



GCSE GUIDE

2024 - 2026



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February 2024,

Dear Archer parents and students,

I am sure you remember making decisions for your own GCSE or A Level courses – it is undoubtedly a significant moment in a young person's life. Of course, our students have benefitted from a staggered approach to curriculum choice with the introduction of more personalised provision within their GCSE foundation year and we hope that this will support their ability to make good choices for their final GCSE portfolio.

We have been delighted by the response of our students to the curriculum opportunities made available to them during Year 9; enabling them to further develop as subject specialists. This introductory GCSE year has enabled our students to understand how they learn best and to have a clearer picture of where they excel.

Curriculum Structure for Year 10 & Year 11: The Upper School

We are keen to ensure that our students are properly prepared for the demands of our ever-changing modern world. Our plans for Year 10 and Year 11 build on the successful foundations laid throughout Year 9; to offer a personalised curriculum which inspires each student to realise their own academic potential and secure the personal learning and thinking skills needed for the transition to Key Stage 5 and beyond.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 curriculum offers flexible routes that give students a range of choices in the subjects they follow and the depth and pace to which they study them. For example, one student could opt for a programme with a weighting towards Science, Maths and Technology; another could follow an Arts based programme; while a third would be able to choose a route with a greater emphasis on Languages and Literature.

English Baccalaureate

As parents, you will of course be very aware that there have been significant changes at a national level in education over recent years. Amidst concerns that students were not securing great enough academic breadth and rigour during their secondary schooling, there is now an expectation that most students will secure the English Baccalaureate as part of their GCSE qualifications. The English Baccalaureate is a suite of five traditional academic subjects which are viewed as facilitating subjects for future study and training and are highly valued by Universities. To secure the English Baccalaureate students must have the following qualifications amongst their final certificates:

- English Language & English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (equivalent to 2 GCSEs)
- History or Geography
- Foreign Language – French/Spanish

Students can of course choose to study additional English Baccalaureate subjects, for example they may wish to study both History and Geography.

Our curriculum has been designed to meet the demands of the English Baccalaureate without compromising on student choice and variety.

Vocational Opportunities

We are aware that the English Baccalaureate pathway is not the route suited to all students and their ambitions for their future. Therefore, our curriculum choices do include a variety of

vocational based subjects such as BTEC Health & Social Care to enable every student to realise their potential and relish their learning. For some students these options may be further supported through Functional Skills or Travel and Tourism.

Core offer

All Archer Academy students in Year 10 and Year 11 will study English Language and Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science at GCSE. Almost all students will take a foreign language to GCSE, French or Spanish (the language they have studied in Year 7 to 9); however, those who have studied Functional Skills in Lower School will accelerate to an accredited Functional Skills course. In Year 10, there is also a third programme within our Languages and Functional Skills pathway, BTEC Travel and Tourism. This programme is offered to a core group of students where Foreign Languages or Functional Skills do not best enable a young person to realise their potential.

Additionally, across Year 10 and Year 11, students will study S.P.P.E.C (social, political, philosophy, ethics, culture) to secure compulsory elements of their education. All students will study core PE as a statutory requirement but this is not examined, unless taken as a GCSE.

What does our core offer look like?

Subject Time allocation

English Language & English Literature 4 hours per week

Mathematics 4 hours per week

Combined Science (2 GCSEs) 4 hours per week*

French/Spanish/Travel & Tourism/Functional Skills 3 hours per week*

S.P.P.E.C (social, political, philosophy, ethics, culture) 1 hour per week

Core PE (at Lower School) 2 hours

*please note that the allocation for MFL/Functional Skills/Travel and Tourism increases to 3 hours from Year 10

How do students design the rest of their curriculum?

Alongside their core offer, students are then able to make three subject choices. Each subject will have a three hour allocation over the course of the week.

Students are able to make a free choice across a 'Choices Menu'. There are no choices blocks.

It is expected that almost all students will choose History or Geography as one of their subjects, from the 'Choices Menu' but there are no further rules surrounding choices. Students can of course choose to study both History and Geography.

Students are also able to study for an additional GCSE or accredited course in their Archer Plus choice and this is actively encouraged. Opportunities will include the following but may expand in advance of September:

- Further Maths
- Politics/Citizenship
- Sound Engineering
- Religious Studies
- Extended Project Qualification at Level 2

What will enrichment look like in Year 10 and Year 11?

Our Upper School enrichment curriculum is known as Archer Plus. Our Archer Plus programme will build on the excellent provision at Lower School to provide a crucial and important balance between high academic standards, vocational and independent study skills, and extra-curricular opportunities. Whilst we identify that a student's first priority will need to be their academic studies; we do not believe that our students will be best prepared for their futures without important attention to detail in all three areas. Therefore, this additional core aspect of our curriculum model encourages both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal development as they continue to grow into interesting and multi-faceted young adults.

Further details about our Archer Plus curriculum will be shared early on in the summer term.

Making informed choices

Facilitating subjects

What follows in this booklet is detailed information about all GCSE subjects. The first section of the guide focuses on core subjects, then our English Baccalaureate subjects, followed by the choices subjects available in Year 10 and Year 11 from the 'Choices Menu'. It is imperative that students make broad and balanced choices; not narrowing their curriculum too significantly at this stage whilst taking the opportunity to play to their strengths.

Thinking about the future

We recommend that families begin to discuss and consider what lies beyond Year 11 when making choices. Most of our students will progress to Sixth Form and follow A-Level and equivalent subjects, taking the next step towards University. Others will wish to move to work based learning at the end of Year 11; therefore, it is important to plan ahead when making choices for Year 10. To help with this process, form tutors will support and guide students according to their current performance at school, their aptitude, interests and ambitions to ensure they are stretched and challenged but also able to cope with the demands of their curriculum choices.

It is important to consider what subjects or combinations of subjects might be necessary in the future for entry to Sixth Form and University courses, most notably for those considering routes to specialist courses such as medicine. Ultimately however, we cannot stress enough how important it is that students choose subjects that they will enjoy and will be successful in.

The library holds copies of the prospectus for Woodhouse College, our partner for Sixth Form provision; alongside prospectuses for a range of other providers, notably Barnet College which specialises in vocational courses. Additionally, there are copies of most University prospectuses and a range of other literature. We would urge students to take the time to review this interesting and important information; ensuring they are informed and thinking about their future.

Careers Guidance

Our curriculum choices process is well supported by careers and higher education guidance; to support our students in being informed and ambitious about their futures. Throughout the spring and summer term of Year 9 students will take part in a series of workshops to enable and encourage them to think about the right progression pathways for their future.

Families may find the following websites useful, to support discussions at home:

The Woodhouse College website: www.woodhouse.ac.uk

The Barnet & Southgate College website: www.barnetsouthgate.ac.uk

The Directgov website, which provides lots of information for young people:
www.direct.gov.uk/en/youngpeople

The UCAS website, which provides information about University entrance: www.ucas.com

Additionally, students can look at www.bestcourse4me.com to see what courses to study for careers in different industries.

For a broad description of a wide range of careers together with details of preferred A-Level subjects visit www.prospects.ac.uk/types_of_jobs.htm

A choice of GCSE options subjects can determine what subjects are available to students at 16 and 18. The Russell Group of universities has produced this helpful guidance to help young people make informed choices:
www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/1027/informedchoices-latest.pdf

Finally, apprenticeships are becoming more common and are considered a strong alternative pathway for those who do not wish to pursue A levels. More information can be found at:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/becoming-apprentice#>

What happens next?

Before any choices are made students should:

1. Read this booklet carefully.
2. Discuss the subjects with parents or carers. Which do you enjoy the most and are most relevant for you?
3. Ask for further information from subject teachers, Heads of Department and form tutors.
4. Select the subjects you want and would like to study. These are not necessarily the ones chosen by your friends.
5. Remember your choice may have an influence on what you do in your course selection for Sixth Form or for your future career.
6. Reflect by asking yourself some searching questions:
 - Am I on track to achieve my target grade in the subjects (or similar subjects) I would like to choose by the end of the academic year?
 - Am I considering choosing subjects (or similar subjects) in which my attainment to date is high? If not, what can I do to raise the level of my work?
 - Have I discussed my progress with my form tutor recently?

- Have I spoken to my subject teacher?
- Have I shown good motivation so far?
- Do I really know what the subject involves?
- Have I considered any specific requirements for the course?
- Have I thought ahead and considered possible career paths to see if this subject would be useful in my future?

Taking the time to make the right decisions

Naturally, as parents, you will want to support your child to make the best choices and to have access to good quality advice. This guide helps start that process by providing an overview of the courses we offer. Please use this booklet to support discussions at home, as a family, and with subject teachers and Heads of Department.

At Curriculum Choices Evening on the **Wednesday 7th February**, you will have the opportunity to meet with each Head of Department and discuss GCSE courses in more depth.

At Learning Review Day on **Tuesday 12th March**, all students and their parents will be invited to a Curriculum Choices Interview. At this interview, we will confirm choices and begin discussions about next steps for your child. Your child should bring a completed copy of their provisional choices form, distributed at the Curriculum Evening, to their interview.

Every effort will be made to ensure that as many students as possible are successful in getting their first choices. However, if too few students opt for a subject or if a subject is oversubscribed, it may be necessary for a student to study a reserve choice. In this case the student will sit down with Mr Oakley and Ms Le to discuss the matter. Therefore, students should please think carefully about their second and third choices.

Time to discuss, think and reflect

This is an exciting time for our students. Our ability to offer this curriculum design is based on their success and maturity to date. We very much look forward to supporting you on this next stage in their journey.

The key to the next couple of weeks is meaningful discussion at school and at home. The best two questions any parents can keep asking their child are: *“What do you enjoy?”* and *“What are you good at?”*

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s form tutor or any of their subject teachers over the coming weeks as the all-important decisions are made.

