

Davenant Foundation School



KEY STAGE 4

OPTIONS BOOKLET
2023 - 2025



Davenant Foundation School

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this year's Option Booklet. This is to be read in conjunction with the Information Evening on Tuesday 14th March.

We encourage our students to achieve the Davenant Diploma. The Davenant Diploma is a mix of core and chosen subjects that students will take at GCSE level over the next two years. The Diploma ensures a broad and balanced education which reflects government guides. This booklet, along with the presentation, will explain the Options process, how to make the choice online and support you as parents and students in guiding your decisions.

There have been significant challenges over the last couple of years and I am proud to say at Davenant we supported our students incredibly well which resulted in record breaking exam results last year; setting us as the highest achieving mixed Comprehensive School in Essex.

The grading system 9-1 has now fully embedded into the educational landscape and with the exams being linear in nature all subjects have their final exams in the summer of year 11. The only exception is that at Davenant all students take RE in year 10.

This booklet contains detailed information on all the Options available to students but we recommend that you talk to the subject specialists that will be offering advice during the Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Evening.





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DAVENANT DIPLOMA

At Davenant we want students to enjoy their GCSEs and achieve the best they can. It is important, however, that students have a broad and balanced set of GCSEs that ensure they keep options open at post 16. Both employers and universities like students to have a range of skills and knowledge that will benefit them in further studies and the workplace. The **Davenant Diploma** is a range of subject choices that fully support the students ensuring they have this breadth and depth of **Knowledge and Skills**.

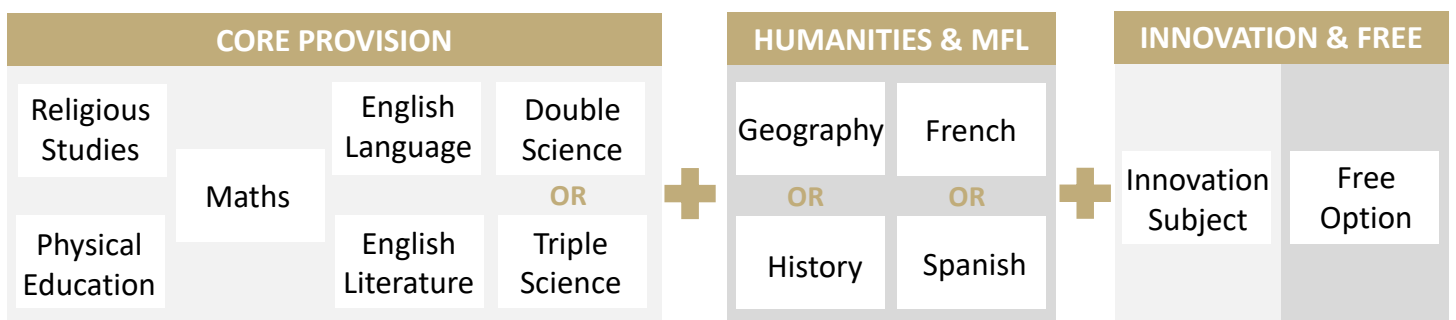
Students have a **Core Provision** that all must take in Key Stage 4

These include:

- **Mathematics**
- **English**
- **Science**
- **Religious Education (taken in Year 10)**
- **Core Physical Education**

SUBJECT	YEAR 10
English	7 hours per fortnight
Mathematics	7 hours per fortnight
Science	9 hours per fortnight
Religious Studies	4 hours per fortnight
Physical Education	3 hours per fortnight

Students firstly choose a Humanities and Modern Foreign Language subject. (*Some students in consultation with Mrs Escott and Senior Team can have this reviewed*). Students will then choose an **Innovation Subject** and then a **Free Choice** subject. This personalised combination of subjects will make up what we call the Davenant Diploma.





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DAVENANT DIPLOMA - WHAT IS OUR RATIONALE?

- ◆ We believe that a **Language** gives a sound understanding of language construct and supports other subjects as well as enabling students to work with international organisations
- ◆ We believe a **Humanities** subject gives you analytical skills and the ability to present a coherent and persuasive argument which is valued in all fields of study
- ◆ We believe an **Innovative** subject enhances creativity, problem solving, project development and teamwork. The most sought-after skills from employers

The Davenant Diploma gives students a broad set of skills and knowledge for their next phase of study or work. As a school we fully value all subjects and what they have to offer our students.

INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY

More and more companies and universities are looking for students and graduates who can be **Creative and Innovative**.

'Future graduates will need creativity and empathy – not just technical skills.'

This was taken from an article released in the press about the need for creativity and innovation within the business world and has been a theme amongst top companies such as Google and Microsoft for quite a while. Taking a **Innovative** subject challenges you in a different way, uses different parts of your brain and is complementary to your other subjects. Innovative subjects help with perseverance, confidence, collaboration, decision making, team work as well as enhancing the students' creativity.

At Davenant, the ability to be creative and innovative is incredibly important to us and that is why all students are to take an innovative option as part of their studies. We offer a broad variety of subjects that should suit all skills, passions and abilities.

A DIFFERENT PATHWAY

We are aware that there are a small number of students who would find the expectation of 9 to 10 GCSEs with a Humanities and or Language would be too much or not the right choice for them. We want all students to enjoy their studies, while ensuring they get the qualifications they need and go on to the next level of study. We have a number of courses that would suit this style of learning and have additional support. If you want to consider this option please discuss with us at one of the Options Clinics or with Mrs Escott.





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WHEN CHOOSING SUBJECTS THE FOLLOWING SHOULD BE CONSIDERED:

Student

- ◆ What do I enjoy studying?
- ◆ What are my strengths?
- ◆ If I choose this option now, will it keep more options open later for further study / training / work?

Parent / Carer

- ◆ Are they choosing a subject to stay in the same class as friends?
- ◆ Are they choosing a subject because they believe that it will not involve much work?
- ◆ Are they choosing a subject because they like the teacher?
- ◆ Have they chosen subjects which challenge them but allow them to achieve their potential?
- ◆ Does their choice qualify them for the English Baccalaureate? Is that important for them?

If you have any questions about the **Key Stage 4 Curriculum**, please do not hesitate to contact us or talk through them with us at the options clinics.

