursery managers, social workers and youth workers.



Further Info

Please contact
Mrs Wigley,
Assistant Headteacher,
if you would like any
further information.

History

Exam Board: Edexcel (GCSE)

Overview

GCSE History students will need a love of the past and a desire to understand how the past has shaped our future.

Much emphasis is placed on written work and there is a very high degree of reading and essay writing involved; students will need to have strong literacy skills to succeed on this course.

Students will enjoy building upon their current knowledge from Key Stage 3 by revisiting and deepening their understanding of content studied previously. Our History course supports progression to A Level so that students will have a coherent and diverse experience of history if they take both an Edexcel GCSE and go on to study A Level in History.

Over the course GCSE History students study:

- Crime and Punishment from 1000AD to Modern day
- Whitechapel from 1870-1900

Certain time periods are also studied in depth:

- The Elizabethan Age, 1558 - 1588
- Germany, 1918-1939
- The Cold War 1941-1991

Course Content

Assessment

GCSE History consists of three externally examined papers in the summer of Year 11:

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes.
Worth 30% of the final qualification.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Written examination: 1 hour and 50 minutes.
Worth 40% of the final qualification.

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes.
Worth 30% of the final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE History students: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, *Alone in Berlin* by Han Fallada, *The Third Reich* by Michael Burleigh, *Going Over* by Beth Kephart, *The Origins of the Cold War* by Martin McCauley, *Two Brothers* by Ben Elton.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying History to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: History, Criminology, Politics, European Studies, Art History, International Relations.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE History: Lawyer, Politics, Economist, Working in NATO or the European Union, Archaeologist, Teacher, Journalist.

GCSE History is one of the EBacc group of options.



Further Info

Please contact
Miss Palmiero,
Head of History,
if you would like any
further information.

Media Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas (GCSE)

Overview

While studying GCSE Media Studies students will explore the world of mass media which includes advertising, television, film, newspapers, web-based media, radio, popular music, magazines and video games. To study the media is to understand the world we live in. This course seeks to enable students to become aware of key media concepts, their role as consumers of the media, explore how audiences are constructed and targeted, analyse media texts, carry out research and create their own practical media work.

Course Content

Assessment

External Assessment accounts for 70% of the total marks.

There are two papers of equal weighting:

Paper 1: Industries, audiences and representation

A study of a wide range of set texts exploring how different industries operate, how audiences receive texts and how representations are constructed.

Paper 2: Media language and contexts

A close textual analysis of how audio-visual texts construct meaning and the influence of contexts on the creation of texts.

NEA accounts for 30%

A practical production piece in response to a brief. This allows you to demonstrate your theoretical knowledge and apply it to a real-life context.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

The media is an ever-expanding industry. Promotion through social media is a rapidly growing area. GCSE Media Studies can help students on the road to a career in the media. It provides students with relevant, modern and practical knowledge and skills. Students can progress to Media Studies at A-Level, and beyond at university.

There are also a range of apprenticeships available with respected media corporations.



Further Reading

To help develop your understanding of Media the following texts are recommended: The Media Student's Book - Gill Branston and Roy Stafford, Digital Culture: understanding new media - Glen Creeber and Royston Martin, Key Themes in Media Theory - Dan Laughey, Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide - Henry Jenkins and Key Concepts and Skills for Media Studies - James Baker.



Music

Exam Board: OCR (GCSE)



Further Info

Please contact
Mr Phelps,
Head of Music,
if you would like any
further information.

Overview

In GCSE Music is a highly practical course, building on students' experience of performing and composing music at Key Stage 3.

Students are provided with a 20 minute weekly instrumental or vocal lesson to help them prepare for the performance components, and have access to our state-of-the-art computer suite in order to complete composition work.

This is a GCSE that requires a high level of teamwork and collaboration, making Music a course that is highly favoured with Higher Education establishments and employers.

This is also a course that encourages independence and personal development, and for **Area of Study 1 "My Music"** students are encouraged to choose their own style of music to explore and to provide the inspiration for their practical work. There are also four additional areas of study, covering a huge range of musical styles.

Area of Study 2: The Concerto Through Time

Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World

Area of Study 4: Music for Film, TV and Computer Games

Area of Study 5: Popular Music in Context

Course Content

Assessment

Performance

Performance: 30% of the final qualification.

Students perform 2 or more pieces, totalling at least 4 minutes, including one ensemble.

Composition

30% of the final qualification.

Students compose 2 pieces, totalling at least 3 minutes.

Listening

1 hour 30 minutes

A written exam consisting of 8 questions, based on Areas of Study 2-5 and worth 40% of the final mark.