Best wishes,

Miss Harrison
Headteacher

Making choices

This is how your Year 10 and Year 11 curriculum will be constructed:

Core subjects			Choices Menu	Non Exam	Archer Plus
English Language English Literature	Mathematics	Combined Science	History Geography Art Business and Enterprise Child Development Studies Computer Science Dance Design & Technology Drama Economics Hospitality & Catering Music Photography Physical Education Politics Psychology Separate Science	Core PE S.P.P.E.C	Accredited and non accredited options Decision made in the summer term

Core curriculum

All students follow the core curriculum. This is designed to give you the skills and qualifications that you will need for the future; whatever you decide to do. You will also have two hours of PE – to keep you healthy in body as well as mind! Finally, all students will study S.P.P.E.C (society, philosophy, politics, ethics, citizenship).

Choices subjects

The remaining subjects available are for you to choose from across the 'Choices Menu'. The majority of students should choose either History or Geography but it is also possible to choose both. Please choose three subjects to create your pathway.

GCSE Grades and changes to GCSE specifications

GCSE subjects are awarded on a scale from 9-1. The specifications for the GCSE courses have been rewritten and in general the following principles are common:

- there is less coursework (now called Non Examined Assessment or NEA), and no longer any controlled assessments
- maths content has been increased in relevant subjects
- quality of written English counts for more marks
- the amount of content has increased and in some cases brought in some of the A level content
- all courses are now linear, so all assessment takes place at the end of year 11. Exams will cover all content studied from the start of year 9.

For all GCSE subjects, students in year 9 will be assessed against this new scale where a 9 is the highest possible grade and 1 is the lowest.

There is not a direct translation between the old letter grades and the new number grades, and the artificial C/D borderline is now less important to students and schools. However, a “strong pass” is considered to be a grade 5 or above. Woodhouse College requires an average of grade 6 in the best 8 subjects studied, and for some subjects a grade 7 is required to continue to A level.

The following helps to explain what the new grades mean:

- The new numbered grades do not translate directly from the old grades A* - G, but we do know that approximately the same proportion of students who achieved:
 - grade A or higher received a grade 7 or higher
 - grade C or higher received a grade 4 or higher
- Grade 9 is a new grade for very high performing students, in approximately the top fifth of the cohort
- Grade 5 is the benchmark for a 'good pass'
- Grade 4 is a standard pass
- The bottom of grade 1 is the same as the bottom of grade G

NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	
CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE										
A*		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	

Core Curriculum

English Language

Subject: English Language	
<i>"The English language is a work in progress. Have fun with it."</i> Jonathan Culver	
Grade level 9-1	
Examining body: AQA	Specification: Language
Synopsis of course: This GCSE course aims to engage and enthuse students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all students. It enables students to develop the knowledge and skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.	
Teaching methods and resources: Students will learn how to critically read and understand a wide and rich variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. They will learn how to understand the writers' viewpoints and attitudes and how language and structural devices are used for audience and purpose. Students will learn how to write fiction and non-fiction pieces for a range of different purposes and audiences. This will include creative, descriptive writing as well as writing to persuade, argue, advice and inform.	

Assessment methods:

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

What's assessed:

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

What's assessed:

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Where could studying English take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course is essential for all students in order that they:

- Learn how to critically approach and understand a range of texts
- Can write for a variety of audiences and purposes
- Think creatively and critically
- Have a good standard of literacy

Head of Department: Mr Powney

English Literature

Subject: English Literature	
<i>"To survive you must tell stories."</i> Umberto Eco	
Grade level 9-1	
Examining body: AQA	Specification: English literature
Synopsis of course: This GCSE course covers a rich breadth of exciting literature. Students will study a Shakespeare play, a 19 th century novel, a modern novel or play and a selection of poetry. Students will learn how to critically respond to different texts and how to analyse the writer's viewpoint and examine the social context. Students will complete closed book exams at the end of year 11 on studied texts, in which they will have to answer questions focussing on characters, themes and language in an analytical, essay style response.	
Teaching methods and resources: Students will continue to learn how to analyse language and comment on the writer's viewpoint. They will learn how to develop a sophisticated critical and evaluative response to literature. Students will also learn how to effectively compare poetry and comment on the effect on the reader.	
The range of literature will create opportunities for students to explore and discuss a range of themes and issues and their relevance in the 21 st century. The specification should continue to foster a pleasure for reading and encourage students to become enthusiastic, critical and imaginative in their responses.	

Assessment methods:**Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel**

What's assessed:

Shakespeare play: Macbeth

The 19th-century novel: Jekyll and Hyde

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of GCSE

Questions

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.

Section B The 19th-century 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.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed:

Modern prose or drama texts: An Inspector Calls

The poetry anthology

Unseen poetry

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes

96 marks

60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

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.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Where could studying English Literature take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course is essential for students in order that they can:

- Think creatively and critically
- Evaluate and synthesise what they read
- Discuss and debate effectively
- Write analytically
- Have a good standard of literacy
- Understand themes, ideas, viewpoints and contexts across a range of literature

Head of Department: Mr Powney

Maths

Subject: Mathematics

"The study of mathematics, like the Nile, begins in minuteness but ends in magnificence."

Charles Caleb Colton

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: Edexcel

Specification: 1MA1

Synopsis of course:

Mathematics GCSE enables students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Teaching methods and resources:

The course will cover:

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

Students will need to:

- Use and apply standard techniques
- Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
- Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts.

Assessment methods:

- Students will sit Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (Grades 4-9)
- For either Tier, students will sit three 90-minute papers at the end of Year 11.
- The first paper is non-calculator. The other two papers allow a calculator.
- Each paper has a total of 80 marks available.

Where could studying Maths take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

Mathematics is a versatile qualification, is well-respected by employers and is a facilitating subject for entry to higher education. Careers for students with good mathematics skills and qualifications are often interesting and rewarding, as well as highly paid. Students who have studied mathematics are in the fortunate position of having an excellent choice of career. Whilst the number of young people studying A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics is increasing there is still a huge demand from science, engineering and manufacturing employers.

The reason why so many employers highly value mathematics qualifications is that mathematics students become better at thinking logically and analytically. Through solving problems, you develop resilience and are able to think creatively and strategically. The writing of structured solutions, proof and justification of results help you to formulate reasoned arguments. And importantly, you will have excellent numeracy skills and the ability to process and interpret data.

A strong grade in Mathematics GCSE is a prerequisite in most sixth forms for A level subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computing, Geography, Psychology, Economics and Business studies, as well as Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

Head of Department: Mrs Sampson

Combined Science

Subject: Combined Science: trilogy (2 GCSE grades)	
<i>"The science of today is the technology of tomorrow."</i> Edward Teller	
Grade level 9-1	
Examining body: AQA	Specification: 8464
Synopsis of course: Combined Science: Trilogy provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all students should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They should be helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences which are both inter-linked, and are of universal application. This GCSE course aims to develop understanding of scientific explanations, how science works and aspects of biology, chemistry and physics relevant to careers in science. Students will study all three of the sciences however the depth and range of topics is smaller than in separate science. Students receive two GCSE combined science grades but not individual grades in a particular science discipline.	
Teaching methods and resources: There are 3 sciences taught as part of this qualification, which will give the students 2 GCSEs: Physics: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism. Biology: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology Chemistry: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes and Energy changes. The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources. GCSE specifications in combined award science should enable students to: • develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics • develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them • develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments • develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.	

Assessment methods:

There will be 6 exams, 2 in each of biology, chemistry and physics.
Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes, and counts for 16.7% of the GCSE.
Questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, structured, short answer and open response.

Students will also complete 16 set practical's which they will make notes about. The content of the experiments will be assessed in the written exams and will make up around 15% of the marks available.

Students are able to sit the course at both Higher and Foundation level.

Where could studying Combined Science take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course gives students the option to progress to A-levels in science or other subjects.

In addition, many other careers draw on scientific knowledge and understanding and this course sets students off on the right path for accessing further study in the sciences, but not to the same depth as separate science.

Head of Department: Ms Ahmed

Foreign Languages, Travel & Tourism & Functional Skills

Students will study the language that they have studied across Year 7 to Year 9. If a student has studied Functional Skills across Year 7 to Year 9 they will continue with this pathway. Students may be provided with the opportunity to join Functional Skills in Year 10 if this is seen to be appropriate. Students may be provided with the opportunity to study Travel & Tourism, this will be by discussion with a senior member of staff.

French

Subject: French	
<i>"The limits of my language are the limits of my world."</i> Ludwig Wittgenstein	
Grade level 9-1 (9-3 at Higher tier, 5-1 at Foundation tier)	
Examining body: AQA	Specification: Course Code 8652
Synopsis of course: This GCSE course aims to equip students with languages as a skill for life; the study of languages provides essential skills that students can utilise for further study, work and leisure and we encourage our students to see the value of this and enjoy their language learning. This course will enable students of all abilities to develop their French language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. In addition to developing key language skills this course will also develop students' cultural awareness.	

Teaching methods and resources:

Students will be taught for three hours per week and will be expected to consolidate this learning through regular homework.

The specification covers three distinct themes which apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to be able to understand and provide information and opinions on key topics within these themes. They are encouraged to discuss both their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries and communities where French is spoken.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle: Identity and relationship with others, healthy living and lifestyle, education and work.

Theme 2: Popular Culture: Free time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us: Travel, tourism and places of interest, media and technology, the environment and where people live.

In order to be successful linguists, students will develop their ability in the four key language skills, as outlined below:

Listening: Students are expected to be able to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer spoken passages, involving familiar and some more complex language, recognising the relationship between past, present and future events.
- deduce meaning from short narratives and authentic spoken material which address a wide range of contemporary and cultural themes, transcribe information, answering questions, extracting information, evaluating and drawing conclusions.

Speaking: Students are expected to be able to:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts
- Complete tasks such as a photo description and reading a text aloud to the examiner.
- take part in a short conversation, asking and answering questions and making creative use of the language to express and justify their own opinions, thoughts and points of view
- speak spontaneously and sustain communication, responding to unexpected questions, points of view or situations
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, with reference to past, present and future events
- use accurate pronunciation and intonation to be understood by a native speaker.