Courses

GCSE courses are awarded from grade 9 to 1, with grade 9 being reserved for the most outstanding candidates, and U meaning 'ungraded'. Whilst the average grade across the country is 5/4, we would expect the vast majority of our students to be working towards all grade 5s, or better, with many achieving much higher grades in all subjects.

In some subjects, all candidates will take the same examination papers, whilst in others they will take different combinations of papers according to their attainment. In such cases it will, of course, be important to ensure that our students take combinations of papers in which they are likely to achieve their full potential. Some subject papers are 'tiered' and allow candidates to sit a paper most suited to their level of attainment. These tiers may be at Higher or Foundation level, depending on the subject. Each tier has a limited range of grades, so it will be important for staff to identify the most appropriate level of entry.

In all GCSE examinations which require the writing of sentences in English, 5% or more of the marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar, often called "quality of written communication".

The School draws up an Assessment Plan for each GCSE year that aims to let you know how each subject is assessed over that year. A copy of the Assessment Plan for the year is available on the school website and it is very important that any deadlines are met and all assessments and exams are prepared for. Parents will be informed if coursework assignments are overdue or controlled assessments are not being properly prepared. Students will be given assistance in developing the skills needed to cope with the demands of controlled assessments, coursework and examination preparation.





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CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

During the course of Year 10, students will receive extensive careers advice and guidance. Parents are invited to borrow (or purchase) recommended books which offer help in decision making. Also the Careers Library and computer facilities are freely available to all students. Students may use Kudos and Microdors assisted careers choice computer programs in their own time.

The Form Tutor is the first person to contact with queries, but if you wish to talk through the process or choices in more detail please book an appointment with the senior team at one of the Option Clinics through INSIGHT

Our Careers coordinators are always willing to see parents and students to discuss the implications of subject choice and the options process in general as well.

ADDITIONAL STUDY SUPPORT

- ◆ Allows students to receive some individual support
- ◆ Gives students space and time to concentrate on producing quality work in a less formal, yet well supervised and supported atmosphere
- ◆ Have access to a full range of resources and ICT facilities

This option will only be available to students, whom it is felt will benefit from this support and who are invited to take it. For further details, contact Mrs Escott. If your son/daughter wishes to take up this option, they need to discuss this with Mrs Escott or a member of the Senior Team.





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COMPLETING THE ONLINE OPTIONS FORM

Students should refer to the Options Booklet and subject descriptors before making their choices.

The option with * are for students for whom an alternative approach to GCSEs has been identified and this will be discussed in advance with Mrs Escott or the Senior Management Team. Unless agreed at the meeting, you should not indicate this as a choice.

It is essential that all students put a reserve choice down that they are prepared to do. Unfortunately, numbers of students on most courses are limited but we will endeavour to restrict the number of second choices any student has to take.

Options choices will be made via Talaxy (a guide on how to do so will follow). This will go live on Wednesday 15th March and close on Tuesday 28th March. Options will be confirmed in the Summer Term.

OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4
Geography	French	Computer Science	Business
History	Spanish	Design	Child Development
	Additional Study*	Drama	Computer Science
		Art	Design
		Hospitality & Catering	Drama
		Media	Art
		Music	Geography
		Physical Education	History
		Product Design	Media
			Music
			Physical Education
			Product Design
			Triple Science





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IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Details
Tuesday 14 March	Options Evening
Wednesday 15 March	Talaxy goes Live for entering choices
Tuesday 21 March	Year 9 Parents Evening
Wednesday 22 March	Year 9 Option Clinics
Thursday 23 March	Year 9 Option Clinics
Friday 24 March	Year 9 Option Clinics
Tuesday 28 March	Deadline for receipt of applications via Talaxy



ART & DESIGN

Examination Board: OCR Syllabus Number: J171

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Bray or Mrs Alexandrou



WHAT IS GCSE ART & DESIGN ALL ABOUT?

ART IS EVERYWHERE. The course is designed to ignite and inspire your creativity. You will be shown key skills and techniques to unlock your imagination, practice creative problem solving, and keep your innovative drive going through a series of class tutorials, practical workshops, one to one critiques and gallery visits. (In previous years we have visited the National Portrait Gallery, the Wallace Collection, Tate Britain, the Tate Modern and the Courtauld Gallery and organised workshops from the Royal Academy and practising artists and designers.) This course is suitable for anyone who enjoys learning through practical practice and for those who enjoy working with a visual language. The Art & Design course focuses on drawing, mixed media, painting, printing, photography, ceramics and 3D design. Students will explore line, tone, colour, texture, shape and form.

The course is ideal for any student considering a career in the creative industry or a student who would like a balance to their other content driven GCSE's subjects. (In this option the students submit their coursework portfolio and externally set task, as part of their final assessment and are not reliant on a final exam.)

The GCSE specification consists of 2 components:

- The Art & Design Portfolio 60%.
- The Art & Design OCR-set Task 40%.

Component 01 Art and Design Portfolio:

Students produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to a starting point.

Component 02 Externally Set Task:

Students will select **one** starting point from an early release question paper to which they will produce a personal response. The students will be given a period of time to plan and prepare and develop their project. Finally, they will be given **ten** hours of controlled time in which to work on their final piece.

There is no written examination.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

Yes, if you are someone who enjoys the creative process, loves working practically and has a passion for all things Art & Design related. If you like a challenge, enjoy thinking, analysing images and looking at art and design, this is the course for you. It is demanding, but rewarding. You will also have the opportunity of showcasing your work within the school as well as in local and national exhibitions, for instance the Mall Gallery.

The course gives you the opportunity of keeping your creative focus broad and varied, this will allow you, at a later stage to specialise in one aspect of Art and Design when you are more aware of your particular strengths and talents. The course gives you outstanding opportunities to develop skills suitable for careers in Architecture, Interior Design, Furniture Design, Computer Related Design, Illustration, Visual Merchandising, Fashion Design, Textiles, Graphic Design, Animation, Advertising, Teaching, Art Administration, Film and Television, Furniture Design, Garden Design, Theatre Design (costume and set), Make-up Artist and Jewellery Design, Ceramicist, Publicity, Sculptor, Painter, Printmaker, Museums and Gallery work, Archaeology, Art Therapy, Marketing, Painting or Artefact Restoration, Art Critic.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNT BEFORE?

