NON NOBIS SOLUM

BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL

# KEY STAGE 4 SUBJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET 2026

**LEADING LEARNING TOGETHER**

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- Music
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- Religious Studies
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- Sport and PE

**Additional Languages**


**Option choice form to complete and hand back by Friday 1st May – this should be handed to your form tutor.**

# LETTER TO PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are pleased to invite you to the Year 9 Options Evening, scheduled for April 23rd , 2026, from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. This event marks a significant milestone in your child's education journey. There will be an information talk at 5.00pm and 5.30pm in the Main Hall.

As your child progresses into Years 10 and 11, it becomes imperative to select courses that align with their interests, strengths, and future aspirations. This evening provides an opportunity to address fundamental questions for the first time:

***"What subjects do I truly enjoy studying?"***
***"What am I proficient at?"***
***"What career paths do I envision after completing school?"***

The Options Evening aims to equip both parents and students with comprehensive information about the available subjects. Teachers from various departments will be present to discuss the curriculum, answer queries, and showcase examples of student work.

Many of our students pursue the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) pathway, which is highly valued by prestigious institutions such as Russell Group Universities. These universities often prefer candidates who have studied at least one of the 'facilitating' subjects at GCSE level, which are typically included in the EBacc. Therefore, it's crucial to consider this pathway when making choices.

While most GCSE subjects have been introduced during Key Stage 3, it's important to note that the GCSE syllabus may vary slightly. Each student will receive an Options booklet, which can also be accessed on our school website. We encourage you to engage with subject teachers to ensure that the selected courses align with your child's interests and strengths.

Please be aware that the duration of GCSE courses is two years, culminating in examinations and certification at the end of Year 11. Additionally, the school reserves the right to modify a student's options if it's deemed that they may not thrive in a particular subject or due to staffing limitations and practical constraints. Rest assured, we will maintain open communication with both students and parents/carers in such instances.

Lastly, it's essential to note that the availability of 'A' Level courses for a particular subject in Year 12 is not guaranteed solely based on the GCSE offering.

We look forward to your participation in this important event, and together, we will ensure that your child makes informed decisions regarding their educational journey.

# HOW WILL MY CURRICULUM CHANGE AT KEY STAGE 4?

At Key Stage 4 the core examination subjects are usually taken by all students together with the non-examined core subjects.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is achieved by students who have gained grades 9 to 5 in: English Language, Maths, two out of four science subjects (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Science Trilogy (counts as 2), Computer Science), either History or Geography, and either French or Spanish. Six passes in total.

Boston High School promotes a broad and balanced curriculum recognising the importance of EBacc subjects. However, students have some freedom to make their choices for the subjects on offer.

| Core Examined | | | | Core Non-examined | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| English Both: | | Mathematics | Biology | Core Philosophy & Ethics (Pre) | Core Computing |
| Language | Literature | Chemistry | Physics | Core PE | Enrichment |

In addition to the core subjects you will need to choose **four** subjects from the optional subjects below. You must choose at least one of the subjects which is starred (*).

The Computer Science and the Sport and PE options are GCSE courses additional to the compulsory core.

| Optional Subjects | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Art and Design | Business Studies | Computer Science * | Food Preparation and Nutrition | Engineering BTEC L2 |
| French * [See note below] | Geography * | History * | Music | Design and Technology |
| Religious Studies | Photography | Sociology | Spanish * | Sport and PE |

**French - This will be a fast-track GCSE Option for dual linguists only (French & Spanish) subject to MFL staff approval**

# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS


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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** Pearson

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs A Bell

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Two compulsory subjects are taught within one block of lessons. You will study a range of non-fictions texts and write for a variety of purposes and audiences. You will study a variety of literature from the English Literary Heritage as well as more modern texts, including novels, plays and poetry.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

The course should increase your understanding of Literature and your ability to analyse and write about texts.

You will understand a wider range of non-fiction texts and develop critical appreciation of writers' choices. You will develop your skills in talking to an audience and working within a group as well as continuing to improve your technical skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

You will need good grades in English Language to be able to enter many college and university courses and the professions. Your study of Literature will help you to develop analytical skills which you will use in many A-Level subjects. The work which you do in English should also help to prepare you for the variety of written work which you will undoubtedly come across in your adult life and is just as important for those wishing to study engineering and science subjects as those studying the arts and humanities.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Two separate GCSE examination courses, leading to two different qualifications, are covered in one block of lessons.

**English Language is a modular course consisting of three units English Literature is made up of two units**

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Component 1: Exam - 50%
**Communicating information and ideas**
Read and respond to short and open-response questions on two thematically linked, unseen 19th century non-fiction extracts. Transactional writing.

Component 2: Exam - 50%
**Exploring effects and impact**
Read and respond to literary prose and literary non-fiction texts from the 20th and 21st Century. Creative Writing.

Component 3: Speaking and Listening - Non-exam - 0%

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

Component 1: Exam - 50%
**Shakespeare and Post 1914 Literature**
One studied Shakespeare play (Macbeth) and a modern prose text (Boys Don't Cry).

Component 2: Exam - 50%
**19th Century Novel and Poetry since 1789**
19th century prose text (A Christmas Carol), Poetry Anthology.

# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

# MATHEMATICS

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 1Ma1

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mr K Joyce

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

This subject focus is built around five key areas of mathematics: number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measure, and statistics and probability. Students will explore ideas across these strands and take part in investigative tasks that strengthen their reasoning, problem-solving, and communication skills.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

Mathematics is an essential tool for all students. Throughout the course, students develop the confidence to apply mathematical methods to problems they may face in everyday life or the workplace. They learn to approach unfamiliar situations, break them down logically, and work towards solutions with increasing independence.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

The course develops a wide range of transferable skills that support students long after they leave the classroom. Students learn how to analyse information, spot patterns, make logical decisions, and explain their reasoning clearly. These skills are valuable in everyday situations, from planning budgets to interpreting data in the news, and they build confidence in approaching unfamiliar or complex tasks.