Reading: Students are expected to be able to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages across a range of contexts, recognising the relationship between past, present and future events
- deduce meaning from authentic sources and short narratives involving some complex language and unfamiliar material and addressing relevant contemporary and cultural themes
- demonstrate understanding by being able to scan for particular information, organise and present relevant details, draw inferences in context and recognise implicit meaning
- translate a short passage from French into English.

Writing: Students are expected to be able to:

- communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts
- produce clear and coherent text of extended length to present facts and express ideas and opinions appropriately, making accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, including describing and narrating with reference to past, present and future events
- manipulate the language, using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary, making independent, creative and more complex use of the language to express and justify individual opinions, thoughts and points of view, in order to interest, inform or convince
- translate sentences and short texts from English into French to convey key messages accurately and to apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures in context.

Assessment methods:

Listening (25%)

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE
- Section A – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation tier and 40 marks at Higher tier)
- Section B – dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier)

Speaking (25%)

- Non-exam assessment (NEA)
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

The format is the same at Foundation tier and Higher tier, but with different stimulus materials for the Role-play and the Reading aloud task. For the Photo card task, the same photos are used at both tiers.

- Role-play – 10 marks (recommended to last between 1 and 1.5 minutes at both tiers)
- Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier)
 - Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier
 - Short unprepared conversation
- Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and

	<p>between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to the content of the photos on the card (recommended to last approximately 1 minute at Foundation tier and approximately 1.5 minutes at Higher tier) ○ Unprepared conversation (recommended to last between 3 and 4 minutes at Foundation tier and between 4.5 and 5.5 minutes at Higher tier)
<p style="text-align: center;">Reading (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier) • 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) • 25% of GCSE • Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks) • Section B – translation from French into English, minimum of 35 words at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier (10 marks) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier) • 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) • 25% of GCSE <p>Foundation tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks) • Question 2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks) • Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks) • Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 35 words in total (10 marks) • Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks) <p>Higher tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 50 words in total (10 marks) • Question 2 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points,

approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)

- Question 3 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks)

Where could studying French take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

It is widely accepted that a working knowledge of a foreign language enhances job opportunities and is a valuable asset which broadens your horizons both socially and culturally. Languages are one of the 5 EBacc subjects; a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language will widen your choice of university courses as the EBacc qualification is highly regarded by Universities. In addition, languages are one of the 8 facilitating subjects identified by Russell Group Universities. Studying a ‘facilitating’ subject leaves open a wide range of options for future university study. A language GCSE is ideal for students considering future careers in international business, retail and sales, teaching, law, journalism, translation or tourism, although languages can be used in almost any career.

Head of Department: Mr Mustafa

Functional Skills

Subject: Functional Skills (Entry Level Certificates in English & Mathematics)

“Look closely at the present you are constructing, it should look like the future you are dreaming”
– Alice Walker

Examining body: Edexcel

Synopsis of course:

Alternative Pathway

Your child will build upon the solid foundations developed in Functional Skills throughout Key Stage 3. The work carried out in this pathway will support all aspects of your child’s curriculum, particularly English and Maths, to enhance and accelerate their progress in these two key subjects.

The focus will be on practical literacy and numeracy to give your child the necessary skills to be successful in adult life. Entry level certificates/qualifications will be taken in English and Mathematics as part of the Edexcel suite of qualifications. These courses have been designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to be able to successfully transition to post-16 study.

Teaching methods and resources:

How is the course structured?

Entry level certificate in English:

The Entry level certificate in English follows a variety of interesting topics, suggested by English teachers. It offers a flexible programme of study with plenty of choice to suit students. There is a free choice of speaking and writing tasks - or the option to follow tasks set by Edexcel. Students have a choice between 3 sets of papers, each on a different topic, to select the one that best suits each student.

For students who are completing Entry Level 3 in English, there are short extracts of 19th century texts, aligned to our GCSE. The Entry Level 3 English fiction paper also includes engaging 20th and 21st century texts.

Entry level certificate in Mathematics:

The Entry Level Certificate in Mathematics has been designed specifically to complement the GCSE (9-1) Mathematics, giving students who find mathematics more challenging the chance to develop the mathematical skills and understanding to support post-16 progression.

The Entry Level 3 Certificate is also based on the key skills and concepts of GCSE Mathematics, with new topics at Entry Level 3 carefully selected from the more accessible topics in GCSE (9–1) Mathematics.

Assessment methods:Entry level certificate in English:

- assessments are designed to be taken when learners are ready, whether this is at the end of each unit, end of term, or end of year
- assessment objectives are the same as at GCSE level, so learners can develop their skills ready for assessments in the same way as they would when moving on to GCSE
- AO3 comparison is assessed via Spoken Language tasks for levels 1 and 2, to make it more accessible for students.

Entry level certificate in Mathematics:

This new Edexcel qualification is based around enabling Entry Level students to show what they can do, from the carefully selected content and clearly worded questions, to the level-targeted tests which assess small increments of progress, and the assessments that are designed to be taken when the student is ready. There are no time limits for the assessments and plenty of retake opportunities.

Where could studying Functional Skills take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

Why take Entry level qualifications?

These qualifications enable students to help secure their GCSE qualifications in English and Maths, therefore ensuring the best opportunities for post 16 education. Key components of the English and Maths GCSE specifications are pre-taught in Functional Skills alongside opportunities to over-learn areas students have found more difficult.

The stand-alone qualifications offered as part of Functional Skills support students for the workplace and beyond.

Head of Department: Ms Bickers

Spanish

Subject: Spanish

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

Grade level 9-1 (9-3 at Higher tier, 5-1 at Foundation Tier)

Examining body: AQA

Specification: 8692

Synopsis of the course: This GCSE course aims to equip students with languages as a skill for life; the study of languages provides essential skills that students can utilise for further study, work and leisure and we encourage our students to see the value of this and enjoy their language learning. This course will enable students of all abilities to develop their Spanish language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence. In addition to developing key language skills this course will also develop students' cultural awareness.

Teaching methods and resources: Students will be taught for three hours per week and will be expected to consolidate this learning through regular homework.

The specification covers three distinct themes which apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to be able to understand and provide information and opinions on key topics within these themes. They are encouraged to discuss both their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle: Identity and relationship with others, healthy living and lifestyle, education and work.

Theme 2: Popular Culture: Free time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us: Travel, tourism and places of interest, media and technology, the environment and where people live.

In order to be successful linguists, students will develop their ability in the four key language skills, as outlined below:

Listening: Students are expected to be able to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer spoken passages, involving familiar and some more complex language, recognising the relationship between past, present and future events.
- deduce meaning from short narratives and authentic spoken material which address a wide range of contemporary and cultural themes, transcribe information answering questions, extracting information, evaluating and drawing conclusions.

Speaking: Students are expected to be able to:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts
- Complete tasks such as a photo description and reading a text aloud to the examiner.
- take part in a short conversation, asking and answering questions and making creative use of the language to express and justify their own opinions, thoughts and points of view
- speak spontaneously and sustain communication, responding to unexpected questions, points of view or situations
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, with reference to past, present and future events
- use accurate pronunciation and intonation to be understood by a native speaker.

Reading: Students are expected to be able to:

- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages across a range of contexts, recognising the relationship between past, present and future events
- deduce meaning from authentic sources and short narratives involving some complex language and unfamiliar material and addressing relevant contemporary and cultural themes
- demonstrate understanding by being able to scan for particular information, organise and present relevant details, draw inferences in context and recognise implicit meaning
- translate a short passage from Spanish into English.

Writing: Students are expected to be able to:

- communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts
- produce clear and coherent text of extended length to present facts and express ideas and opinions appropriately, making accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, including describing and narrating with reference to past, present and future events
- manipulate the language, using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary, making independent, creative and more complex use of the language to express and justify individual opinions, thoughts and points of view, in order to interest, inform or convince
- translate sentences and short texts from English into Spanish to convey key messages accurately and to apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures in context.

Assessment methods:

Listening (25%)

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE
- Section A – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation tier and 40 marks at Higher tier)
- Section B – dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier)

Speaking (25%)

- Non-exam assessment (NEA)
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

The format is the same at Foundation tier and Higher tier, but with different stimulus materials for the Role-play and the Reading aloud task. For the Photo card task, the same photos are used at both tiers.

- Role-play – 10 marks (recommended to last between 1 and 1.5 minutes at both tiers)
- Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier)
 - Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier
 - Short unprepared conversation
- Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Response to the content of the photos on the card (recommended to last approximately 1 minute at Foundation tier and approximately 1.5 minutes at Higher tier) ○ Unprepared conversation (recommended to last between 3 and 4 minutes at Foundation tier and between 4.5 and 5.5 minutes at Higher tier)
<p style="text-align: center;">Reading (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier) • 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) • 25% of GCSE • Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks) • Section B – translation from Spanish into English, minimum of 35 words at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier (10 marks) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier) • 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) • 25% of GCSE <p>Foundation tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks) • Question 2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks) • Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks) • Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into Spanish, minimum 35 words in total (10 marks) • Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks) <p>Higher tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into Spanish, minimum 50 words in total (10 marks) • Question 2 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question 3 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks) |
|--|---|

Where could studying Spanish take me?

It is widely accepted that a working knowledge of a foreign language enhances job opportunities and is a valuable asset which broadens your horizons both socially and culturally. Languages are one of the 5 EBacc subjects; a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language will widen your choice of university courses as the EBacc qualification is highly regarded by Universities. In addition, languages are one of the 8 facilitating subjects identified by Russell Group Universities. Studying a 'facilitating' subject leaves open a wide range of options for future university study. A language GCSE is ideal for students considering future careers in international business, retail and sales, teaching, law, journalism, translation or tourism, although languages can be used in almost any career.