GCSE Art & Design follows on from the basic foundation of Art & Design skills you have covered at Key Stage 3. You will be shown how to refine your skills and techniques and be introduced to new processes too. It is a practical subject with lots of 'hand on' work, so be prepared to experiment, to explore and try new ideas out. If you enjoy being creative, Art and Design is a great choice.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

Not only will you acquire skills and techniques to produce creative and exciting Art and Design work but you will also develop skills of analysing, evaluating, researching and taking risks. The skills you gain make it a great compliment to other subjects.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

Art & Design is a good subject to study and acquire as a qualification for most careers, in particular, any careers demanding creative and innovative thinking, interpersonal skills and research.



BUSINESS

Examination Board: Edexcel
Syllabus Number: 1BS0

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs McCaughley

WHAT IS GCSE BUSINESS ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Business is all about understanding the 'Business World'. As a consumer, you come into contact with a variety of businesses every day; from purchasing a bus ticket on the way to school, to 'tweeting' a friend on your phone, and clothes shopping at the weekend. All of these activities are not possible without businesses.

This course provides you with an insight into how this 'Business World' operates. You will study big businesses like Apple Inc, and small businesses like your local hairdresser, and learn:

- How businesses get started;
- How businesses manufacture, price, promote and distribute the products or services they sell to consumers;
- How businesses recruit, train and motivate their staff; and
- How businesses grow within the UK and internationally

The GCSE Business Course is divided into the following areas:

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

Theme 2: Building a Business

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you are interested in the 'world of work', and if you are curious about how such organisations as McDonalds, ASOS, Manchester United Football Club and BMW-Mini operate.



HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

For many of you this will be your first experience of Business, as it is only studied in Years 10 to 13. GCSE Business involves a lot of numeracy as you are required to carry out calculations such as profit. Literacy is also important as you are required to write in a formal structure when being assessed.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

1 hr 45 mins 50%

Theme 2: Building a Business

1 hr 45 mins 50%

Business is a linear course and both units 1 and 2 will be examined at the end of Year 11.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will be asked to make presentations on areas of work studied, so team-working skills will be developed. You will be expected to read newspapers, and watch business news programmes so that you are aware of the external pressures businesses face. You will develop information retrieval skills, and report writing skills.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT – Cambridge National

Examination Board: OCR
Syllabus Number: J809



If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Doherty

WHAT IS THE CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT?

This course is designed to give students an understanding of and be able to apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Child Development, including health and well-being, creating a safe environment, the nutritional needs of children from birth to five years, and the development of children from one to five years. Students develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations. They have the opportunity to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically as well as develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the childcare sector and more widely.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

If you are interested in the behaviour and development of young children, you will find this course interesting. You will be able to relate it to your own experiences within your family and friends. There will be opportunities to meet pregnant mothers and various health professionals such as a health visitor and a midwife. You will be encouraged to take a keen interest in TV documentaries about children and do your own research on a wide variety of topics relating to Child Development.

You will need to be able to work independently on the NEA's. Time management, motivation and good organisation are essential for success in this subject as 60% of the marks are awarded for coursework.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

Child Development is not taught at Key Stage 3 so it will appear to be a totally new subject. However you will each come with different experiences and perspectives which help to enrich this course. Also some topics may link to areas that you have covered in PSHE, Science, or will cover in Psychology.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXAMINATION?

There is one, 1hr 15 min, written paper which tests your knowledge and understanding of the specification contents. This includes topics such as understanding reproduction, roles and responsibilities of parenthood, antenatal care, preparing for birth along with many other exciting topics.

ARE THERE ANY CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS?

Students will be expected to submit two pieces of coursework, each consisting of 4 tasks, worth 60% of the course. Unit one will allow learners to investigate the different equipment and nutritional requirements of children from birth to five years as well as creating a safe environment. Unit two will allow learners to investigate the developmental norms of children from birth to five years.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will learn to develop your ability to plan, gather, record, collate, analyse viewpoints, interpret and evaluate evidence, which will further develop your communication skills. In particular you will develop good time management skills and learn to work independently. You will also gain social skills and self-confidence. The transferable skills you will develop will be beneficial in further studies and apply to many subjects.

WHAT TRIPS WOULD I GO ON?

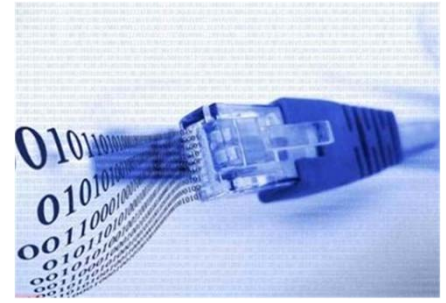
The Child Development department run an exciting trip to The Baby Show at London's ExCel centre. This is a fantastic opportunity to research and prepare for the writing of the coursework tasks in year 10.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

This is a valuable course to study if you wish to pursue a career working with children, become a teacher, a midwife, an educational psychologist, a police officer, a social worker or work in the NHS, as well as being an important subject for the future when you may well become a parent. Courses you may choose to go on to study include; Level 3 courses in Health and Social Care or Technical Qualifications in Education and Childcare or Early Years Educator Apprenticeships.



COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE



Examination Board: OCR

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs T Theron

WHAT IS THE COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE ALL ABOUT?

It must be emphasised that Computer Science is completely different from ICT. While ICT will teach you how to use software effectively, Computer Science looks at the science of computers. This course will give learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Learners will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, the course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many learners find absorbing.

UNITS

Component 1: Computer systems assessed by written examination– (50%)

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming assessed by written examination–(50%)

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

Practical programming

Students will undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

Do you enjoy problem solving and mathematics? This course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. For many learners, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

In Year 7 you learned the basics of programming by using Scratch to create a game. In Year 8 you studied Boolean Logic to learn how computers carry out calculations. In Year 9 you have studied programming with Python. With this course you will develop your programming skills in Python by applying them to a variety of problems. A lot of the course content, such as learning about how computers work, will be new to most learners. There are strong links to Mathematics and logical thinking skills you have acquired will be utilised for this GCSE.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS AND COURSEWORK?