GCSE Mathematics is also a key requirement for many further education routes and is highly valued by employers. The problem-solving and reasoning skills gained through the course provide a strong foundation for subjects such as Geography, Psychology, Economics, and the Sciences, as well as for A Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

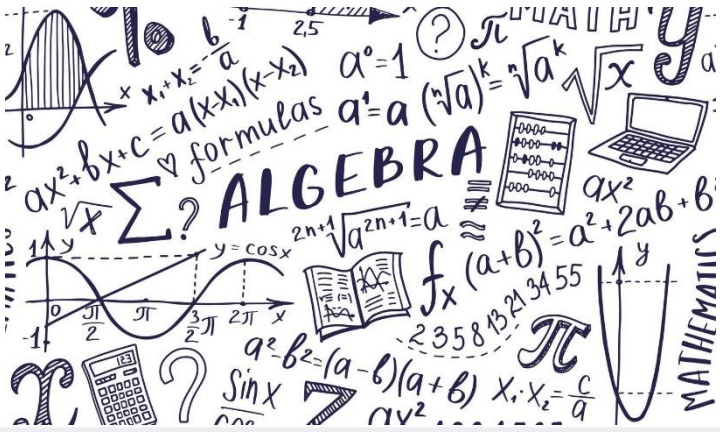
Mathematics GCSE has 2 tiers of entry with numerical grading. All students will start Year 10 on the higher tier route, which allows access to grades 4 to 9 (grade 4 is approximately a low-grade C).

There are 3 equally weighted examination papers each 1 hour and 30 minutes. All elements of the course can be assessed in each of the papers however paper 1 is non-calculator and papers 2 and 3 are calculator.

Over the course of the GCSE years, students can expect to be assessed on each topic of increasing difficulty, beginning with the grade 4 and 5 content.

The GCSE is now much more challenging and requires students to be much more willing to apply themselves to unfamiliar questions. Resilience and continual revision are the keys to success.

For a select number of students there will be the opportunity to take the AQA Level 2 qualification in Further Mathematics. This will be an extra level 2 qualification to stretch the more advanced student.




# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

# COMBINED SCIENCE

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** GCSE Combined Science: TRILOGY (8464)

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs S Gaish (Bio), Mr L Dales (Chem), Ms R Shaw-West (Phy)

**The school expects that most students will take GCSE Combined Science at KS4. These students will be studying AQA 9-1 GCSE Combined Science Trilogy, culminating in 2 GCSE's being awarded. There may be a foundation group, but this will be at the discretion of the teaching staff in the Science department.**

Due to the decreased content in this course compared to the GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics there is considerably more revision time at the end of the course, content can be delivered at a slower pace. The exams are shorter with fewer questions.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Combined Science aims to give students opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of Science.
- 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.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

GCSE Combined Science provides distinctive and relevant experience for students who wish to progress to a Level 3 qualification in any Science subject.

The course enables learners to engage with Biology, Chemistry and Physics in their everyday lives, to make informed choices about further study in sciences, and their career choices.

**Biology** encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the living world and provides insight into and experience of how science works. The areas covered in GCSE Biology:

1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Ecology
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance and evolution
7. Infection and Response

**Chemistry** encourages learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. They develop their curiosity about the chemical world, and how science works. The areas covered in GCSE Chemistry are:

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 motivates learners by showing them the principles that explain real world phenomena and by building their analytical and practical abilities. We aim to encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the physical world, and provide insight into how science works. The areas covered in GCSE Physics are:

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic Structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and Electromagnetism

# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

# COMBINED SCIENCE CONT.

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** GCSE Combined Science: TRILOGY (8464)

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs S Gaish (Bio), Mr L Dales (Chem), Ms R Shaw-West (Phy)

In addition, the GCSE will require a level of understanding of mathematical and scientific practical approaches. Practical work is at the heart of the specification in order to

1. To support and consolidate scientific concepts (knowledge and understanding).
2. To develop investigative skills.
3. To build and master practical skills

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

6 separate examinations at the end of the 2-year course.
2 Biology papers, 2 Chemistry papers, 2 Physics papers

**Biology**
Paper 1 assesses content from Topics 1–4
Paper 2 assesses content from Topics 5–7, with assumed knowledge of Topics 1–4.

**Chemistry**
Paper 1 assesses atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry; chemical changes; and energy changes.
Paper 2 assesses the rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

**Physics**
Paper 1 assesses energy; electricity; particle model of matter; and atomic structure.
Paper 2 assesses forces; waves; and magnetism and electromagnetism

All exams have the same structure, consisting of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

All papers are out of 70 marks and have the same duration of 1hr 15 minutes. Each paper carries an equal weighting of 16.7% of the qualification. All marks from all papers are combined to give an overall grade e.g. 4-4, 6-5, or 9-8 as this course is worth 2 GCSE's. For the combined sciences, a minimum of 20% of marks will test mathematical skills (made up of a minimum of 10% in biology; 20% in chemistry; and 30% in physics).


**Higher tier, Grades 9 – 4**
**Foundation tier Grades 1-5**

**Provided students get a minimum grade of a 6-6, they can apply for A level Science subjects at BHS, if they wish to. Students who study GCSE Combined Science will not be in any way disadvantaged compared to those who have studied GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.**

# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

# BIOLOGY

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** GCSE Biology (8461)

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs S Gaish

The school expects that some students will take GCSE Biology at KS4. These students will be studying AQA 9-1 GCSE Biology, culminating in one GCSE awarded. A further 2 GCSE's will be awarded to the students as they will also be studying AQA 9-1 GCSE Chemistry and Physics. The decision as to which students will be chosen is done by the Heads of Departments, and the Biology teachers and is based on data gathered over the last 3 years of studying Science.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Biology aims to give students opportunity to:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of biology
- 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.

GCSE Biology provides distinctive and relevant experience for students who wish to progress to a Level 3 qualification in Biology.