Head of Department: Mr Mustafa

Travel & Tourism

Please note that specifications are still being reviewed at school level and a final decision on the exam board has not been reached. What follows below is a broad overview of the structure and nature of the course that will be made available to students. This will be a vocational subject.

Subject: Travel & Tourism BTEC
<i>“To travel is to live” – Hans Christian Anderson</i>
Examining body: Pearson, Tech award level 1&2
Specification code: 60370488
Synopsis of course: Alternative Pathway
<p>The travel and tourism sector is the UK's third largest employer, accounting for 9.5 per cent of total employment. Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK in employment terms, employing nearly 3 million people, and the value of tourism to the UK economy is approximately £121 billion (7.1 per cent) of UK GDP. In 2016, travel and tourism contributed 10.2 per cent of the world GDP, and the sector now supports 292 million people in employment – that's one in ten jobs worldwide.</p> <p>This qualification is for students who want to learn about the aims, products and services of different travel and tourism organisations, their use of consumer technologies, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer needs and preferences, and the influences on global travel and tourism. The qualification enables students to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. Whilst this is not a traditional academic GCSE qualification it is classed as “equivalent to” a full GCSE based on points as described below:</p> <p>As an alternative to studying a language, this qualification broadens the student's understanding of different countries and cultures.</p> <p>There are three components:</p> <p>Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations (NEA, 30%)</p> <p>Students will investigate travel and tourism organisations in the UK, their ownership, aims, key products and services, and how they work together. They will explore the role of different consumer technologies within the travel and tourism industry. Students will understand the different types of tourism and different types of visitor, and will investigate the features of and routes to popular tourist destinations.</p> <p>Component 2: Customer needs in travel and tourism (NEA, 30%)</p> <p>Students will investigate how organisations use market research to identify travel and tourism trends and identify customer needs and preferences. They will apply their understanding by exploring how specific needs are met by organisations and how travel planning meets customer needs and preferences.</p> <p>Component 3: Influences on global travel and tourism (Exam, 40%)</p>

Students will explore the different factors that may influence global travel and tourism, and how travel and tourism organisations and destinations respond to these factors. Learners will examine the potential impacts of tourism at global destinations and how destinations can manage the impacts of tourism and control tourism development to achieve sustainable tourism.

Teaching methods and resources:

Students will enjoy this course by learning how to:

- researching the travel opportunities and destinations available to different types of tourist
- exploring the environmental impact of the industry
- understanding the employment opportunities within this sector
- use their mathematical skills in a practical context
- understand the role that technology plays in this sector
- think creatively and independently
- communicate effectively
- learn in a team
- utilise ICT to research and present their findings

Assessment methods:

Component	How assessed	Percentage of final mark
Travel and tourism organisations and destinations	Internal non-examined assessment	30%
Customer needs in travel and tourism	Internal non-examined assessment	30%
Influences on global travel and tourism	External assessment (written exam)	40%

Grading is expressed as a pass, merit, distinction, distinction * at either level 1 or level 2

Where could studying Travel and Tourism take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

Opportunities to continue to study this topic at further depth are available on level 3 courses at colleges. The skills and knowledge learnt will be of great interest to employers and apprenticeship providers in this sector.

Head of Department: Miss Jouhal

Humanities

The majority of students are expected to choose History or Geography. Students can choose to study both.

History

Subject: History	
<i>'In these economically, politically and socially tricky times we need history's long look more than ever. It is essential to the development of every one of us.'</i> Historian Michael Schama	
Grade level 9-1	
Examining body: OCR	Specification: History A (Explaining the Modern World) J410
Synopsis of course: The relevant, informative and dynamic History GCSE course enables students to explain the world around us today. An understanding of the past is essential for appreciating the complexities of the modern world.	
During the course students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop their knowledge of and understanding of significant events, people and places of the past.• Develop their ability to think critically.• Evaluate and analyse a range of sources by considering, nature, origins and purpose.• Engage with interpretations of the past and confidently substantiate these with historical examples to form judgements.• Identify and analyse continuity and change throughout history.• Explain and justify the significance of people and events.• Develop their ability to convincingly sustain a line of argument through their academic writing.• Form confident opinions supported with detailed and relevant evidence.• Gain a better understanding of the values and structures of the present by making insightful connections with the past.• Develop skills allowing students to become successful independent learners.• Provide opportunities to visit historical sites connected to the course most notably the city of Berlin and Kenilworth Castle.	

Teaching methods and resources:

Students will be expected to consolidate this learning through regular homework. Teaching and learning will focus on the five key topics throughout the two years.

Unit 1 International Relations: the changing international order 1918-1975 (30% of total GCSE externally assessed)

Unit 2: Germany 1925-1955: the people and the state (20% of total GCSE externally assessed)

Unit 3: Power: Monarchy and Democracy in Britain c.1066 to 2014 (25% of total GCSE externally assessed)

Unit 4: The English Reformation c.1520-c1550 and castles: form and function c.1000-1750 (25% of total GCSE externally assessed)

Teaching techniques include:

Debate and discussion

Independent fact finding activities

Knowledge quizzes

Decision making

Problem solving

Opportunities for extended writing

Handling primary and secondary evidence

Teamwork

Assessment methods:

The GCSE History course comprises three final written examinations.

The examination for unit one and unit two total 1 hour 45 minutes.

The examination for unit 3 is 1 hour.

The examination for unit 4 is 1 hour 15minutes.

The examination assesses a range of skills including the following objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the periods studied.
- Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied.
- Analyse, evaluate and use sources (contemporary to the period) to make substantiated judgements, in the context of historical events studied.
- Analyse, evaluate and make substantiated judgements about interpretations (including how and why interpretations may differ) in the context of historical events studied.
- A high level of literacy is required to access History at GCSE.

Where could studying History take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

History is highly regarded subject and is seen as academically rigorous. Universities acknowledge the demands of the subject and, in particular, the ability to evaluate source material and create a line of argument in written form. The wealth of knowledge and skills of this dynamic subject are clearly transferable within academia and the world of employment.

GCSE History develops important skills that are vital to many careers. Students develop many marketable skills, such as learning how to: Organise and interpret data. Write with precision and clarity. Develop logical, convincing arguments. Combine solid research with creativity. It enables students to ask questions, express opinions, process information and think creatively. The subject encourages a focus on the complexities of a range of issues and an appreciation of why different views are held. These skills are vital for careers in law, journalism, media, marketing, research work, museum/archive work, customer services and many more.

Head of Department: Ms Vandervelde

Geography

Subject: Geography

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: Edexcel

Specification: B

'There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. Geographers are also highly employable. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality - geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.'

Michael Palin - Director of Royal Geographical Society.

Synopsis of the course:

This course allows students to gain a greater understanding of the world around us. It involves the study of how places and people change over time and how we affect our environment. Students will study topical issues and current affairs that will affect everyone both now and in the future. It is a subject about your world!

This course aims to:

- Excite, enthuse and stimulate a love of the ever-changing world in which we live
- Develop a deep understanding of the world's current issues both locally and globally to better meet the needs of future generations
- Explore and question topical issues through environmental, social, political and cultural contexts
- Explain how the world is changing and encourage critical thinking about the causes and consequences of change
- Develop essential data handling and fieldwork skills through the collection, presentation and analysis of data and the formulation of well-reasoned conclusions
- Develop the lifelong habits, knowledge and skills that will be required to live and work in a future world which will be very different from today's world.

The topics included in the course are the following:

Topic 1: Hazardous Earth – earthquakes, volcanoes and tropical cyclones

Topic 2: Development Dynamics – economic inequality and development projects around the world

Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world – urbanization and the growth of cities

Topic 4: UK physical landscape – geology, rivers and coasts

Topic 5: UK human landscape – regeneration, urban and rural decline/growth in the UK

Topic 6: Geographical investigation - human and physical fieldwork where we will complete 2 compulsory fieldtrips

Topic 7: People and the biosphere – global biomes

Topic 8: Forests under threat – taiga and rainforest ecosystems

Topic 9: Consuming energy resources – the relationship between resources and energy usage globally

Teaching methods and resources:

Lessons are engaging and interactive and encourage an enquiry based approach to learning where students are required to formulate questions, research their ideas, make their own decisions, justify their opinions and formulate substantiated conclusions.

Students will be required to take part in activities that develop a range of skills including:

- Decision making
- Problem Solving
- Debate and discussion
- Formulating arguments and opinions
- Data handling
- ICT – specifically use of GIS systems
- Teamwork

Skills Required

- Good mathematical skills
- Passion and enthusiasm for the world

Assessment methods:

The GCSE Geography course comprises 3 different final examinations based on the content covered over the GCSE course. The three papers will include assessment on:

- Global Geographical Issues – 1 hour 30 minutes – worth 37.5% of the qualification
- UK Geographical Issues – 1 hour 30 minutes – worth 37.5% of the qualification
- People and Environmental Issues – Making Geographical Decisions – 1 hour 30 minutes – worth 25% of the qualification

Where could studying GCSE Geography take me?

Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides support for a wide range of GCSE subjects including Sciences, English, History, Economics, Business Studies and all Social Sciences. It also provides good preparation for the Geography A Level course and will provide supporting skills for A level courses in the Social Sciences, History, English, Economics and Business Studies.

The course provides a range of highly transferable skills and is ideal for students considering future careers in journalism, media, civil service, business management, international development, environmental agencies, charitable organisations and careers in the travel industry.

Geography is highly regarded by universities and employers. The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography encourages flexible, creative and analytical thinking which employers actively seek.

The Higher Education Research Council has recognized Higher Education geography as part-STEM: as a result of its use of fieldwork, lab and data.

Geography is a data rich yet gender balanced subject. Geography 48:52% M:F.