There are two examinations which will be taken at the end of Year 11, being 100% towards your final grade (50% each). Programming will be assessed as part of the second written examination.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

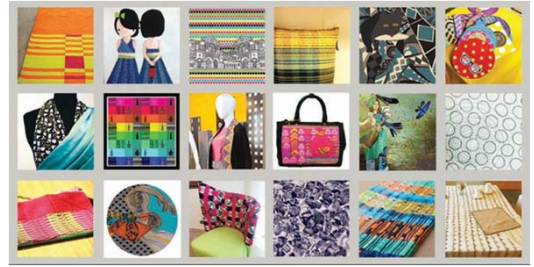
This course gives learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It provides excellent preparation, higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. It will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

WHAT USEFUL RESOURCES MIGHT I NEED FOR THIS COURSE?

It is beneficial for students to have access to a computer with internet access at home.



DESIGN: Graphics & Textiles



Examination Board: AQA GCSE (9-1)
Syllabus Number: 8201

If you would like any further information, please contact Mrs Kennedy.

WHAT IS GCSE DESIGN ALL ABOUT?

Everything around us in the world has been designed; from the clothes you're wearing, the apps that you use on your phone, the car that you drive or the products that you have in your home. This course is a springboard for a career in the creative industry. The specification provides an innovative and imaginative qualification rewarding flair and creativity.

The Art, Craft and Design course focuses on graphic communication and textile design. Students will explore colour, pattern, texture, printing, dyeing, typography, elements of photography and 3D design.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

Yes, if you are someone who is creative, enjoys fashion, graphics, interiors, costume, visual identity and design, and who likes to work in a practical subject this is the course for you. You are given themes which are explored through a wide range of media and techniques, you need to experiment with your ideas, challenge yourself and take risks. The possibilities are endless...

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

The course is very practical and you will use key processes and skills which you have learnt at Key Stage 3. You will also learn lots of new techniques on the GCSE Design course which will provide you with a solid foundation if you wish to take this subject further at A-level or degree.

WHAT IS THE COURSEWORK AND EXAMINATION THAT HAVE TO BE COMPLETED?

GCSE Art, Craft and Design students must explore and create work associated with areas of study from within graphics and textile design. There are two components to the course assessment.

Each student must complete a portfolio of work to include: A sustained project set around a theme and will involve producing a sketchbook(s) of drawing and design ideas which are developed and realised in both areas of graphic and textile design. As well as a selection of further work. This is worth 60% of the total GCSE.

The second component is completed in Year 11 and is an externally set assignment. You will select one question from the early release exam paper which you will plan, develop and produce work over a set period of weeks. You will then complete a final piece over ten hours in a two day practical exam. This is worth 40% of the total GCSE.

There is no written examination.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will not only acquire the techniques necessary to produce inspiring design work but also a wide range of approaches to express yourself through different materials and media. Gain knowledge of the arts, crafts people and designers and apply the relevant processes and applications to inspire your work. The confidence to take risks, problem solve, communicate ideas and develop independent thinking.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

Design plays a part of our every daily lives and is part of a global industry. This course gives you amazing opportunities to develop skills for future jobs and careers in:

Advertising	Branding	Costume Design	Footwear Design	Fashion
Fashion Buyer	Graphics	Illustration	Interiors	Journalism
Marketing	Media	Merchandiser	Millinery	Motion Graphics
Packaging Design	Publishing	Prop Makers	Sportswear	Textile Design



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Examination Board: AQA

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Bruce



WHAT IS GCSE ENGLISH ALL ABOUT?

The aim of this two year course is to build your skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening whilst studying a wide range of material as set down in the National Curriculum. You will learn to write in a variety of ways and to spell and punctuate accurately. Everyone studies English Language GCSE, because you need it for everyday life as an adult. Success in the course will give you the chance to be prepared for anything you might encounter in the future - writing a letter, giving a presentation or compiling business correspondence.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course because it has a tremendous amount to do with everyday life. It involves studying a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to create your own texts in a variety of forms and purposes. You will give presentations to the class and you will work in small groups as well as individually.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

It follows on from previous work done in Key Stage 3, in that you are developing your vocabulary and your ability to deal with a wider range of fiction and non-fiction texts and material. There is also the opportunity to continue to develop your creative writing skills.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

You will have two English Language exams which will be sat at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 is Explorations in Creative Reading, and Writing, Paper 2 is Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives, each exam will be worth 50% of your total English Language grade. You will be expected to respond analytically and creatively to fiction and non-fiction texts. Your teachers will assist you in preparing for examinations by developing your ability to take notes, to summarise and plan your ideas.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

No, coursework has been replaced with examinations in the current GCSE syllabus. **However**, all students must complete a spoken language component of their GCSE language. Although it does not go towards your final grade, the assessment is a mandatory part of the qualification and must be achieved (whether distinction, merit or pass).

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will learn how to exercise self-discipline, to summarise your ideas (aloud and on paper), to think about why a writer has constructed a text in a particular way in order to have an effect on the audience. You will develop skills for responding creatively to a variety of texts and stimuli. Most of all, you will have a foundation qualification that will take you on to college or a future career.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

The English language is all around us. As a result of this it is important to have full understanding of the way it works. A mastery of English will enable you to communicate effectively with others (in oral and written forms), interpret information you have been presented with and think in a logical manner.



ENGLISH LITERATURE



Examination Board: AQA

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Bruce

WHAT IS GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE ALL ABOUT?

English Literature is about learning how to analyse texts, such as poems, plays and novels and being able to explain your point of view to someone else in written form.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that gives you the opportunity to develop your own point of view. In the lower school, you have read all sorts of things and now is your chance to read more widely, to read something more demanding and also to take part in group and pair work on analysing a text. You will also have opportunities to see texts being performed in and outside of school.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Literature follows on from literature work that you have covered at Key Stage 3. You will develop your essay writing skills, your note-taking and your ability to present your ideas to the class. You will be able to look at texts in more detail and understand why texts have been written a particular way and how the author was influenced by the life and times in which he or she lived.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

There are two Literature GCSE examinations which are both sat in the summer Year 11. Paper 1: Shakespeare (*Macbeth*) and Nineteenth Century Novel (*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens) are worth 40% of the final Literature GCSE, and Paper 2: Modern Texts (*An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley) and Poetry (Worlds and Lives cluster) is worth 60%. You will have to write essays under timed conditions on a range of literature you have studied in class. Examinations in English Literature are closed book, so no texts allowed. Therefore, you must be able to revise, remember and recall quotes and annotations. The exams are normally quite demanding but we prepare students by giving them guidelines on how to plan their written assignments.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

No, all coursework has been replaced with exams in the current GCSE curriculum.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as writing essays, you will be able to acquire skills in note-taking, working with others, observation and listening.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

Studying English literature enables you to think in an analytical way about the language. This is beneficial to all jobs which require communications skills.