It is a course aimed at those students who have a real passion for science, and the ability to be self-motivated to study independently. This is due to greatly increased content delivered in the same number of lessons as those students taking Combined Trilogy Science GCSE. Therefore, revision time is incredibly limited at the end of the course.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

GCSE Biology encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the living world and provides insight into and experience of how science works. It enables learners to engage with Biology in their everyday lives, to make informed choices about further study in sciences, and their career choices. The areas covered in GCSE Biology are:

1. Cell Biology
2. Organisation
3. Ecology
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance and evolution
7. Infection and Response

In addition, the GCSE will require a level of understanding of mathematical and scientific practical approaches. Practical work is at the heart of the specification in order to

1. To support and consolidate scientific concepts (knowledge and understanding).
2. To develop investigative skills.
3. To build and master practical skills

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Two separate Examinations at the end of the 3-year course.

Paper 1: Exam - 50% of total GCSE
**Assesses content from Topics 1–4.**
written paper consisting of 100 marks and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 2: Exam - 50% of total GCSE
**Assesses content from Topics 5–7, with assumed knowledge of Topics 1–4.**
written paper consisting of 100 marks and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Includes synoptic assessment and the assessment of mathematical and practical skills.

Students will cover the content from Topics 1-2 in year 9. Units 3, 4 and 7 will be studied in year 10. Topics 5 and 6 will be studied in year 11 along with revision material.

## COMPULSORY SUBJECT

# CHEMISTRY

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** GCSE Chemistry (8462)
**COURSE LEADER:**
Mr L Dales

The school expects that some students will take GCSE Chemistry at KS4. These students will be studying AQA 9-1 GCSE Chemistry culminating in one GCSE awarded. A further 2 GCSE's will be awarded to the students as they will also be studying AQA 9-1 GCSE Biology and Physics. The decision as to which students will be chosen is done by the Heads of Department, and the Chemistry teachers and is based on data gathered over the last 3 years of studying Science.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Chemistry aims to give students the opportunity to:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of chemistry.
- 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.

GCSE Chemistry provides distinctive and relevant experience for students who wish to progress to a Level 3 qualification in Chemistry.

It is a course aimed at those students who have a real passion for science, and the ability to be self-motivated to study independently. This is due to greatly increased content delivered in the same number of lessons as those students taking Combined Trilogy Science GCSE. Therefore, revision time is incredibly limited at the end of the course.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

Chemistry encourages learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Chemistry encourages learners to develop their curiosity about the chemical world, and provides insight into, and experience of, how science works. It enables learners to engage with chemistry in their everyday lives, to make informed choices about further study of science and their career choices. The areas covered in GCSE Chemistry are:

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.

In addition, the GCSE will require a level of understanding of mathematical and scientific practical approaches. Practical work is at the heart of the specification in order to

1. To support and consolidate scientific concepts (knowledge and understanding).
2. To develop investigative skills.
3. To build and master practical skills

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Two separate Examinations at the end of the 3-year course.

Paper 1: Exam - 50% of total GCSE
**Assesses content from Topics C1–C5.**
written paper consisting of 100 marks and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 2: Exam - 50% of total GCSE
**Assesses content from Topics C6–C10, with assumed knowledge of Topics C1–C5.**
written paper consisting of 100 marks and lasts for 1 hour

Includes synoptic assessment and the assessment of mathematical and practical skills.

# COMPULSORY SUBJECT

# PHYSICS

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** GCSE Physics (8463)

**COURSE LEADER:**
Ms R Shaw-West

The school expects some students will take GCSE Physics at KS4.

These students will study AQA 9–1 GCSE Physics, resulting in one GCSE qualification. They will also study AQA 9–1 GCSE Biology and Chemistry, earning a total of three separate GCSEs in science.

Selection for Separate Sciences is made by the Heads of Department and Physics teachers, based on performance data collected across the last three years of science study.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Physics aims to give students the opportunity to:

- build strong scientific knowledge and a clear understanding of key physics concepts
- develop insight into how scientific enquiry works through practical, modelling and investigative approaches
- strengthen observational, practical, problem solving and analytical skills
- learn to evaluate scientific evidence and methods, both qualitatively and quantitatively

This course is ideal for students who have a genuine enthusiasm for science and the self-motivation to work independently.

Because the content is significantly greater than in Combined Trilogy Science, revision time at the end of the course is very limited and students need to keep up with content from day one.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

Physics encourages curiosity about the world and develops an understanding of the science behind every day phenomena. The course builds confidence, independence, and analytical thinking to support future study and a wide range of careers.

The areas covered in GCSE Physics are:

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particles
4. Radiation
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Electromagnetism
8. Space

Students will also develop mathematical skills and a strong understanding of scientific practical techniques. Practical work is central to the course and is used to:

1. To support and consolidate scientific concepts (knowledge and understanding).
2. To develop investigative skills.
3. To build and master practical skills

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Two separate Examinations at the end of the 3-year course.

Paper 1: Exam - 50% of total GCSE
**Assesses content from Topics P1–P4.**
written paper consisting of 100 marks and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 2: Exam - 50% of total GCSE
**Assesses content from Topics P5–P8, with assumed knowledge of Topics P1–P4.**
written paper consisting of 100 marks and lasts for 1 hour

Includes synoptic assessment and the assessment of mathematical and practical skills.

Students will cover content as follows:

- Year 9, Modules 1 - 3
- Year 10, Modules 4-6
- Year 11, Modules 6, 7 and 8

# COMPULSORY SUBJECT

# OPTIONAL
# EBacc SUBJECTS



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# COMPUTER SCIENCE

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:**EDEXCEL
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 1CP2

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mr M Nodding

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Computer Science isn't just about using technology — it's about **creating it**, shaping it, and understanding the digital world that powers almost every part of modern life. This course launches you into that world, giving you the skills to think like a programmer, solve problems like an engineer, and explore ideas like an innovator.

You'll dive into the core principles that make computers work, from how data is stored and processed to how networks connect the world. Along the way, you'll learn to write your own programs, design algorithms, and break down complex challenges into elegant, logical solutions.

It's a subject that rewards curiosity, creativity, and persistence — and it's one of the most exciting fields you can study today.