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies:

- Study: Geography students are more likely to complete their degree, have the third lowest dropout rate of all subjects and have some of the highest National Student Satisfaction scores
- Employment: Five years after graduation, geography graduates have an above average likelihood of gaining employment. Geographer employment rates outperform other disciplines, including politics, physics and history
- Earnings: Geography graduate earnings outperform other subjects, including technology, bioscience and history.

Head of Department: Ms Jouhal

Choices Menu

Students should choose three subjects from the across the Choices Menu.

Art & Design

Subject: Art and Design

“As practice makes perfect, I cannot but make progress; each drawing one makes, each study one paints, is a step forward.” Vincent Van Gogh

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: Edexcel

Specification: GCSE Fine Art 1FA0

Synopsis of course:

This GCSE course aims to develop:

- Creative and imaginative ability and the practical skills for expressing original ideas, feelings and meanings in Art and Design
- Investigative, analytical and experimental learners with critical and enquiring minds
- Cultural knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design used in different times, contexts and societies
- Confidence, resilient, self-disciplined and committed learners.

This course enables students to experiment and to refine skills that are necessary to develop for year 10. encompasses both Art and Design and encourages students to explore a range of 2 or 3 dimensional approaches to their studies. Work produced will demonstrate the use of formal elements and creative skills, and allow students to visually communicate feelings, ideas and observations.

Teaching methods and resources:

Over the course of year 10 and 11 students will work through GCSE Art and Design which is set through 2 internally set units. Students will complete their own portfolio to show their artwork and the processes used to create these. Work will be monitored through class, group and individual critical tutorials, one to one feedback (written and verbal) and demonstrations. Students will be expected to work in at least 2 of these disciplines: **Painting and drawing, sculpture, print making and alternative media.**

Students will be required to use and develop these skills:

- A range of art and design processes
- An understanding of how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed
- An understanding of the work of others and how it relates to own practice and social, historical and cultural context
- An ability to record observations and experiences using appropriate materials and processes
- An exploration of sources (analysis and evaluation) and mediums (experimentation)
- An ability to refine and develop work as it progresses.

Assessment methods:

Unit 1: Personal portfolio in Art and Design weighted at 60% of the total GCSE.

- This unit is internally set, marked and standardised before external moderation
- Students must show evidence of all 4 assessment objectives (see below)
-

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Art and Design weighted at 40% of the total GCSE

- This unit consists of one externally set, broad based thematic starting point.
- Work produced will consist of 30 hours of preparatory work and a 10 hour exam
- This unit is externally set, internally marked and standardised before external moderation
- Students must show evidence of all 4 assessment objectives (see below)
-

Students will be assessed against 4 assessment objectives, each weighted equally at 25%:

- **AO1:** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- **AO2:** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- **AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- **AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Where could studying GCSE Art and Design take me? Further study and employment opportunities in design, film, gallery work etc

This course provides the ideal preparation for A-level Art and Design, Textiles and A Levels courses such as Fine Art.

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in the Art, Design and Technology industries: branding, graphics, textile and fashion design, interior design, architecture and decoration etc.

Head of Department: Ms Clarke

Business & Enterprise Studies

Subject: Business & Enterprise	
<i>“The entrepreneur always searches for change, responds to it, and exploits it as an opportunity.” Peter Drucker</i>	
Grade level: Pass-Merit- Distinction	
Examining body: NCFE	Specification: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise
<p>Synopsis of course:</p> <p>This is a vocational qualification which is delivered under the Vocational Curriculum pathway. This qualification enables learners to develop transferable skills such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge, and vocational attributes which complement GCSEs. Moreover, this qualification will broaden learners’ experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them. Students will have the opportunity to complete 60% of the qualification through coursework which is marked internally and moderated both internally and externally. The final 40% is via external assessment (written exam). Whilst this is not a traditional academic GCSE qualification it is classed as “equivalent to” a full GCSE based on points as described below:</p> <p>Grades are awarded as Pass, Merit or Distinction rather than 9-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 Pass is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 4 • Level 2 Merit is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 5.5 • Level 2 Distinction is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 7 • Level 2 Distinction * is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 8 <p>This qualification is designed for students who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire students about a career in business and enterprise. The qualification will appeal to students who wish to either set up their own business, move into employment or progress onto further study in business.</p> <p>Students will cover a range of areas such as types of business, skills and characteristics of entrepreneurs, marketing, and risks and rewards in business. This will include looking at local businesses and local entrepreneurs. Students will be encouraged to come up with business plans for their own ideas and investigate the issues facing a start-up business. There will be a focus on marketing, understanding why this is important, how to target a market through research, and the impact of social media on promotion.</p> <p>The finance unit will focus on the money side of business in terms of sources of funding, costs, cash flow and profits, and what it means to break even. This will involve a wider understanding of tax and national insurance within the UK.</p> <p>The final unit allows the students to plan and carry out their own business project, working with others and reflecting on their contributions to its success.</p>	

Teaching methods and resources:

Students will enjoy this course by learning how to:

- make concise reports
- plan investigations
- use their mathematical skills in a practical context
- think creatively and independently
- communicate effectively
- learn in a team
- utilise ICT to research and present their findings

Students will need to take an interest in the wider world of business and a healthy interest in TV programmes such as Dragons Den and The Apprentice is helpful.

Assessment methods:

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 8 content areas of this qualification.

Content areas

Content area 1: Entrepreneurship, business organisation and stakeholders
Content area 2: Market research, market types and orientation and marketing mix
Content area 3: Human resource requirements for business and enterprise
Content area 4: Operations management
Content area 5: Business growth
Content area 6: Sources of enterprise funding and business finance
Content area 7: The impact of the external environment on business and enterprise
Content area 8: Business and enterprise planning

The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment and one written examined assessment.

Assessment breakdown		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment• 21 hours non-exam assessment
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Weighting (60%)	Externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• synoptic project
Examined assessment (EA)	Weighting (40%)	Externally-set and externally marked: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam
Total	100%	Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*

Where could Business Studies take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

From an entrepreneur to a charity worker to an accountant, studying Business and Entrepreneurship will give you the skills to enter virtually any industry. Business and Enterprise gives you the choice to specialise in an area of business such as marketing and promotion or to combine all aspects of business by owning and running your own enterprise. Some of the more focused careers that Business and Enterprise can lead to are:

- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Accountancy
- Purchasing
- Public Relations
- Advertising
- Logistics

- Production
- Retail Management
- Administration
- Banking
- Insurance

In addition, this qualification is a good route into apprenticeships, as well as level 3 certificates and diplomas at college. Depending on the grade the student achieves in this qualification, they could progress to level 2 and level 3 qualifications and/or GCSE/A Levels.

Students who achieve at level 1 might consider progression to level 2 qualifications post-16, such as:

- study at level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships, and further study; examples might include the Level 2 Technical Certificate in Business Enterprise Technical certificate qualifications provide post-16 learners with the knowledge and skills they need for skilled employment or for further technical study.

Students who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Business and Enterprise
- Level 3 Technical Level in Management and Administration (this will support progression to higher education)
- A Level in Business (this will support progression to higher education)

Where could Business Studies take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

From an entrepreneur to a charity worker to an accountant, studying Business and Entrepreneurship will give you the skills to enter virtually any industry. Business and Enterprise gives you the choice to specialise in an area of business such as marketing and promotion or to combine all aspects of business by owning and running your own enterprise. Some of the more focused careers that Business and Enterprise can lead to are:

- Marketing
- Human Resources
- Accountancy
- Purchasing
- Public Relations
- Advertising
- Logistics
- Production
- Retail Management
- Administration
- Banking
- Insurance

In addition, this qualification is a good route into apprenticeships, as well as level 3 certificates and diplomas at college.

Head of Department: Mr Ruffles

Child Development Studies

Subject: Child Development Studies

"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you." Zig Ziglar

Examining body: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care

Grade level: Pass-Merit- Distinction

Examining body: NCFE Specification: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise

Synopsis of course

This is a vocational qualification which is delivered under the Vocational Curriculum pathway. The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years is designed for students who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to students who wish to pursue a career in the early years sector or progress onto further study in the Social Sciences field. This qualification is aimed at 14 to 16-year olds studying key stage 4 (KS4) curriculum and it really complements our GCSE qualifications and is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. Whilst this is not a traditional academic GCSE qualification it is classed as "equivalent to" a full GCSE based on points as described below:

Grades are awarded as Pass, Merit or Distinction rather than 9-1:

- Level 2 Pass is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 4
- Level 2 Merit is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 5.5
- Level 2 Distinction is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 7
- Level 2 Distinction * is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 8.5

This qualification enables students to develop transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge, and vocational attributes which complement GCSEs. Moreover, this qualification will broaden students' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them. Students will have the opportunity to complete 50% of the qualification through coursework which is marked internally and moderated both internally and externally.

Teaching methods and resources

To be awarded this qualification, students are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 9 content areas of this qualification.

Content areas

Content area 1: Child development

Content area 2: Factors that influence the child's development

Content area 3: Care routines, play and activities to support the child

Content area 4: Early years provision

Content area 5: Legislation, policies and procedures in the early years

Content area 6: Expectations of the early year's practitioner

Content area 7: Roles and responsibilities within early years settings

Content area 8: The importance of observations in early years childcare

Content area 9: Planning in early years childcare

Throughout this qualification, learners will develop significant transferable knowledge and study skills that will support progression in all aspect of education as well life skills. Students will be expected to consolidate this learning through regular homework. Teaching and learning will focus on the following topics throughout the two years:

- Awareness of learning styles
- Basic introduction in to working with children in a variety of settings
- Understanding of roles and responsibilities when working in a setting
- Understanding of Equality and Diversity within a childcare setting
- Understanding of the stages and sequence of child development
- Introduction to observing children and how it supports development
- Introduction to the influences that affect holistic development
- Introduction to everyday care routines and the types of activities that can support the development of independence an introduction to supporting children through transition

Teaching techniques include:

- Decision making
- Analytical Skills
- Problem solving
- Debate and discussion
- Teamwork

Completion of this qualification is achieved through classroom-based learning that will be adapted to accommodate the individual needs of our learners and it will be completed in two years.