FRENCH



Examination Board: AQA
Syllabus Number: 8658

If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Ruiz

WHAT IS GCSE FRENCH ALL ABOUT?

GCSE in French is about learning how to communicate with and understand speakers of this language. It will give you the opportunity to not only learn the language, but to also learn about life in French speaking countries; their cultures, festivals, customs, music, and more. You will put yourself in their place by acting out scenes based in the French speaking country, and you will learn how to express your own wishes, plans and opinions in French. In doing all this you will also extend your understanding of how languages work and your understanding of English will be enhanced.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?

- You will practise speaking French in role-plays, conversations and by preparing speeches and presentations to be delivered to one or more other people
- You will get practice in giving information and opinions and in finding out what other people have to say
- You will get frequent practice in listening to all sorts of French speakers, young, old, male and female, so that you understand the language when you hear it spoken at normal speed
- You will read a variety of texts in French, ranging from notices and signs to advertisements, leaflets, letters and magazine or newspaper articles. These will cover a range of subjects from tourist information to fashion, sport, cuisine and other areas of general interest
- You will practise writing correct French from short notes and messages, formal and informal letters, to more extended stories and descriptions. Sometimes you will be given a precise plan to write to, at other times you will be able to use your imagination to produce pieces of your own composition
- You will practise translating from and into French

DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE French follows on directly from the content you have studied in KS3. When embarking on the GCSE course will be building and developing your understanding of topics covered during KS3 and also adding new topics that you haven't studied before. You will use lesson time to learn the new vocabulary and practise the four skills, as well as translations.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

You will be assessed in four language elements: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each element counts as 25% of the final grade. You will take the GCSE examination at either Foundation or Higher Level. Foundation papers give access to grades 1 – 5; Higher to 3 – 9.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

A GCSE in a language offers a unique opportunity to learn how to communicate effectively. Through learning to communicate in French, you will be enhancing your communication skills in general, along with your problem solving and listening skills. Your cultural understanding will also develop as you will learn about and appreciate many different cultures in our world. Universities seek these skills in their future students and value a GCSE in a language.



GEOGRAPHY



Examination Board: **AQA (8035)**

If you would like further information, please contact Mr Morton.

WHAT IS GCSE GEOGRAPHY ALL ABOUT?

You live in the world – why not find out more about the **challenges** and **opportunities** it offers, and how to get **involved**? Discover how people are using different **environments**, both your own and those in other parts of the world. How have different **landscapes** developed – what are the great natural forces involved? Investigate issues of **sustainability** – will the earth be able to provide us with all the **resources** we take for granted now?

The GCSE Geography course is **linear** and is divided into three parts:

Unit 1 – **Living with the Physical Environment**

Unit 2 – **Challenges in the Human Environment**

Unit 3 – **Geographical Applications**

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Is relevant to the world you live in and the **future**
- Encourages you to discuss **current affairs** and issues
- Focuses on the **environment**
- Involves **practical work outdoors**
- Is studied through an “issue based” **investigative** approach
- Develops a full **range of skills** that will be useful in other subjects and in employment.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

You have already developed a range of skills and knowledge from Key Stage 3.

These will be of great help in GCSE. The GCSE course will take you further. It will introduce you to new skills and places and new ideas. You will also be able to apply what you are learning and understand more about how people’s decisions shape the world we live in.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

There is one tier of entry for this subject. For Units 1 and 2, exam papers are resource-based and each is assessed in a 1-hour 30-minute examination. Each one is worth 35% of the marks.

Unit 3 assesses geographical applications consisting of fieldwork skills and issue evaluation. It is worth 30% of the GCSE.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

There is no coursework or controlled assessment for this subject.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

Geography is an ideal subject for developing a wide range of skills:

- Researching information from a variety of sources
- Presenting information in a variety of ways
- Manipulating data including statistics and ICT software
- Working and co-operating with others when carrying out field work
- These ‘transferable’ skills will not just be useful in Geography, but will help you make progress in many of your other subjects too.

WHAT COULD I DO NEXT WITH GEOGRAPHY?

A GCSE in Geography is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies and employment.



HISTORY

Examination Board: Edexcel
Syllabus Number: The Making of the Modern World



If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Perry

WHAT IS GCSE HISTORY ALL ABOUT?

History is an exciting, investigative part of our studies. Anyone who finds people, cultures or beliefs fascinating will find the study of History eye-opening. It will add to your own understanding of what has been, is, and is to come. You will study a wide range of countries and people with a focus on modern history and will develop skills in researching, explaining and analysing the past.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

Students who currently enjoy History and want to add to their knowledge of the present, as well as the past, will enjoy GCSE History. History also appeals to students who enjoy extended writing, reading, researching and investigating.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE History builds on the skills and knowledge you have developed since Year 7. It will allow you to examine sources, investigate why events happened, use ICT, and present your views in writing and debate in class.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

Three examination papers are worth 100% of the marks

The topics examined include:

- Paper 3 Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1945 (30%)
- Paper 2 International Relations, 1943-1991: Cold War to the collapse of the Soviet Union (20%)
- Paper 2 Henry VIII and his Ministers 1509-1540 (20%)
- Paper 1 Crime and Punishment in Britain 1000-Present and Whitechapel: Crime and Policing in the inner city (30%)

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

This GCSE is 100% examination based, with 3 exams being sat at the end of Year 11.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as acquiring the skills of analysis, evaluation, oral and written presentation of your ideas and interpretations of events, you will also be able to acquire skills in working with others through group activities. The knowledge and understanding you develop of the wider world will allow you to play a part as an active citizen locally, nationally and internationally.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS WITH HISTORY?

History is a good subject to study and acquire as a qualification for most careers, in particular, any careers demanding research, written reports, the ability to debate and present arguments, especially Law.



HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Examination Board: WJEC/CBAC

If you would like further information, please contact Miss Giles



WHAT IS HOSPITALITY AND CATERING ALL ABOUT?