Every industry — from medicine to gaming, from finance to film — relies on computing. By understanding the foundations of Computer Science, you're not just preparing for exams; you're building a toolkit for the future. Whether you dream of becoming a software developer, a cybersecurity expert, a data scientist, or simply want to understand the technology shaping your world, this course gives you a powerful head start.

## WHAT'S WILL I STUDY?

**Principles of Computer Science**
This unit covers the body of knowledge about Computer Systems including : Data representation, Computer Hardware and Software, Computer Networks, Artificial intelligence and Cybersecurity

**Computational Thinking**,
This unit focusses on the programming aspect of Computer Science. You will learn about the elements of computational thinking and logic.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

You will:

- Design and coding your own programs
- Understand how computers "think" and make decisions
- Explore the inner workings of hardware, software, and networks
- Tackle real problems with computational thinking
- Build confidence in logic, creativity, and resilience

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

The specification will provide excellent progression to A level Computer Science, vocational courses and to degree level courses in the areas of computing, engineering and science. In addition, the course provides the knowledge, skills and understanding that a growing number of employers are demanding.

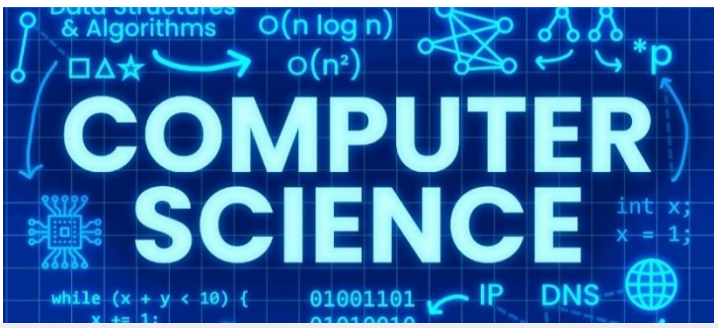
## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science**

**Written exam - 50% of the GCSE mark**

**Paper 2 : Application of Computational Thinking**

**Onscreen exam - 50% of the GCSE mark**




# OPTIONAL EBacc SUBJECTS

# GEOGRAPHY

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 8035

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs C Collingwood

GCSE is when Geography gets even better. You liked it at key stage 3? You'll love it at GCSE! Mrs Collingwood and Mr Stroud are raring to go. The course starts with our compulsory residential trip to Sheffield and the Peak District to do urban and rivers field work, learning in the environment and making memories for life!

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

We will be studying:

**Living with the physical environment**
Including: the challenge of natural hazards, the living world (Including rainforests) and physical landscapes in the UK (rivers and coasts).

**Challenges in the human environment**
Including: urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management (water, energy or food). Normally you will choose which resource you study.

**Geographical Applications & Skills**
Including: Issue evaluation, Fieldwork and Geographical skills which are taught on the compulsory 2-day field trip.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

The course will be examined at the end with 3 papers (one on each of the sections above) including an Issues Evaluation paper which gives you new geographical data in advance of the exam and asks you to "think like a Geographer" about it to make good decisions! You will also get to write about the field trip on this paper. This will also help in your understanding of two of the core topics.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

**Geographers can:**

- Make a concise report
- Collect and handle data
- Make decisions about an issue
- Analyse material
- Organise themselves
- Think creatively and independently
- Ask and answer questions

**Geographers are:**

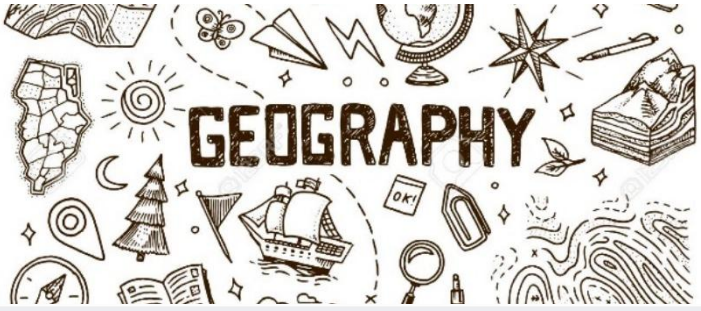
- Good communicators
- Spatially aware
- Problem solvers
- Good team players
- Computer literate
- Well rounded, flexible thinkers
- Socially, economically and environmentally aware

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

Geography helps you to:

- Understand the physical and human environments and how they inter-relate.
- Get to know your world through fieldwork.
- Make wise decisions that balance the environment, social and economic concerns through the issue evaluation paper.
- Develop a wide range of skills including ICT.
- Learn in depth about places around the world!

And best of all…. Geography is fun!




# OPTIONAL EBacc SUBJECTS

# HISTORY

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 1HI0BJ

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs J Carter

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

History is an extremely popular choice for GCSE students because we study colourful and exciting events over a wide-ranging time period. At GCSE we cover 1,000 years of British History as well as looking in depth at areas of American and German History. Our aim is to develop transferrable skills in analysis, evaluation, essay writing and the use of evidence through a range of content material to enable us to understand how the past helped shape our world, as well as to achieve a high grade at GCSE. To give this blend of knowledge with understanding we will study:

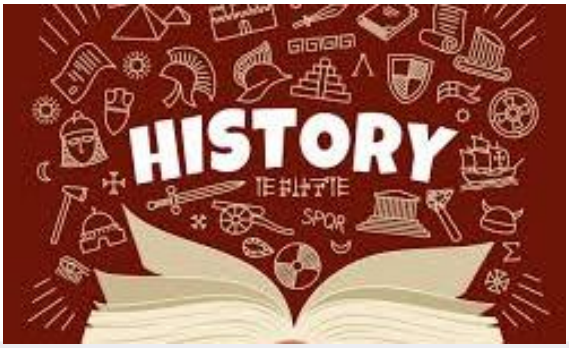
**Paper 1:** Crime and punishment in Britain c1000-present. Whitechapel, Crime, Policing and the Inner City c1870-1900.

**Paper 2:** Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060—1088 and The American West c1835—1895.

**Paper 3:** Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

History teaches students to form opinions, to evaluate and to analyse events. It teaches them to write a fluent argument, using evidence to back it up. They will acquire the ability to identify why particular events happened as they did, as well as why things changed or remained the same. This enables historians to make judgments which they can support with evidence. History is an academic subject which develops a multitude of different skills. It's also fascinating, exciting and full of gory events!




## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

History teaches you to think in a combination of ways which are not found in any other subject. Students of History must use sources as evidence to answer questions about the way people behaved, thought and felt in the past. Students will learn how to infer and how to read for deeper meaning. It is also very important, in an ever changing and complex world, to be able to understand how different interpretations of a sequence of events happen. This is invaluable in many areas of adult life and work. The methods of investigation, study and research which are involved are useful training for a variety of careers. Famous barristers, television presenters and politicians are just some of the many professionals who are historians in their academic lives. Indeed, there is a very high correlation between the study of law and students of history.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Paper 1**: Exam - 30%
written paper, lasts for 1 hour 20 minutes.

**Paper 2**: Exam - 40%
written paper, lasts for 1 hour 50 minutes. Marks are split equally between the period study and the British depth study.

**Paper 3**: Exam - 30%
written paper, lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes.

# OPTIONAL EBacc SUBJECTS

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 8652

**COURSE LEADER:**
Miss C Vaughan

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Through the study of a foreign language – French, pupils can understand and appreciate the country, its culture and its people. As they do so, they can begin to think of themselves as citizens of the world as well as the United Kingdom.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

This course will help you to communicate with many millions of people living outside the UK and gain enormous enjoyment from the opportunity to experience the culture, ways and traditions of others in your own age group.

In Key Stage 4 you begin to use French more independently, drawing on a firmer grasp of knowledge and a wider, more complex range of expression. You will continue to adapt your use of language according to context, purpose and audience. Equally you will learn to understand a more extensive range of unfamiliar language, by reading and listening to a variety of materials from French speaking countries.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

**Theme 1: People and lifestyle**
**Theme 2: Popular culture**
**Theme 3: Communication and the world around us**


## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

| | |
|---|---|
| Listening: | Exam - 25% |
| Speaking: | Exam - 25% |
| Reading: | Exam - 25% |
| Writing: | Exam - 25% |

HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?
With the arrival of the English Baccalaureate, languages are recapturing their prominent place in English schools and can be a significant advantage in order to have access to the Russell Group universities in the UK.

Besides, the world is constantly shrinking, and you can no longer rely on job opportunities exclusive to your own country. Job demands are constantly changing and employers, more and more, are looking for those who have that extra skill of being able to communicate and carry out business in languages other than their own. UK trade links are growing all the time with overseas countries. With the use of the internet, it is no longer necessary for us to have to travel vast distances to talk to colleagues or customers in person, but exciting travel can become a bonus. There are many careers that may insist on more than one language skill, e.g. European law, banker, teacher, interpreter, negotiator and any post concerned with foreign travel. Your career prospects will improve; it will provide more variety, choice, and flexibility.

## OPTIONAL EBacc SUBJECTS

# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: SPANISH

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 8692

**COURSE LEADER:**
Miss C Vaughan

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Through the study of a foreign language – Spanish, pupils can understand and appreciate the country, its culture and its people. As they do so, they can begin to think of themselves as citizens of the world as well as the United Kingdom.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

This course will help you to communicate with many millions of people living outside the UK and gain enormous enjoyment from the opportunity to experience the culture, ways and traditions of others in your own age group.

In Key Stage 4 you begin to use Spanish more independently, drawing on a firmer grasp of knowledge and a wider, more complex range of expression. You will continue to adapt your use of language according to context, purpose and audience. Equally you will learn to understand a more extensive range of unfamiliar language, by reading and listening to a variety of materials from Spanish speaking countries.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

**Theme 1: People and lifestyle**
**Theme 2: Popular culture**
**Theme 3: Communication and the world around us**


## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

| | |
|---|---|
| Listening: | Exam - 25% |
| Speaking: | Exam - 25% |
| Reading: | Exam - 25% |
| Writing: | Exam - 25% |

HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?
With the arrival of the English Baccalaureate, languages are recapturing their prominent place in English schools and can be a significant advantage in order to have access to the Russell Group universities in the UK.

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# OPTIONAL EBacc SUBJECTS

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS


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# ART AND DESIGN

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 8202

**COURSE LEADER:**
Miss L Volley

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

To study Art and Design is to learn how to visually express your thoughts and ideas. Initially, the course focuses on developing your skills and different ways of working. Later you will decide whether to continue working in a broad range of media or you may wish to focus on a particular area, depending on your strengths and what you enjoy.

The Fine Art endorsement of the course includes; drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, lens-/light-based media, photography and the moving image, printmaking, mixed media and land art.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

If you enjoy Art and want to continue being creative or maybe even hope to make your living in the Arts, you will find GCSE Art and Design exciting and challenging. You will make the course what it is; making decisions about your own work, experimenting with media and creating a portfolio that reflects your interests, development and skills. Art is a subject which stretches your imagination and helps you to think in different ways, a skill which is useful to you whatever you want to do later.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Work is assessed using AQA's Assessment Objectives: 1, Develop, 2, Refine, 3, Record, 4, Present. Over the 2 years you will make a coursework and an exam project. These are marked separately and then an average is calculated. Your final mark will be based on all the work you have done over the 2 years.

Throughout the course your marks and feedback are given verbally and also recorded in your assessment folder, of which you will refer to in lessons to progress your work.

**Coursework**: 60%

The coursework portfolio is completed both in class and at home, during both Yr 10 and 11. The finished portfolio is handed in for assessment at Christmas of Year 11.

**Examination**: 40%

The exam project begins immediately in January on your return from the Christmas holiday. You will have approximately 8 weeks to prepare and evidence your ideas and planning before making a final piece within a 10-hour exam. The exam is usually spread across 2 days. Both your preparation and the exam piece are marked.

Both course and exam work are handed in for final assessment at Easter of Year 11.