Assessment methods: The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment and one written examined assessment.

Assessment breakdown		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment • 14 hours non-exam assessment
Non-exam assessment (NEA)	Weighting (50%)	Externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • synoptic project
Examined assessment (EA)	Weighting (50%)	Externally-set and externally marked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam
Total	100%	Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*

Where could studying Childcare take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course will help you develop the skills and knowledge you will require to progress to higher level qualifications as well providing opportunities for a broad range of destinations and will be dependent on the abilities and ambitions of each student.

This qualification could lead to a wide range of careers, such as becoming a Nursery Nurse, Nursery or Primary School teacher, Social Worker or Nurse. Child Development is one of the subjects that will enable young people to develop life skills as well as helping you gain an understanding of how do children develop holistically.

Progression opportunities: Learners could progress to level 2 and level 3 qualifications and/or A Levels/T Levels. Learners who achieve level 1 might consider progression to level 2 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Study at level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships, and further study (for example, Level 2 Technical Certificate in Health and Social Care).

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied Generals in: Early Years, Childcare and Education, Health and Social Care
- Level 3 Technical Level qualifications, including T Level programmes, allow for entry to the workforce and higher education: opportunities are available in:
 - education and childcare, including a range of options for early years educators and teaching assistants

- health and social care
- health science

Head of Department: Mrs S Brami

Computer Science

Subject: Computer Science

"Don't just play on your phone, program it." President Barack Obama

Grade level: 9-1

Examining body: OCR

Specification: J277

Synopsis of course:

This GCSE course aims to

- give students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works
- provide excellent preparation for higher study and employment in Computer Science
- develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills
- develop real and transferable programming skills

Teaching methods and resources:

The GCSE in Computing enables candidates to:

- Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work, and apply this in a range of contexts.
- Acquire and apply technical programming skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems. Students will learn how to program a computer using Python.
- Become independent, discerning and informed users of IT, and to be aware of the implications of different technologies.
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and an understanding of IT in a range of contexts.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs and technology in society.
- Understand how the law impacts on the use of computers.

This course will be a good match for any student who wishes to learn about how computers, smart phones and other devices work.

Students who enjoy using their logic and reasoning skills to solve problems will enjoy learning how to create working computer programs.

Candidates should also be confident in their maths skills as a lot of the content is highly logical and mathematical in nature.

Assessment methods:

Computer Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - System architecture - Memory, storage - Networks - System security and software 	Written exam (1hr 30 mins) No calculators allowed	50%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ethical, legal, cultural, environmental concerns 		
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programming techniques - Algorithms - Computational logic - Data representation 	Written exam (1hr 30 mins) No calculators allowed	50%

Programming project - Analyse, design, build, test, evaluation	20 hours of controlled time	Must be completed but does not count towards final grade
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The programming project can be written in any language (but we will learn python) and the task is set by the exam board. Students have 20 hours to complete the task.

Where could studying computer science take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides the ideal preparation for A Levels courses such as Computer Science, and a wide range of degrees in information technology and computing.

Understanding the fundamentals of computers and having programming skills will open up career opportunities in a wide variety of industries. Many employment sectors from finance to computer games to mobile phone app development need people with programming skills, so the GCSE in Computing will give students a vital head start in accessing these growing opportunities.

A good example of this is the expanding area of bio-informatics where there is a critical shortage in people with a combination of biology and programming. This is needed to analyse the huge quantities of data generated by mapping genetic sequences.

Head of Department: Mr Oakley

Dance

Subject: GCSE Dance

"Dance is the hidden language of the soul of the body" Martha Graham

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: AQA

Specification: GCSE Dance

Synopsis of the course

This GCSE Dance course aims to:

- Build on your physical and expressive performance skills
- Expand on your knowledge of choreography and provide you with an opportunity to create contemporary dance repertoire
- Examine a range of professional works and study practitioners within the field.
- Improve your understanding of dance specific terminology and literacy
- Develop your resilience, independence, discipline and creativity

The GCSE year 10 dance course will focus on students developing their practical understanding of contemporary performance technique and the craft of choreography. Practical dance repertoire created and learned will allow students to build on their coursework in year 10. The students will study the performance

and choreographic skills in theory and analyse professional dance works from the Anthology to assist them making effective progress in their written examination.

Teaching methods and resources:

Lessons will be a mixture of practical performance technique, choreography and theory sessions. The students will study the course for three hours per week. There will be additional extended performance opportunities to enhance the student's ability and prepare them for their final examination in year 11.

Skills Required

- Imagination and creativity.
- Commitment to attending lessons and after school rehearsals on a weekly basis.
- Some previous dance experience or the ability to show potential and enthusiasm in dance. □
Positive approaches to choreography and challenging dance stimuli.
- Willingness to work in groups and participate in other student's choreography.
- Resilience and high levels of discipline.

Assessment methods:**Performance: Component 1**

Students learn four Set phrases. The choreography for this is set by AQA. You will perform two of these through a solo performance (10%)

Duet/trio performance. The choreography for this will be set by your dance teacher and will have a key theme. (20%) **How is it assessed?**

- Internally marked and externally moderated
- 30% of GCSE

Choreography: Component 1

Solo or group choreography. A solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes) The students are the choreographers and the dance will be based on a set stimulus/theme. AQA will release a list of stimuli each year which students choose from.

How is it assessed?

- Internally marked and externally moderated
- 30% of GCSE

Dance Appreciation: Component 2

Students will critically analyse and explore 6 professional dance works. These range in style from Contemporary, to Ballet to Hip-Hop. They are from both established and emerging choreographers. Students will also write about their own choreographies, their knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance skills.

How is it assessed?

- 40% of GCSE
- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Where could studying GCSE dance take me?

GCSE Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity. The study of an anthology of 6 professional works will develop their ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provide a springboard for engaging in practical tasks. This course also focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance performance, choreography and appreciation. Dance is a powerful and empowering form of nonverbal communication and it is both physical and expressive, which makes it different from many other art forms and physical activities. The course is ideal for students considering future careers within the creative and performing arts field. Help will be given to students preparing for auditions for full time courses at the end of key stage four.

Head of Department: Ms Harris

Design & Technology

Subject: Design & Technology

"Design is everything. Everything!" Paul Rand

Grey Choice Block

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: OCR

Specification: GCSE Design & Technology J310

Synopsis of the course:

This GCSE course encourages students to

- Engage actively in the processes of design and technology in order to develop as effective and independent learners.
- Enable students to make decisions, consider sustainability and combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products.
- Encourage students to combine their designing and modelling skills with knowledge and understanding, in order to produce outcomes capable of being rigorously tested.

This course encompasses research, designing and making. It also encourages students to explore existing products and designers to inform their own work. Work produced will demonstrate the use of formal elements and creative skills, and allow students to visually communicate feelings, ideas and observations.

Teaching methods and resources:

Students will take part in a mixture of practical/coursework lessons which will be two hours a week and another one hour theory lesson.

Students will be given the task of designing and making a product for a real client that they choose. This can be a family member, a friend or even a business on the local high street. Students will research into what design needs they have and work through the design process to a completed functioning product. Students will complete their design work through a variety of methods including sketching, modelling and CAD.

Students will then make their final design after consultation with their client. They will use a variety of production methods and materials to realise their final design.

Students will have a skills building project at the start of year 10 and will begin their personal design and make their project in this year.

Assessment methods:

Students will be assessed on a written theory exam and a practical design and make project.

GCSE students will be assessed on

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Iterative design challenge (Coursework) | 50% of marks |
| • Principles of Design and Technology (2hr written theory exam) | 50% of marks |

Where could studying design and technology take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides preparation for A Levels courses such as Product Design.

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in product design, industrial design, graphic design, architecture, engineering etc.

Head of Department: Ms Ozier

Drama

Subject: GCSE Drama

"What is drama but life with the dull bits cut out." Alfred Hitchcock

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: OCR

Specification: GCSE Drama

Synopsis of the course:

This GCSE Drama course aims to:

- Apply knowledge and understanding of drama when making, performing and responding to drama
- Explore performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created (a performance text is one that has been written specifically for theatrical performance)
- Develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performances
- Work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas
- Develop as creative, effective, independent and reflective students able to make informed choices in process and performance
- Contribute as an individual to a theatrical performance
- Reflect on and evaluate their own work and that of others
- Develop an awareness and understanding of the roles and processes undertaken in contemporary professional theatre practice
- Adopt safe working practices

The GCSE drama course focuses on developing a practical understanding of drama and refining the craft of the devising process. The students will study a range of famous playwrights and work on performance skills and the art of characterisation. The course will enable students to build on their understanding of how to write about drama and build their knowledge of complex terminology.

Teaching methods and resources:

The students will explore a mixture of practical performance and devising workshops and theoretical sessions. The students will study the course for two hours per week. There will be additional extended performance opportunities to enhance their ability and prepare them for their final external examinations in year 11.

Skills Required

- Ability to contribute and direct others in the devising process.
- Commitment to attending lessons and after school drama rehearsals on a weekly basis.
- Passion for drama performance and exploring new scripts and playwrights.
- Positive and resilient approaches to independent rehearsal.
- Willingness to work in groups and collaborate/lead in the devising process.
- Evaluative and analytical processes when writing about drama.
- Creativity when exploring a specific role or key theme.

Assessment methods:

Component 1: Devising Drama

You will create a devised performance in groups from a stimulus provided by the exam board. You will be marked on your ability to communicate concepts and ideas in the final performance. (20 Marks)

This will be supported by a portfolio providing evidence of your devising process. It must include analysis and evaluation of your own work. (40 Marks)

How is it assessed?