By studying Hospitality and Catering learners will:

- Gain knowledge, understanding and skills relating to an important sector in our economy. In addition to developing sector specific knowledge and understanding, these qualifications also support learners to develop the essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education.
- There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations.
- Learners will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as the transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

Hospitality and Catering is an enjoyable course if you are interested in developing skills in cooking, how the ingredients work within the food we make and knowledge of the food industry. There will be some practical work and some opportunities to develop cooking skills. There will also be theory work that will link in with the practical and you must be prepared to carry out research, planning and evaluation work to support this. There are opportunities for you to present your work using ICT.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

WJEC Level 1/2 follows on from work that you have completed at Key Stage 3 although you will have more time to further your knowledge and understanding of the subject.

WHAT ABOUT THE EXAMINATION?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be externally assessed through an examination at the end of Year 11.

Details of the external assessment are as follows:

Duration: 90 minutes

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed:

The internal assessment will take place under controlled conditions, during lesson times.

You will be assessed on the safe planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of nutritional dishes.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as developing your skills in food preparation and nutrition, you will develop your communication, mathematical and ICT skills, learning to work with others when problem solving and evaluating.

CAREER PATHS:

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues and businesses where hospitality and catering is not their primary service but is increasingly important to their success. According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce.

Employment in the hospitality and catering industry can range from:

Waiting staff	Molecular Gastronomist	Food stylist
Receptionists	Food technologists	Sports nutritionist
Catering assistants	Food lawyer	Dietician
Chefs	Farmer	Quality tester
Hotel and Bar managers	Teacher	Food analysis
Food inspectors	Environmental health officer	



MATHEMATICS



Examination Board: Edexcel GCSE

If you would like further information, please contact Mr Cahil

WHAT IS GCSE MATHEMATICS ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Mathematics builds on the work you will have done at Key Stage 3 and the skills and knowledge support many other subjects. The work that you do will depend upon your level of ability in the subject. We continue with five main areas:

Number: Whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, standard form, boundary values, approximations, estimating, powers and roots of numbers, proportional change, and irrational numbers.

Algebra: We start by substituting numbers into formulae, which you will also use in science. Then we progress to more complex formulae, changing the subject, and working out formulae to describe sequences of numbers. We learn how to expand brackets and to factorise, to solve equations and to draw graphs. At the highest level you will learn how to construct a proof.

Shape, Space and Measures: You will learn how to draw 3-D objects, and about the properties of polygons, particularly triangles and quadrilaterals. You will discover the rule that Pythagoras discovered. You will also learn how to calculate areas and volumes of a variety of geometrical shapes. At higher levels you will study trigonometry, including large angles, and drawing graphs of trigonometric functions, and geometric proof.

Handling Data: You will develop your skills of collecting and analysing data, and drawing helpful diagrams. You will calculate averages and measures of spread, including mean, median range and interquartile range. At the highest level you will need to be able to construct and interpret histograms.

Using and Applying Mathematics: In all of these, there is a strong emphasis on using and applying the skills that you learn, and you should be able to transfer these skills into other subjects. Many of the examples that we use relate to real-life situations.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

If you have enjoyed mathematics so far, you will probably continue to enjoy it. If not, then it is our intention to help you to enjoy it! In this subject, satisfaction comes from understanding new concepts and getting correct answers to questions.

How does it follow on from what I have learned before?

In mathematics you are always building on what you have learnt previously, so the move from Year 9 to Year 10 will be seamless.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

The course is split into two tiers for examination: Foundation and Higher Tiers. You will follow the examination course that gives you the best chance of achieving your potential.

You need to realise that, if you don't reach the lowest grade available at your tier of entry you will be ungraded, so it is very important to be entered at the right level. Examination papers will be with and without calculator. There will be three examinations at the end of the two year course – one non-calculator and two calculator.

WHAT ABOUT COURSEWORK?

There is no coursework

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

This course will help you to develop problem-solving strategies that can be used in any context. You will begin to develop your ability to break down a complex problem into smaller parts. We hope that you will come to appreciate the power of mathematics and the need for it across a wide spectrum of life, and maybe you will enjoy it purely for its own intrinsic value.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

Mathematics is an essential tool in all walks of life. Virtually all careers require numeracy skills.



MEDIA STUDIES

Examination Board: AQA GCSE (9-1)
Syllabus Number: 8572



If you would like any further information, please contact Mrs Kingsbury

WHAT IS GCSE MEDIA STUDIES ALL ABOUT?

We live in a society that is increasingly reliant on media. Our production and consumption of media products, whether it be TV, film, video games, music videos, newspapers, or social media sources, have a significant impact on the ways in which we construct our own identities, as well as how we begin to form larger values, attitudes and beliefs about the world around us. The course will allow you to develop media literacy, including a critical engagement with the media products that surround us. The specification is designed to allow you to develop a knowledge and understanding of the theory that underpins an academic approach to Media Studies, as well as your practical media production skills.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that affords you the opportunity to explore both the academic and creative, practical sides of a subject. This course is your chance to develop both a critical points of view when responding to media texts, as well as engage in your innovative side, using Photoshop and other creative software to develop your own media products.

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

While Media Studies may be a new course for GCSE students, your studies in many of your KS3 essay subjects - like English, History and RS - will support your ability to explore the ways in which key concepts and theories, and contexts, support our understanding of the ways producers construct meaning in media texts. Your KS3 studies in IT and Design will support your skill development in the more practical aspects of the course.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

You will gain a wealth of knowledge in the ways in which producers construct meaning in a range of different media texts. This will allow you to develop more critical and informed engagement and evaluation of the ways media texts shape our understanding of the world. You will also develop your analytical writing skills, demonstrating an improved ability to confidently express your opinions and challenge those of others.

WHAT IS THE COURSEWORK AND EXAMINATION THAT HAVE TO BE COMPLETED?

GCSE Media Studies is comprised of three components. There are two external examinations, which are both sat at the end of Year 11. Both exam papers consist of a range of questions, including short and extended response essays, requiring you to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the ways in which concepts and theories from the theoretical framework can be applied to your study of set media texts. The examinations are worth 70% of your overall grade.