## THIS IS WHAT GCSE STUDENTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE COURSE.

*"Art helps you think more creatively and independently"*
*"It's really enjoyable!"*
*"You don't get marked for being right or wrong; it's your interpretation that counts"*
*"I've learnt about different artists, their styles and influences which has been interesting and is useful to further education"*
*"You get to develop your skills"*
*"You become more experimental with your work and ideas"*

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# BUSINESS STUDIES

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel
**SPECIFICATION No.: 1BS0**

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs J Wise

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Business Studies is not just a theory-based subject, it is about real life. It will help you learn about businesses and the way they operate in today's society. You will gain skills that will be useful in a wide range of occupations such as law, accountancy, and business management as well as for the further study of Business Studies. Lessons are an engaging mix of theory and practical supported through hearing about the roles of local Business professionals to give some context to what you will be exploring in lessons.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

The course is about developing an understanding of business concepts, and then applying them in real life situations. You will begin by investigating new start-ups identifying how new business ideas are spotted and developed to create an effective, and successful business. In theme 2, you will learn about the key business concepts and issues and decisions needed when growing a business and working on a global scale. The four functional areas: Finance, HRM, Operations and Marketing are explored throughout the two-year qualification.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

The GCSE 9-1 Business Studies qualification will support skills development such as making decisions and developing persuasive arguments; creative and practical problem solving; and understanding data, finance, and communication. It is also a great step in preparing you for further study of Business Studies at A Level and university.

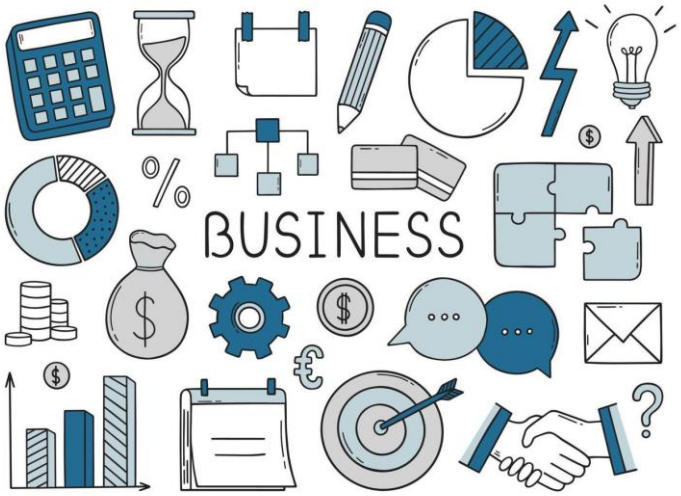
The GCSE 9-1 Business Studies course could help prepare you for an entrepreneurial role and help you to gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, like accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Exam - 50%
**Assesses Theme 1 - Investigating Small Business and**

Paper 2: Exam – 50%
**Assesses Theme 2 - Building a Business**.

Within each paper you will complete a variety of question types such as multiple choice, calculation, short answer questions and extended writing questions. There are three sections in the paper and each section is ramped, starting with multiple choice questions, moving to short answer questions, and ending with extended writing. Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.




# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

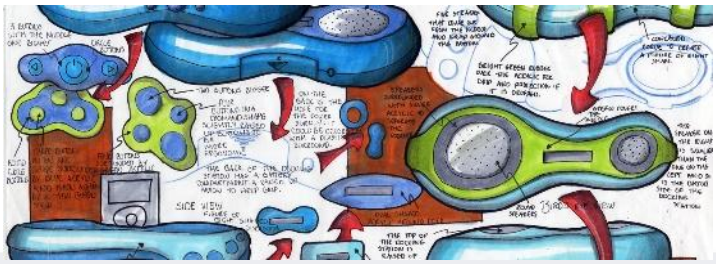
**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel
**SPECIFICATION No.: 1DT0**

**COURSE LEADER:**
Miss E Whitton

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities. Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. Students learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. They should develop an awareness of practices from the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. Through the critique of the outcomes of design and technology activity, both historic and present day, students should develop an understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world and understand that high-quality design and technology is important to the creativity, culture, sustainability, wealth and wellbeing of the nation and the global community.



## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

Design and Technology will teach you lifelong useful skills in four main areas- problem solving, employability, design and practical skills. Career related areas of interest might be; Architecture, engineering, industrial design, manufacturing, advertising or teaching. This course can also be used to develop skills that will show aptitude for employment in non-related career paths.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed in two parts. Both the coursework and the examination will cover modern developments including sustainability and awareness of new technologies. There is also an emphasis upon creativity and innovation, so students have the opportunity to design and make outcomes using a wide range of materials.

**Coursework**: 50% - 35 hours
Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge that will be released by the exam board in term 6 of year 10. The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.

**Examination**: 50% - 1 hour 45 minutes
**Section A**: Core This section is 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A.

**Section B**: Material categories This section is 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended open response questions. There will be 5 marks of calculation questions in Section B

## OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# ENGINEERING: DESIGN

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** OCR
**SPECIFICATION No.: J822**

**COURSE LEADER:**
Miss E Whitton

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

The Cambridge Nationals Engineering Design will enable you to learn about the process of engineering design and understand how it can be used to design effective solutions for a given design brief. You will develop the ability to communicate your design ideas through the use of sketches and engineering drawings and computer aided design. You will also be able to evaluate the design of a product, through the disassembly of existing products or the use of modelling for new designs.

Cambridge National in Engineering Design will enable students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Engineering Design, including the design process, types of drawings, influences on design, and the use of Computer Aided Design (CAD).
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering design and development sector and more widely.
- Analyse problems in design terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, and modelling designs to meet a design brief.
- Understand the different stages of the iterative design process, recognising the cyclical nature of this approach.
- Evaluate designs through product disassembly and the process of using product analysis.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

These skills will help you progress onto further study in the engineering design and development sector. This may be Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as the Cambridge Technical in Engineering, A Levels, such as A Level Design and Technology, or one of the number of Design and Development Technician Apprenticeships.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Unit R038: Principles of engineering design**: Exam
Written paper consisting of 70 marks and lasts for 1 hour 15 minutes. OCR-set and marked. Calculators are allowed in this exam.
This question paper has two parts:

- Part A – includes 10 multiple choice questions.
- Part B – includes short answer questions and extended response questions. One extended response question will be assessed using a levels of response mark scheme.