- Externally assessed devised performance in groups (Filmed in professional theatre) □
Work supported by portfolio
- Worth 30% in total

Component 2: Presenting and Performing Texts

You will take part in two performances of two extracts from the same text. You can work individually or in a group of up to 6. (40 marks) You must complete a written concept pro forma describing your intention and preparation. (20 marks) Performance texts: Teachers & Girls Like That

How is it assessed?

- Final performance of set text, assessed by external visiting OCR examiner
- Worth 30% in total

Component 3: Drama: Performance and Response

Section A – You will be asked about the practical preparation work on the set text, focusing on the process of preparing a performance as well as the performance itself.

Section B – You will analyse and evaluate a performance you have seen. You must be able to demonstrate understanding of theatrical terminology and extended response.

How is it assessed?

- Written Exam (1 hour, 30 mins)
- Section A- Set Text: Find Me by Olwen Wymark.
- Section B- Performance Evaluation: The Woman in Black (students see this live on the course) □
Worth 40%

Where could studying GCSE drama take me?

This course is a good preparation for A level courses within creative and performing arts. You will learn invaluable skills that employment and higher education institutes will recognise and find extremely interesting. The course is ideal for developing student's life skills and considering future careers within the creative and performing arts field. Help will be given to students preparing for auditions for full time courses at the end of key stage four.

Head of Department: Ms Rodford

Economics

Subject: Economics GCSE

"Little else is requisite to carry a state to the highest degree of opulence from the lowest barbarism but peace, easy taxes, and a tolerable administration of justice." Adam Smith

Examining body: OCR (Course Code J205)

Synopsis of course

Economics is about people and their economic choices. The course will enable students to appreciate the decisions made by individuals and families as well as policies implemented by governments and international organisations. The course will encourage students to become more responsible citizens, consumers and potentially producers. This will be undertaken by learning how to explain and evaluate economic problems, acquire a way of thinking as economists and develop a logical approach to thinking and reasoning.

You will develop communication, critical thinking and analytical skills through tasks based on anything from ways to cut the budget deficit, to weighing up the advantages and disadvantages of inflation or being part of free-trade agreements.

You will investigate two key topics (How markets work and the economy) over the two years, this will address the following areas.

Introduction to Economics

- Factor of production
- The basic economic problem
- Role of markets
- Demand
- Supply, price, competition and production
- Labour market
- Money and financial markets

National and International Economics

- Economic growth
- Employment and unemployment
- Fair distribution of income
- Price stability
- Fiscal and monetary policy
- Exchange rates
- International trade and globalisation

Skills Required

- Mathematical Skills - Percentages, Averages, Graphs and Analyse Data

Teaching methods and resources:

GCSE Economics lessons are highly stimulating as the course is continually developing and has a key relationship with the external environment. The course will allow you to investigate why and how individuals and businesses act in specific ways from this it will allow you to understand governmental decisions and what you could do to try and stimulate the economy. The teaching will allow you to be inquisitive and question potential moral dilemmas. For example, would it be good for the Conservative government to reduce benefits?

Assessment methods: Two examinations focused on two key elements of Economics Micro and Macro. This consists of two examinations lasting 90 minutes, both examinations are worth 50% of your overall GCSE and have a mixture of multiple-choice questions, small written and extended written questions.

Where could studying Economics take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides the ideal foundation and good preparation for A Level courses such as Economics, Business Studies, Politics, Psychology, Geography, Law, Philosophy and Ethics, Mathematics

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in psychology, economics, medicine, business, geography, town planning, politics, law, etc.

Head of Department: Mr Ruffles

Hospitality & Catering, WJEC

Subject: Hospitality & Catering	
<i>"A recipe has no soul. You as the cook must bring the soul to the recipe."</i> Thomas Keller	
Grade level: Pass-Merit- Distinction	
Examining body: WJEC	Specification: 5569QA
Synopsis of the course:	
<p>This is a vocational qualification which is delivered under the Vocational Curriculum pathway. This qualification enables learners to develop transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge, and vocational attributes which complement GCSEs. Moreover, this qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them. Students will have the opportunity to complete 60% of the qualification through coursework which is marked internally and moderated both internally and externally. The final 40% is via external assessment (written exam). Whilst this is not a traditional academic GCSE qualification it is classed as "equivalent to" a full GCSE based on points as described below:</p> <p>Grades are awarded as Pass, Merit or Distinction rather than 9-1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 2 Pass is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 4 • Level 2 Merit is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 5.5 • Level 2 Distinction is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 7 • Level 2 Distinction * is equivalent to a GCSE Grade 8 • <p>WJEC Level 1 and Level 2 vocational award in hospitality and catering encourages students to develop their skills using a range of ingredients and tools/equipment as well as developing their knowledge of hospitality & catering industry and health & safety whilst cooking. Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select and use tools/equipment and processes to produce quality products. • Understand the functional properties of food. • The effects of combining different ingredients and the interaction of foods during preparation and cooking. • Understand the nutritional properties of food. • Demonstrate competence in a range of practical food skills/methods/processes to produce quality outcomes. • Understanding the hospitality & catering industry 	
Teaching methods and resources:	
<p>Students will take part in a mixture of practical/coursework lessons which will be two hours a week and another one-hour theory lesson. The theory lesson will address key areas of the exam such as nutrition, food legislation, understanding the hospitality & catering sector, food safety and exam techniques</p> <p>Students will work through the design process by researching dishes, developing ingredients lists and altering these through research and then complete a practical task followed by evaluation of their outcome.</p> <p>Students will work through a wide range of tasks and contexts to develop their skills with a variety of dishes and ingredients in preparation for their final dish.</p>	
Assessment methods:	
<p>Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry (90marks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onscreen assessment • Written exam <p>Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action (Pass-Merit-Distinction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coursework 	

- Practical exam

The assessment of the coursework is split into the following areas:

- **LO1:** Understand the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate
- **LO2:** Understand how hospitality and catering provisions operate
- **LO3:** Understand how hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements
- **LO4:** Know how food can cause ill health
- **LO5:** Be able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements

Where could studying Hospitality & Catering take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

Tourism management, Chef, Caterer, Food technologist, Dietician.

Head of Department: Miss Ozier

Music

Subject: Music

"Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything." -Plato

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: OCR

Specification: 2016

Synopsis of the course: This qualification supports students in forming personal and meaningful relationships with music through the development of musical knowledge, understanding and skills including performing, composing and appraising.

The qualification encourages students to engage critically and creatively with a wide range of music and musical contexts, develop an understanding of the place of music in different cultures and contexts, and reflect on how music is used in the expression of personal and collective identities.

This qualification supports the development of musical fluency and provides access to further study of music at AS and A Level.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Engage in performance, building skills to communicate musically with fluency and control
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- Investigate a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing
- Recognise varying genres and styles of music, and develop some awareness of musical chronology
- Become effective and independent learners with enquiring minds
- Reflect on and evaluate their own and others' music effectively with subject specific vocabulary
- Engage with, and appreciate, the diverse heritage of music; in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural awareness and capacity

Teaching Methods and Resources:

Lessons will be divided between individual composition work using Music Notation Software and classroom lessons preparing for the written exam by exploring and analysing music from the following five areas:

My Music, Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music, & Conventions of Pop Music.

*All resources are made available for students to revise online.

*Practical performances need to be prepared with an instrumental or vocal teacher. If you do not currently take lessons we will help set this up for you.

- Solo performing & ensemble performing
- Approaches to performing & ensuring technical control and coherence
- Developing musical ideas through compositional techniques and strategies
- Methods of notating composition scores

Assessment methods:

Component One: Performance – 30% (60 marks)

- Students perform two separate pieces, of at least four minutes' combined duration.
 1. One solo performance of at least one minute in duration.
 2. One ensemble performance of at least one minute in duration.
- Internally marked and externally moderated.
- GRADE 4 = Standard Level GRADE 5 = Higher Level

**Students do not need to have taken graded examinations in their chosen instrument or voice, but is a nice tool to motivate students to practise and improve*

Component Two: Composition – 30% (60 marks)

- Students compose two compositions of at least three minutes' combined duration
 1. One composition to a brief set by Pearson, of at least one minute in duration
 2. One free composition set by the student, of at least one minute in duration
- Internally marked and externally moderated

Component 3: Appraising 40% (80 marks)

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes

There are four areas of study with two examples from each appearing on the exam:

- Area of study 2: The Concerto Through Time
- Area of study 3: Rhythms of the World
- Area of study 4: Film Music
- Area of study 5: Conventions of Pop

Learners will be expected to answer questions based on extracts of music played during the examination.

The following types of question will be asked:

- multiple choice questions
- single word or short answer questions
- questions that require extended response.

Where could studying Music take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides you with a highly academic arts GCSE, often favoured by top level universities. It is also essential preparation for A Level courses such as Music and Music Technology. Studying instrumental music or singing to a high standard indicates high levels of commitment and dedication to learning, especially with regard to university applications. Music is viewed as both a creative art and as an academic subject, given the necessity of historical and theoretical knowledge required to reach the top grades.

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in Professional Musicianship, Performance Art, Musical Theatre, Music Therapy, Advertising and Creative Media, Teaching, Music Technology and Sound Engineering, Radio Production, the Music and Music Festival Industry, Live Music Industry.

Head of Department: Mr Woodward

Photography

Subject: Photography

"You don't take a photograph, you make it." Ansell Adams

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: Edexcel

Specification: 1PYO

Synopsis of the course: This GCSE year aims to introduce students to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes, using both traditional and new technologies. Students will experiment with several DSLR settings. They will try out studio photography, poetry photography and a wide range of projects inside and outside of the classroom.

Students will explore traditional and contemporary images, artefacts and resources. This is an integral part of investigating photography and the process of creating a final piece. Students' responses to a range of artists will be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate the candidates' understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

GCSE Photography provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature. This two unit specification enables students to develop their ability to actively engage in the processes of Art and Design – to build creative skills through learning and doing, to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working and develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.