Further Reading/Listening

Useful reading to extend understanding includes: GCSE OCR Student Guide to AoS 2: The Concerto through time by Priscilla Crundwell, OCR GCSE Music Study Guide by Steven Berryman, Hanh Doan and David Guinane.

Even more important is to be listening to a wide variety of music, particularly including music from the classical tradition and from other parts of the world.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Music to GCSE level will support pupils progressing to A levels in Music or Music Technology, or to BTEC Level 3 in Music or Performing Arts.

Music qualifications are helpful for careers requiring teamwork and creative thinking, such as Law, Recruitment and Management. Careers specifically requiring Music include: Composition, Digital Music, Live Events Production, Popular Music Performance, Media and Communication (Music Industries), Music Business, Music Journalism, Music Management, Music Production, Music Technology, Musical Theatre, Songwriting, Sound Engineering, Sound Technology, Stage Management.



Physical Education / Sport & Coaching

Exam Board: Edexcel (GCSE) & Sport & Coaching Principles (Eduqas)

Overview

GCSE PE and Sport & Coaching Principles in Key Stage 4, build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 and provide exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. Studying either GCSE PE or Sport & Coaching Principles develops knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities and examines the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance. Students will find ways to improve their own performances in a variety of roles, identifying ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity and appreciate the benefits of promoting 'sport for all'. Students should have an outstanding attitude towards sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

GCSE PE

For GCSE PE, it is expected that students represent the school in at least one sport and plays regular competitive sport outside of school. Our GCSE PE students are practically strong in PE. With a demand on knowledge linked to the Science curriculum, GCSE PE students have a genuine interest in the human body. In addition to this, as there is a high degree of essay writing involved, it is recommended that students have strong literacy skills to succeed on this course.

Eduqas Sport & Coaching Principles

For Eduqas Sport & Coaching Principles, it is expected students have an outstanding attitude towards sport with regular participation in sport and physical activity. Our Sport students are practically strong in PE with leadership qualities. This course supports students to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector. Students are expected to work hard and undertake a degree of research to support coursework so working hard in English supports our students.

Please note that when selecting PE as an option subject we offer GCSE and Sports Studies. As a PE Department, we want to ensure that you are put onto the right course. Therefore, when completing your options form, there will be an overall option of PE and the PE Department will select the appropriate course. You will be informed of what course you have been placed onto, when your other options are confirmed. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact a member of the PE Department.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying either GCSE PE or Sport & Coaching is the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course or a Level 3 vocational course in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE PE or Sport & Coaching: Nutritionist, Physical Therapist, Chiropractor, Physiotherapist, Professional Sportsperson, Sports Reporter, PE teacher, Personal trainer, Diet and Fitness Instructor.



Physical Education / Sport & Coaching Cont.

Exam Board: Edexcel (GCSE) & Sport Coaching Principles (Eduqas)

■ Course Content

Assessment

We offer both GCSE PE and Level 1/Level 2 Eduqas Sport & Coaching Principles; the main difference between the two options is the way in which students will be assessed.

GCSE PE

Students will sit the two externally examined papers in the summer of Year 11.

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Written Examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes.
Worth 36% of final qualification.

Component 2: Health and Performance

Written Examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes.
Worth 24% of final qualification.

Component 3: Practical Performance

Students are assessed in 3 sports; one team sport, one individual sport and one free choice. Assessed via practical exam in school or by collecting video evidence of performance outside of school.
Worth 30% of final qualification.

Component 4: Written Coursework

Students must design, complete and evaluate a 6-week Personal Exercise Programme. Assessed internally by subject teacher and moderated by the exam board.
Worth 10% of final qualification.

Eduqas Sport & Coaching Principles

Students are assessed throughout the duration of Year 10 and Year 11.

Unit 1: Fitness for Sport (examination 40%)

Written exam: 1 hour 20 minutes.

This examination will take place in the summer term of Year 11.

Worth 40% of the final qualification.

Unit 2: Improving Sporting Performance

Coursework: This unit introduces learners to how different areas of sporting performance can be improved.

The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the knowledge and understanding needed to be able to analyse sporting performance, identify strengths and weaknesses and plan for improvement.

An understanding of fitness for sport will improve fitness to enable enjoyment of activities as well as improving technique and psychological wellbeing.

Worth 25% of the final qualification.

Unit 3: Coaching Principles

Coursework: The aim of this unit is to provide learners with the appropriate knowledge and understanding to be able to plan, lead and evaluate a coaching session within a sporting activity.

Coaches have to develop their knowledge and experience of how to lead sporting activities successfully to inspire and shape the development of talented performers.