**Unit R039: Communicating design**s:
OCR-set assignment 60 marks. Centre-assessed and OCR moderated. This set assignment contains 4 practical tasks.

**Unit R040: Design evaluation and modelling:**
OCR-set assignment 60 marks. Centre-assessed and OCR moderated. This set assignment contains 6 practical tasks.

## OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** OCR
**SPECIFICATION No.: J309**

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs C Murphy

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a new exciting and contemporary GCSE course. It is designed to motivate students to develop the high level of knowledge, understanding and skills to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

You will develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.

You will be taught to understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health. You will gain an understanding of the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices. All of this will be taught and discovered through both practical and theoretical tasks over the two years.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

Food Preparation and Nutrition will teach you skills that will be of benefit long after you have finished the course. Practical tasks will enable you to develop and demonstrate a wide range of food preparation and cooking skills. You could use this as a base to go onto further study other food-based courses. If you have an interest in Food and perhaps a career in this field leading to job opportunities such as dietician, nutritionist, in Food Product development, a chef or teacher then this might be a good choice for you. You may of course use it to show aptitude for employment.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed in two parts:

**Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)**: 50%

Students undertake two assessments:

**NEA 1 - Food Investigation assessment**: 15%
This task will take approximately 10 hours. In this task you will be required to research and investigate the chemical and functional properties of a food and carry out investigations into the foods identified by the task set by the exam board.

**NEA 2 Food Preparation task**: 35%
This task will be approximately 20 hours. In this task you will be required to research and investigate the influence of lifestyles, age and culinary traditions when developing a menu and/or complete dishes for your task. There will be a three-hour practical session where you will have to prepare, cook and serve three completed dishes.

**Examination**: Exam - 50% - 1 hour 30 minutes.
This component consists of questions from the four areas of the specification:
A. Nutrition
B. Food provenance and food choice
C. Cooking and food preparation
D. Skills - preparation and cooking techniques.

There will be a variety of styles of question. Some will be short-answer questions and others will require a longer response.

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# MUSIC

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** Edexcel
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 2MU01

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs S Leake

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Do you enjoy performing?

Are you interested in finding out about all different types of music?

Or do you enjoy coming up with your own musical ideas and compositions?

Studying Music to GCSE allows students to extend and develop their skills and knowledge in the three key areas of Listening, Composing and Performing.

Students will find out more about music from all styles, investigate how music is put together, write their own pieces and improve their performance skills both as a soloist and within a group.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

GCSE Music is suitable for all students with a love of and interest in any kind of music. It is a particularly good option for those who already play an instrument or sing well as these skills count towards your final grade. In addition to developing music-based skills, students also develop many general skills such as independent learning, research, planning and problem solving.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

Music qualifications are highly regarded by colleges of further education and employers alike as musicians are trained to work methodically and to be self-disciplined. You may wish to use GCSE Music as a basis for further study such as A Level Music or Performing Arts at University. You may wish to use it as a springboard into other related areas such as Music Technology or Arts Management. Or you may simply wish to continue to develop your creative mind with a subject that is practical, academic and enjoyable!

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Performing**: Coursework - 30%
Students perform at least one solo and at least one ensemble piece of their own choice with a combined duration of at least four minutes.

**Composing**: Coursework - 30%
Students are required to write two pieces with a combined duration of at least three minutes - one composition to a brief set by Edexcel and one free composition.

**Listening**: Exam - 30%
Written paper and lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes.
Students are tested on eight set works from four different areas of study covered during the course, ranging from Classical music by Beethoven to Pop music by Queen and from Samba fusion music to songs from the West End shows such as Defying Gravity from Wicked.


## OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# PHOTOGRAPHY

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 8206

**COURSE LEADER:**
Miss L Volley

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

To study Photography is to learn how to visually express your thoughts and ideas. Initially, the course focuses on developing your skills and different ways of looking and working. Later you will further your skills within a themed project of which you will decide on the direction. The course promotes independence and the developing of your own ideas.

Photography is an endorsement within the Art and Design course, it can include; portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photojournalism, moving image, film, video and fashion photography.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

If you enjoy taking photographs and want to learn more about this creative subject area or maybe even hope to make your living in the Arts, you will find GCSE Photography exciting and challenging. You will make the course what it is; making decisions about your own work, experimenting with media and creating a portfolio that reflects your interests, development and skills.
Photography is a subject which stretches your imagination and helps you to think in different ways, a skill which is useful to you whatever you want to do later.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Work is assessed using AQA's Assessment Objectives: 1, Develop, 2, Refine, 3, Record, 4, Present. Over the 2 years you will make a coursework and an exam project. These are marked separately and then an average is calculated. Your final mark will be based on all the work you have done over the 2 years.

Throughout the course your marks and feedback are given verbally as well as recorded in your assessment folder, of which you will refer to in lessons to progress your work.

**Coursework:** 60%
The coursework portfolio is completed both in class and at home, during both Yr 10 & 11. The finished portfolio is handed in for assessment at Christmas of Year 11.

**Examination:** 40%
The exam project begins immediately in January on your return from the Christmas holiday. You will have approximately 8 weeks to prepare and evidence your ideas and planning before making a final piece within a 10-hour exam. The exam is usually spread across 2 days. Both your preparation and the exam piece are marked.
Both course and exam work are handed in for final assessment at Easter of Year 11.

## THIS IS WHAT GCSE STUDENTS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE COURSE.

*"Photography allows me to be artistic whilst not having to draw using traditional media", "'It's really enjoyable!"*
*"I've learnt about different photographers, their styles and influences which has been interesting and is useful to further education"*
*"You don't get marked for being right or wrong; it's your interpretation that counts'"*
*"Photography helps you think more creatively and independently"*
*"You become more experimental with your work and ideas"*

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** A

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs R Law

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

In year 9 students have begun to explore areas of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, which give them a taste of the course available to them at GCSE. They are following the specification entitled AQA GCSE Religious Studies A. This course helps students develop their interest in and enthusiasm for, the study of Religion and its relation to the wider world.