Teaching methods and resources:

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography:

- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still-life photography, working from objects or from the natural world
- Documentary photography, photo journalism
- Experimental imagery
- Photographic installation, video, television and film
- Portraiture

Students will use sketchbooks to underpin their work. There is no specific requirement for pupils to demonstrate drawing skills in this course unless they wish to. Students may use traditional methods and/or digital techniques to produce images. Students will be required to demonstrate and develop these skills:

- The ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography
- The ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea or work to a brief.
- Appreciation of viewpoint, composition, depth of field and movement.
- The appropriate use of the camera, lenses, filters and lighting.
- Understanding techniques related to the developing and printing of photographic images, presentation and layout.

Students must show knowledge and understanding of:

- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts
- Historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres

- How images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts and the change in styles, genres and traditions
- Specialist vocabulary and terminology.

Assessment methods:

Students will acquire a detailed knowledge and understanding of the four assessment objectives: develop, refine, record and present. The course is made up of two units:

- Unit 1 – Personal Portfolio of Work weighted at 60% of the total GCSE.
- Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment: This is an exam and will involve a theme issued by the exam board with a variety of starting points to choose from. Pupils have until the day of the exam to complete preparatory studies to create a final piece in 10 hours (2 school days) of exam time. This is weighted at 40% of the total GCSE.

Where could studying Photography take me? Further study and employment opportunities: This course provides the ideal foundation for further progression to Art and Design (Photography) related courses such as A-level Art and Design and enhanced vocational and career pathways.

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in the creative arts, media and design; for example: advertising, fashion, documentary, film and animation.

Head of Department: Ms Clarke

Physical Education

Subject: GCSE Physical Education

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: AQA

Specification: 8582

Synopsis of course:

This GCSE course aims to open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then, through the academic study, learn how to improve your performance through the application of the theory.

Physical Education is learned through a range of different contexts, looking at the impact it has on both our and other people's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people outperform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs whilst gaining an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

Teaching methods and resources:

The course will be a mixture of practical and theoretical teaching. At least one hour a week will be practically based and when possible, other theory elements will be delivered in a practical setting. In the lessons the students will need to work independently and in groups. Research skills will be very important to ensure students are up to date with the wider issues in sport.

Students will be required to use and develop these skills:

- Research and analysis of current issues in sport
- Be able to use a range of team and individual skills in practical settings
- Understand how to give effective feedback to performers and analyse their own performance
- An ability to use a range of tactics and techniques to improve performance

Assessment methods:

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	Assessment Overview
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied anatomy and physiology. • Physical training • Use of data • Movement analysis 	The human body and movement in physical activity in sport. (01) 78 marks 1hr 15mins written paper	30% of total GCSE
Socio-cultural influences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports psychology • Health, fitness and wellbeing • Use of data • Socio-cultural influences 	Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport (02) 78 marks 1 hour written paper	30% of total GCSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical activity assessment (3 activities mixed of team and individual sports) • Analysing and evaluating performance to bring about improvement. 	Practical performance in physical activity and sport (03) 100 marks Non-exam assessment	40% of total GCSE

Where could studying PE take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides a good preparation for A Level courses such as A-level PE. This is an interesting and challenging learning experience. In it we introduce key sporting ideas and show how these interact with practical performance, you will gain insights into the relationships they have with each other throughout the course.

There is an opportunity for the development of transferable skills including: decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking, acting and reacting under pressure.

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in teaching and coaching, sports science, media, marketing, sports management, health and exercise, sports psychology, diet and nutrition and physiotherapy.

Head of Department: Mr Clarke

Politics

Subject: Politics GCSE

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools" - Plato

Examining body: OCR (Course Code J270)

Synopsis of course

Politics is the study of how society is organised and the forces that shape all of our lives. Politics is all around us and is key to understanding the way things work now, how we got to be here and where we are going in the future. We will explore politics all the way from the most local actions of councils up to the global role of the UN, giving students an appreciation of the breadth and depth of politics both at home and around the world.

The course has been designed to enable learners to understand and appreciate key citizenship issues at home, in school and as young citizens in their wider community. It encourages independent learning, critical thinking and decision making – all personal skills for the 21st century, critical for progress and engagement in further education and the workplace.

You will investigate five main topics over the two years, addressing the following areas:

Democracy and government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy, elections and voting in the UK • National, local, regional and devolved government • British Constitution • The role of the media and free press • Politics beyond the UK
Citizenship participation in democracy and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen participation in democracy and society
Rights, the law and the legal system in England and Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and responsibilities • The law • The legal system (England and Wales)
The UK and its relations with the wider world	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK and its relations with the wider world • Identities and diversity in UK society
The economy, finance and money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy, finance and money

Skills Required

- Data analysis and interpretation of statistics
- Essay writing
- Critical thinking
- Engagement in news and interest in national/international affairs

Teaching methods and resources:

As with all of our courses, we aim to create the most stimulating classroom environment possible to enable our young people to thrive in our subject. This course lends itself well to discussion and debate: we will encourage students to verbalise their opinions, defend their arguments and challenge the statements of others in a supportive and formal way.

We will link the content to contemporary and relevant examples throughout the course to enable our learners to feel the relevance of the content they are studying. Group and paired work will be emphasised to create a collaborative atmosphere and stimulate in-depth discussions.

Assessment methods:

The course is assessed with three papers at the end of year 11:

- Paper 1 (50 minutes) is all multiple choice
- Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins) is a written paper that includes a number of short essays
- Paper 3 (1 hour) is a written paper that includes a number of short essays

All of the papers will require students to make extensive use of items and pieces of data to support their arguments.

Where could studying Economics take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

This course provides the ideal foundation and good preparation for A-Level courses such as Politics, Economics, Law, Philosophy and Ethics, History, English, Geography

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in politics, journalism, charity/NGOs, civil service, marketing, PR, advertising

Head of Department: Mr Ruffles

Psychology

Subject: Psychology

"Don't become a mere recorder of facts, but try to learn the mystery of their origin." Ivan Pavlov

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: OCR

Specification: J203

Synopsis of course:

OCR's GCSE (9–1) specification in Psychology is designed to inspire and engage learners by providing a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study which develops an understanding of the ideas and values that characterise 'self' and others. Learners will be equipped with a psychological literacy that enables them to apply their knowledge and skills in their everyday lives, including making informed decisions about further study and career choices.

OCR are enriching and supporting their qualification by working with Time to Change, England's biggest programme to challenge mental health stigma and discrimination, run by the charities Mind and Rethink Mental Illness

Teaching methods and resources:

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Psychology will encourage learners to:

- use specialist vocabulary, psychological concepts, terminology and conventions to engage in the process of psychological enquiry
- acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis
- present information, develop arguments and draw conclusions through a critical approach to psychological evidence, developing as reflective thinkers
- develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society.

Assessment methods:

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Psychology • Development • Psychological Problems • Research Methods 	Studies and applications in psychology 1* (01) 90 marks Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	50% of total GCSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Influence • Memory • Sleep and Dreaming • Research Methods 	Studies and applications in psychology 2* (02) 90 marks Written paper 1 hour 30 minutes	50% of total GCSE

Where could studying Psychology take me? Further study and employment opportunities: This course provides the ideal foundation and good preparation for A Level courses such as Psychology, Sociology and Biology.

The course is ideal for students considering future careers in psychology, mental health, medicine, business management or nursing amongst many others.

Head of Department: Mr Ruffles

Separate Science

Subject: Separate Science

"Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science."

Edwin Powell Hubble

Grade level 9-1

Examining body: AQA

Specification: 8461, 8462, 8463

Synopsis of course:

The Separate Science course allows students more time to explore a wider range of biology, chemistry and physics topics such as the eye and brain in biology; space and light in physics and nanoparticles in chemistry; in a greater depth.

It develops a further understanding of scientific explanations and how science works. It is particularly relevant and useful to those who are considering studying Sciences post GCSE and those considering a STEM career.

Students gain 3 separate GCSE qualifications in each of the sciences, and we offer both Foundation and Higher tier.

Students who opt for Separate Science have 7 hours teaching time a week. It is an academically demanding course, which requires an element of independent study so students should be secure in their progress in science, however due to the extra time allotted there is more curriculum time to secure progress. In general, it is most suited to students who are confident of achieving at least a strong 5 at the end of Y11.

Separate Science students also have the exclusive opportunity in Year 11 to visit Cern in Geneva to explore Particle Physics beyond the curriculum.

Please speak with a member of the science department if need some guidance on this.

Teaching methods and resources:

Students will combine theory work with required practicals to help them learn content. In each of the 3 sciences, there will be 8-10 practicals which are determined by AQA. Students will need to make careful notes from these practicals as knowledge and understanding of them will be assessed in the final exams.

Biology 8461

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

Chemistry 8462

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

Physics 8463

1. Forces
2. Energy
3. Waves
4. Electricity
5. Magnetism and electromagnetism
6. Particle model of matter
7. Atomic structure
8. Space physics

Each science qualification requires maths skills to be successful. This varies by subject as follows:

- Biology – 10% of questions will test maths skill
- Chemistry - 20% of questions will test maths skill
- Physics – 30% of questions will test maths skill

The level of maths is at least equivalent to GCSE Maths at foundation level.

Assessment methods: The students will gain three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. Students will achieve a separate grade for each one.

Each subject is assessed by two written exams, each worth 50% of the total mark. Therefore, they will sit 6 written exams (1hr and 45 minutes each) in the exams period.

The prescribed practical work is assessed as part of the final examinations (around 15% of the marks available).

Where could studying Separate Science take me? Further study and employment opportunities:

Further study in science opens a wide range of career options. There are many careers which directly use the scientific knowledge and understanding that this course will develop from astronomer, engineer or brewer, to doctor, dentist or oceanographer.

Qualifications in Separate Science are highly regarded by all institution and industry sectors and demonstrate a person who is a critical thinker and has an analytical mind. Therefore, it provides an indication that a person could perform well in areas such as finance, law and computer technology.

Head of Department: Ms Ahmed (Director of Science)