Worth 35% of the final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for PE and Sport Studies students:

Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby, Touching the Void by Joe Simpson, Born to Run by Christopher McDougall, Leading by Alex Ferguson, Legacy by James Kerr, The Rodchenkov Affair by Dr Grigory Rodchenkov, The Blind Side by Michael Lewis, Open by Andre Agassi, Runner by Lizzy Hawker, The National Team by Caitlin Murray, The Big Miss by Hank Haney, Sevens Heaven by Ben Ryan, Soccernomics by Simon Kuper & Stefan Szymanski.



Religious Studies

Exam Board: OCR (GCSE)



Further Info

Please contact
Ms Day,
Head of Religious Studies,
if you would like any
further information.

Overview

The GCSE Religious Studies course takes a distinctive issues based approach to the study of religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world. Students understand more about the world, the religious challenges it faces and their place within it. The course will enable learners to deepen their understanding of the relationship between people, as well as becoming informed about common and divergent views within traditions in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed. Students learn how to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of religion and ethical issues on individuals, communities and societies, from different perspectives. The course ensures that learners know and understand the fact that religious traditions of Great Britain whilst being, in the main, Christian are also diverse and include the following religious and non-religious traditions and beliefs such as humanism and atheism. Learners will be expected to know, understand and express common and divergent views, and the basis for beliefs, teachings and practice.

The aims and objectives of the course are to develop students' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as humanism and atheism. Students gain knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, practices, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying.

Students will enjoy developing the ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject and topics covered. They will also appreciate the opportunities given to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life.

Course Content

Assessment

Students will be assessed on three components and will complete three written papers in the summer of Year 11.

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the modern world

Written examination: 2 hours.
Worth: 50% qualification.

Component 2: Study of Christianity

Written examination: 1 hour.
Worth 25% of final qualification.

Component 3: Study of a World Faith (Islam)

Written examination: 1 hour.
Worth 25% of final qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Religious Studies students:

Philosophy and Faith by Steve Wilkens, Religion and Life Issues by Ina Taylor, Religion and Beliefs – Christianity by Ina Taylor, Christianity and Moral Issues Anne Jordan, Islam Beliefs and Teachings by Ghulam Sarwar, Seeking Religion: The Muslim Experience by Jan Thompson.



What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Religious Studies will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Philosophy, Religious Studies, Sociology, Law, Politics, Psychology, and Criminology.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Religious Studies: Teacher, Social worker, Youth worker, Police officer, Armed forces, Journalist, Lawyer, Doctor, Midwife, Travel Industry, Editor and Author.

Spanish

Exam Board: AQA (GCSE)

Overview

Speaking another language opens up a world of opportunities for our students. Language skills are in high demand in a competitive job market and an international career can be extremely rewarding. The GCSE Spanish course not only prepares students well for the international job market allowing them to communicate confidently but enriches their knowledge of our global society outside of the UK. Students studying GCSE Spanish are expected to work hard and undertake regular vocabulary practice at home to support their memory of a new language.

Students study all of the following themes across the two year course:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World around us

Course Content

Assessment

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (Grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (Grades 4–9). Students will be entered for the most appropriate tier to ensure success for the individual. Students take all four question papers at the same tier.

Paper 1: Listening

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

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 2: Speaking

Students are expected to speak in Spanish for:

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier),
10–12 minutes (Higher Tier).

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 3: Reading

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

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Paper 4: Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation Tier),
1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier).

Worth 25% of the qualification.

Further Reading

To further extend your learning outside of the classroom, the following is recommended as further reading around the subject for GCSE Spanish students: AQA GCSE (9-1) Spanish Vocabulary Crosswords by Samiul Hassan, GCSE Spanish AQA Exam Practice Workbook by CGP Books, GCSE Spanish AQA Revision Guide by CGP Books, GCSE Spanish Translation Skills Workbook by CGP Books Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan, Los Futbolísimos by Roberto Santiago, El caso de la pluma perdida by René Saldaña Jr, Diario Del Wimpy Kid (Spanish Edition) by Jeff Kinney.

What Might This Subject Lead To?

Studying Spanish to GCSE level will support students considering further study in the following subjects: Spanish A level, Law, Politics, European Studies, Translation, Interpreting, International Relations, Marketing.

Students with an interest in the following career paths would consider studying GCSE Spanish: Interpreter, Translator, Lawyer, Politics, Economist, Working in the EU, Bilingual PA, International Accountant, Teacher, Journalist.

GCSE Spanish is one of the EBacc group of options.



Further Info

Please contact
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