Media Studies also includes a non-exam assessment. Students are provided with a set of five briefs, each outlining the requirements for the construction of a statement of intent and one media product. The NEA is internally (teacher) assessed, and is worth 30% of your overall grade.



MUSIC

Examination Board: Edexcel GCSE
Specification Number: 1MU0



If you would like further information, please contact Mr Jackson

WHAT IS GCSE MUSIC ALL ABOUT?

GCSE Music is about performing, composing and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles under four areas of study – Instrumental Classical Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen (Films and Musicals) and Fusions (World Music). There are opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording.

WILL I ENJOY THIS COURSE?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that

- Involves performing
- Involves listening to all kinds of music
- Involves composing and arranging music
- Gives you the opportunity to play music with others in e.g., rock groups, bands, orchestras or choirs
- Gives you the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology

HOW DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Music follows on from work that you have done at Key Stage 3. You will improve your skills in performing, composing and appraising different types of music. You will listen to and analyse a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMS?

There is one final written exam. You will listen to a CD and answer questions on pieces from the four Areas of Study which cover Instrumental Classical Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen (Films and Musicals) and Fusions (World Music). There are opportunities to use music technology such as sequencing and recording. This examination is worth 40% of the marks.

IS THERE ANY COURSEWORK?

You will perform (play or sing) two pieces altogether. One of the pieces will be a solo in any style and on any instrument. The other performance will be with other players (ensemble). The pieces you perform must be of a minimum Grade 4 standard, but that does not mean that you have had to have previously taken and passed the graded (ABRSM/Rock School) exam. You will be expected to receive tuition on your instrument/voice for this part of the course, and your instrumental/singing teacher will help you pick the most appropriate pieces. Music will be recorded and marked by your classroom teacher. This is worth 30% of the overall mark. You will also compose two pieces; one in response to a brief set by Pearson, and the other a free composition set by you. The combined duration of the compositions must be of at least three minutes. This is also worth 30% of the overall mark. If you are interested in music technology, you may use computer sequencing programmes, multitrack recorders, digital recording and sampling in the preparation and presentation of compositions. You may also use technology to record work and to produce printed scores and extract parts.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS MIGHT I DEVELOP?

As well as covering Music at GCSE level, the course will enable you to develop Key Skills in Communication and Information Technology, which could be useful to you in whatever you do afterwards. In particular, GCSE Music offers opportunities to develop the wider key skill of working with others (e.g. taking part in rehearsals, performing).

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A Levels in Music and Music Technology as well as BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the Vocational A- Level in Performing Arts. You may wish to take a GCSE in Music for its own sake, or perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is **compulsory** for GCSE Music students to attend the co-curricular activities which apply to their instrument. **All** students are expected to take part in the main school choir to develop their general musicianship skills.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

There are 3 options;

All students will have 3 Games / Core PE lessons a fortnight.

Options to study PE / Sport

- GCSE PE
- Level 2 Cambridge national in Sport studies



WHAT IS COVERED IN CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

Students will have 3 hours a fortnight. This builds on knowledge and skills developed from Key Stage 3. KS4 Core PE / Games aims to;

Keep students physically active.

Improve students physical, mental & emotional well-being.

Promote participation in extra-curricular clubs.

Encourage a life long love and participation in physical activity.

WHAT IS GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION ABOUT?

Examination Board: OCR

Specification Number: J587

There are 3 parts to GCSE PE;

Component 01: Physical factors affecting performance (Paper 1. 60 minute exam at the end of year 11)

1.1- Applied anatomy and physiology

1.2- Physical training

Component 02: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (Paper 2. 60 minute exam at the end of year 11)

2.1- Socio-cultural influences

2.2- Sports psychology

2.3- Health, fitness and well-being

Component 03: Performance in Physical education (Practical assessment)

3.1- Performance of **three** activities taken from an approved list (see Mr Humphries for details)

One from the 'individual' list

One from the 'team' list

One other from either list

3.2- Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP). A 14 hour piece of written coursework under controlled conditions.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

This course combines Physical activity, learning about the human body, Sociology and Psychology through sport. If you love your PE lessons and take an active interest in sport outside of school. This course is a must for you!

HOW DOES THE COURSE FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

Skills that you have developed in your practical KS3 lessons are now assessed against the GCSE PE practical skills list. Theory content that has been taught verbally so far, is now delivered in classroom lessons.

If you have been representing the school in numerous sporting activities and/or you regularly take part in sport outside of school, you should be considering GCSE PE.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

There will be three examinations.

Paper 1 - Physical factors affecting performance 30%

Paper 2 - Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology 30%

Practical assessments (centre assessment on 3 different sports) 30%

Non exam assessment (NEA) Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP) 10%

Any further information required please see Mr. Humphries.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

WHAT IS LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN SPORT STUDIES?

Students must complete three units:

- One mandatory externally assessed unit (exam)
- One mandatory centre-assessed unit (NEA)
- One optional centre-assessed unit (NEA) from a choice of two

All results are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 – Distinction* (*2), Distinction (D2), Merit (M2), Pass (P2)

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Sport is an excellent way of developing organisational skills, communication skills and learning to work effectively as part of a team. The course will also help you develop leadership skills, teaching and coaching skills and problem solving techniques. You will find that by learning such skills you will become more confident and be able to deal with many 'real-life' situations.

ARE THERE ANY VOCATIONAL LINKS?

GCSE in Physical Education can lead to a career in many different professions. There are the obvious ones such as a Sports Leader, a Sports Coach, a Physiotherapist, A Psychologist, a Teacher, or a Sports Development Officer, but there are also many others that people don't realise. These include a career as a Journalist, Technical Analyst, Media Analyst, Doctor, Official, Leisure Manager, Business Manager, Administration Manager, Marketing Manager, and Sports Media and Film Producer. There are also many opportunities to follow a career in the Armed Forces and Public Services. Sport remains one of the largest growing industries not only in the UK, but also globally.



3D PRODUCT DESIGN

Examination Board: AQA
Syllabus No: 8205

If you would like further information, please see Mrs Kennedy/Mrs Adkins/Mr Fuller



WHAT IS GCSE 3D PRODUCT DESIGN ALL ABOUT?