Students will dedicate 50% of the course undertaking an in-depth study of Christianity and Judaism, reflecting upon the practices and beliefs of these religions. 50% of the course will explore Philosophical and Ethical questions such as:

- Is war ever right?
- Should the death penalty be legalised?
- Should Euthanasia be legalised?
- Should same-sex couples be able to marry in a Church?

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

This subject encourages students to critically evaluate their own beliefs and views, ask questions about the nature of morality and consider views different to their own. They will get to explore controversial and contemporary issues and conduct debates on these areas. This unit of study will allow them to begin to empathise with others and gain a greater understanding of why people hold their views and beliefs.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

The study of Religious Studies lays a good foundation for further study of Religious Studies at A level and complements other related A-level subjects including History, Sociology and English Literature. Students who enjoy Religious Studies tend to pursue careers that involve working with others, such as teaching, the police-force, social work, law and journalism.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Exam:** 100%
Two written papers.

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# SOCIOLOGY

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA
**SPECIFICATION No.:** A

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs N Connor

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Sociology is the study of society - how people interact in groups. GCSE Sociology examines social behaviour and the ways people are organised into groups according to distinctions such as class, gender and race.

GCSE Sociology focuses on contemporary society, providing an awareness of the importance of social structure and actions in explaining social forces and issues. Some questions GCSE Sociology covers include:

Why do boys underachieve in the education system?
To what extent is there gender equality in the home?
What are the causes of criminal behaviour?

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

Sociology will help you to think about society in a new and critical light, questioning the status quo and developing a sophisticated understanding of the real issues that affect the society we live in. It is an excellent subject for showing you how society works and for making you aware of the range of conditions that individuals within society experience. Students often comment that they didn't realise how varied the human experience can be and how powerfully group identity shapes a person's future.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

The study of GCSE sociology lays a good foundation for further study of Sociology at A-level and complements other related A-level subjects including Psychology, Religious Studies and Health and Social care.

Students who study Sociology tend to go on to study

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Exam:** 100%
Two written papers.

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# SPORT AND PE

**QUALIFICATION:** GCSE

**EXAM BOARD: AQA**
**SPECIFICATION No.:** 8582

**COURSE LEADER:**
Mrs N Brennan

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

This subject is aimed at students who enjoy playing sport in and out of school. This course is suitable for students who wish to develop their performance in an individual sport, as well as a team game by understanding a variety of related aspects – practical and theory. The course has two areas – developing performance as a performer, whilst understanding how the body functions when playing sport, physically and mentally as well as influences on a healthy active lifestyle.

## WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF THE SUBJECT?

**Theory**
This course aims to develop individual's knowledge and understanding of physical activity in relation to applied anatomy and physiology - the structure and function of the body, movement analysis, physical training, sports psychology – how we learn skills and how we respond to pressure in a competitive situation, and social and cultural influences on sport, while looking at what is health, fitness and well-being.

**Practical**
In this unit, students raise their standard of performance as a player/participant in three different sports—one must be a team based sport, one an individual and the third may be either—but must be from the following areas—badminton basketball, dance, football, hockey, netball, rowing, rugby, squash, table tennis, tennis and volleyball, boxing, canoeing / kayaking, cycling, golf, gymnastics, climbing, skiing, swimming and trampolining. NO other sports may be used. In their main sport they need to analyse and evaluate performance identifying how it can be improved in a written project.

## HOW WILL THE SUBJECT BE USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE?

This course provides students with opportunities to develop practical skills while becoming self-reliant and independent in their approach to study, through the implementation of designing a personal exercise programme. This course provides a natural lead into A Level Sport and Physical Education, or a course based on application and development of sporting activities at a College of Further Education such as Leisure and Tourism. This GCSE is useful in a variety of career choices related to Sport, Leisure Management and Leisure through to Medical Sciences, Physiotherapy, Applied Science, Nursing, Social work, sports related courses such as analysis & psychology and Primary School teaching.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

**Coursework:** 40%
Practical moderation of performances in selected sports at the end of the course - being assessed externally between February and May in year 11.
Practical performance in 3 activities as a participant. One must be a team-based game and the second an individual based activity-the third may be from either area. All practical activities must be from the accredited list. Each performance sport is assessed by demonstrating skills and ability in progressive practices and the full game. Additionally, students will need to analyse and evaluate their personal performance in their preferred sport out of the three performance sports selected in a written project.

**Theory:** Exam - 60%
2 written papers - 30% each. 1 hour 15minutes.
**Paper 1:** covers applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and physical training methods.
**Paper 2:** sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being.

Both papers will contain multiple choice, short and extended questions.

# OTHER OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

# ADDITIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Students who speak a second language at home will potentially have the opportunity to take a GCSE in this language, providing there is an exam that exists for their language and we have access to a native speaker able to conduct the speaking exam. This is highly recommended as it will also help contribute to students achieving the EBacc (English Baccalaureate) award.

## HOW WILL MY WORK BE ASSESSED?

Language GCSEs are tiered; native language students will take the higher tier paper in order to achieve the top grades possible.

Language GCSEs are assessed over 4 different areas worth 25% each of your grade. All skills are assessed by final examination either at the end of year 10 or year 11.

## EXAM BOARD AND SPECIFICATION:

AQA & Edexcel offer GCSEs in the following additional languages:

- German
- Italian
- Polish
- Bengali
- Urdu
- Modern Hebrew
- Chinese (Spoken Mandarin or Cantonese)
- Panjabi
- Russian
- Arabic
- Greek
- Japanese
- Portuguese
- Gujarati
- Persian
- Turkish

## WHO WILL THIS COURSE SUIT?

These courses will suit anyone who can speak, read and write one of the above languages fluently. Fluently means that you are able to hold a conversation about almost anything in that language.

## ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

You will not be able to study any of these languages in timetabled lessons in school; however, you will be supported by the language department and the exams officer in terms of doing practice papers and making sure that you are entered for the exam.

## WHO DO I NEED TO SPEAK TO?

Miss Vaughan – MFL subject leader
Mrs Warner – Exams officer