3D Product Design gives students the opportunity to experience many aspects of the design world. They will work with a real client and tackle design problems that they need to create innovative design solutions to. Pupils will develop an understanding of the iterative design process. They will learn construction processes, design techniques, use of different materials and modern industrial manufacture processes such as CAD (Computer aided design) and CAM (Computer aided manufacture), while investigating influential designers. They will learn all aspects of being a successful designer, through the study of Crafts people and Designers in industry to inspire them and how to bring their product to market.

WILL I ENJOY THE COURSE?

3D Product Design offers so many opportunities and there are no two pieces of work which are exactly the same. The course is a hands on practical approach, which if you enjoy working with materials, inventing new products, like to design and have an interest in working with sustainable ways to improve the way consumers think about products, then this course is for you.

WHAT IS THE COURSEWORK AND EXAMINATION THAT HAVE TO BE COMPLETED?

Students must explore and create work associated with one or more area(s) of three-dimensional design. Areas of study include architectural design, product design, jewellery and body adornment, interior design, environmental/landscape/garden design

There are two components to the course assessment.

The first component has two parts. Each student must complete a portfolio of work to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills, focused and relevant to three-dimensional design; to include: A sustained project set around a theme, that will involve, model making, constructing, surface treatment, assembling, modelling, drawing. Exploring materials such as, wood, plastic, and found materials. As well as a selection of further work. This is worth 60% of the total GCSE.

The second component is completed in Year 11 and is an externally set assignment. You will select one question from the early release exam paper which you will plan, develop and produce work over a set period of weeks. You will then complete a final piece over ten hours in a two day practical exam. This is worth 40% of the total GCSE.

Students must understand that the coursework is of GCSE standard, and the work produced every lesson as well as work produced outside of the classroom forms part of their GCSE. Students who choose this option must be creative and prepared to work hard.

HOW DOES THIS FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

All of the techniques and processes learnt in years 7, 8 and 9 are essential for the development onto GCSE. You will use what you have learnt as a base for what you can move on to. You will have more time to move on and develop your skills further as we will be building on your prior learning.

WHICH CAREER PATHS WOULD THIS LEAD TO?

As Product Design is a direct result of the world around us and applies to everything we use, the job possibilities are vast. Any job which includes an understanding of peoples' needs can be achieved from the skills learnt through this subject. Some examples are:

Architecture
Environmental Design
Interior Design
Product Designers
Surveying

Construction
Furniture Design
Jewellery Design
Project Management
Teaching

Engineering
Film Set Design
Landscape Design
Stage Set Design
Upholstery



SCIENCE

The Science department runs two routes through Key Stage 4 Science.

If you would like further information, please contact Mr Liebeschuetz

The two routes are:

Combined Science

Separate GCSEs in Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

Both routes through Key Stage 4 Science put equal emphasis on Biology, Physics and Chemistry, and as Science is a core subject, all students must follow one of these two routes.

All the Science GCSE syllabuses are entirely assessed by external exams taken at the end of year 11.

COMBINED SCIENCE

Students study Science for nine lessons a fortnight when they follow this route. This course is a Double Award GCSE course. This means students will receive two grades in Combined Science when they receive their results. This course puts a great deal of emphasis on key scientific theories as well as the role of science in society.

Students who do not opt for the three Separate Science GCSEs will follow the Combined Science course.

SEPARATE GCSEs IN BIOLOGY, PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

Students study Science for fourteen lessons a fortnight when they follow this route, and it will take up one of their option choices. The Separate Science GCSEs cover the same content as the Combined Science syllabus plus extra extension content

The Separate Science GCSEs are a very popular choice; students are encouraged to opt for it if they enjoy science. Whilst it is not essential that students study the Separate Science GCSEs at GCSE in order to be able to study sciences at A Level, it is strongly recommended. The extension topics that Separate Scientists study give students a significant head start in Science A Level courses. This is particularly true for Biology.

A maximum number of 68 students can follow the Separate Science GCSEs every year. If more than 68 students opt for Triple Science then we will select the top 62 students based on their performance in the Year 9 science exam on March 28th and other assessments taken in year 9.



SPANISH

Examination Board: AQA
Syllabus Number: 8698



If you would like further information, please contact Mrs Ruiz

WHAT IS GCSE SPANISH ALL ABOUT?

GCSE in Spanish is about learning how to communicate with and understand speakers of this language. It will give you the opportunity to not only learn the language, but to also learn about life in Spanish speaking countries; their cultures, festivals, customs, music, and more. You will put yourself in their place by acting out scenes based in the Spanish speaking country, and you will learn how to express your own wishes, plans and opinions in Spanish. In doing all this you will also extend your understanding of how languages work and your understanding of English will be enhanced.

WHAT WILL I HAVE TO DO?

- You will practise speaking Spanish in role-plays, conversations and by preparing speeches and presentations to be delivered to one or more other people
- You will get practice in giving information and opinions and in finding out what other people have to say
- You will get frequent practice in listening to all sorts of Spanish speakers; young, old, male and female, so that you understand the language when you hear it spoken at normal speed
- You will read a variety of texts in Spanish, ranging from notices and signs to advertisements, leaflets, letters and magazine or newspaper articles. These will cover a range of subjects from tourist information to fashion, sport, cuisine and other areas of general interest
- You will practise writing correct Spanish from short notes and messages, formal and informal letters, to more extended stories and descriptions. Sometimes you will be given a precise plan to write to; at other times you will be able to use your imagination to produce pieces of your own composition
- You will practise translation from and into Spanish

DOES IT FOLLOW ON FROM WHAT I HAVE LEARNED BEFORE?

GCSE Spanish follows on directly from the content you have studied in KS3. When embarking on the GCSE course will be building and developing your understanding of topics covered during KS3 and also adding new topics that you haven't studied before. You will use lesson time to learn the new vocabulary and practise the four skills, as well as translations.

WHAT ABOUT EXAMINATIONS?

You will be assessed in four language elements: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each elements counts 25% towards the final grade. You will take the GCSE examination at either Foundation or Higher Level. Foundation papers give access to grades 1 – 5; Higher to 3 – 9.

WHAT OTHER SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

A GCSE in a language offers a unique opportunity to learn how to communicate effectively. Through learning to communicate in Spanish, you will be enhancing your communication skills in general, along with your problem solving and listening skills. Your cultural understanding will also develop as you will learn about and appreciate many different cultures in our world. Universities seek these skills in their future students and value a GCSE in a language.

