

YEAR 9 PREFERENCE BOOKLET 2018-2019



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS



INSPIRE MOTIVATE ACHIEVE

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to help students and parents choose the most appropriate combination of courses to follow at Key Stage 4. We are committed to offering students a broad and balanced curriculum that enables them to maximise their chances of success. Each student is considered as an individual and is guided and supported through a structured programme to ensure they make appropriate choices.

The Curriculum

The curriculum at Wollaston contains core subjects which meet the requirements of the compulsory national curriculum.

Core subjects all students will study:

English (2 GCSEs) Language/ Literature)	Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
Mathematics (GCSE)	Physical Education (non-exam course)

Choices are then made using the Options Selection Guidance Sheet.

Options Selection Guidance Sheet - 2018/2019

(You should have received this document alongside the Options Booklet)

The Options Selection Guidance Sheet should be used in the draft stages of the Option selection process. The guidance identifies any requirements or limitations you will need to consider when selecting your subjects.

When selecting your chosen subjects using the Options Selection Guidance Sheet you should allocate the numbers 1-5. This will identify your four options in order of preference as well as a fifth reserve option.

INSIGHT

In order to finalise your Options Selections you **must** enter your preferences using INSIGHT. You should select your subjects in order of your preference, starting with your option 1 through to your reserve option 5.

OPTIONS PROCESS TIMELINE

2019

- 4 January:** Options letter to parents.
- 24 January:** Year 9 Parents' Evening.
- 30 January:** Assembly explaining options process to students.
- 28 January to 8 February:** Taster sessions during Year 9 faculty teaching time.
- 7 February:** Options Evening 6.00pm to 8.30pm.
- 4 February to 18 February:** Options process live on INSIGHT.
- 18 February:** **ONLINE OPTIONS SELECTION PROCESS CLOSSES AT 4.00PM.**



OPTIONS FOR YOU

How have GCSE grades changed?

The Government introduced a new system of grading at GCSE and these changes came into effect in August 2017. Letter grades will gradually be replaced by a number scale.

The majority of subjects have already adopted the number scale but all subjects will have followed suit by the 2020 exam period.

There is no exact match between the letters and numbers. The approximate link between numbers and letters is shown in the chart below, which also shows the relationship between GCSE grades and the equivalent grades for BTEC courses.

Comparison of old and new GCSE grades

Previous GCSE grades	Current BTEC grades	New GCSE grades
A*	Distinction* Level 2	9
		8
A	Distinction Level 2	7
B	Merit Level 2	6
		5
C	Pass level 2	4
D	Merit Level 1	3
E	Pass Level 1	2
F		1
G		



INFORMING YOUR CHOICE

Your child will receive a paper copy of their latest report which shows their grades so far in most of the options subjects. This should be considered along with the effort grades and enjoyment of a subject.

Faculty areas will provide opportunities for students to do **Taster sessions** the week beginning 28th January in subjects which are new areas of study such as; Health & Social Care, Travel & Tourism, Psychology, Sociology and Photography. These courses are often chosen based on future career aspirations.

When selecting your option preferences consider:

Personal strengths:

Your skills, strengths, motivational factors and preferred methods of working e.g. are you good at exams, coursework and homework or practical skills. Have you been successful in the subject since year 7?

Engagement:

What engagement scores have you received throughout Years 7-9? Which subjects do you put most effort into at the moment? It usually follows that the subjects where we are most engaged are the ones we perform best in.

Enjoyment:

Which subjects do you enjoy the most? You are about to embark on two further years of demanding study. It therefore makes sense to pick subjects that you will enjoy.

Ability:

Your current sets in school and appropriate level of course to promote success.

Progression:

Do you know what career path you want to take and what subject qualifications you are required to study? Have you looked into the GCSE requirements of potential careers?



GCSE OPTION CHOICES



ART (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8201

WHAT IS GCSE ART?

GCSE Art is a skill based course for students who have an aptitude and interest in a range of art disciplines. The aim is to develop skills, techniques, processes and the ability to explore and develop creative ideas. The course encourages students to look at art, design, cultural and historical influences to inform and support their own awareness of art in a broad context.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course will allow students to build on their art skills learnt at Key Stage 3 with drawing being used as the central tool to communicate ideas. There will be the chance to further develop tonal, colour and practical skills in a range of media-collage, paint, biro, coloured pencil oil pastel, 3D materials, print and photography. Alongside this, students will use the work of other artists, designers and cultures to inspire, inform and extend their own ideas and creative practice. The key elements of the course will require students to record images from primary observations, experiment with a range of materials and techniques, carry out research and develop final pieces of work inspired by their creative journey.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

The students will be asked to work from two themes for their coursework which might include still life, portraiture, street art, cultural design and architecture. These topics will be used as the starting point for a range of research and development work that will result in a final piece of art work as diverse as canvas paintings, repeated prints, 3D objects, mixed media work, totem poles, masks and others. The exam unit is also a set theme given by the exam board and these vary from year to year. Past themes have included "from above", "groups", "lines", "work, rest and play", "ordinary and extraordinary".

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

- **Course code** - 8201
- **Coursework** - Made up of 2 units of work (2 projects).
Unit 1 - Portfolio of work (60%) and **Unit 2** - exam (40%).
- All work done in class and for homework during the course will be assessed as part of your final grade.
- **The preparatory work for the final exam** - A theme will be set by the exam board approximately 8 weeks before the timed exam. You will produce a range of research work and develop an idea for the final piece.
- **The timed exam** - A timed examination of 10 hours in the Art Department to produce a finished piece, in response to the exam theme.
- **Homework** - You will be encouraged to use portfolios for each project. The work in your portfolio will form the research for your projects. It will also help you to demonstrate and develop skills, techniques and processes. You will be expected to do work outside of the classroom environment so some equipment at home would help.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will be asked to show evidence of the following assessment objectives:

Recording ideas and investigations from different sources.

Refine work by exploring ideas and selecting and experimenting with appropriate media and materials.

Record ideas and observations.

Present your final outcome and evaluate.

Where can this take you?

WHAT NEXT?

The GCSE course will allow students the opportunity to go on to study art at Post 16 on courses in the sixth form or at college. Grade 5 and above will equip them well for A Level Art and Grade 4 and above will help students gain places on other art training courses at local colleges. The courses offer a stepping stone into creative training and future industries to support aspirations in a range of career paths. These may include photography, product design, games design, TV/Film design, fashion, display, architecture, graphic design, teaching, jewellery, interior design, media, illustration, make up

For more information please contact

Mrs E Redfern - Faculty Leader for Art and Design Technology or Mrs N Hawkins - Head of Art

COMPUTER SCIENCE (EXAM BOARD OCR)

COURSE CODE J276

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science is not just about computers. Rather it is the study of computation and information, and is a subject which involves you in the very make-up of the world, and over the last 30 years it has transformed the way we run our everyday lives.

Computer systems are part of our everyday lives, ranging from embedded systems controlling a fridge to bank systems handling billions of transactions each day. Many of these systems are very familiar, yet we take for granted systems that make things like mobile phones, planes and medical equipment possible.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

An interest in technology and solid logical problem-solving skills and, due to the demanding nature of this course, a predicted **level 6 in Science and/or Maths** by the end of Year 11.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

We study a range of themes relating to computer hardware and software, including how computers and networks work, operating systems, security and hacking and the ethical, social and legal aspects of computer use. We also study how sound, images and other data is stored using binary and hexadecimal code.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Unit 1 - Computer Systems—1.5hr exam—50% of the final grade

Introduce learners to the processor, computer memory and storage, networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It is expected that learners will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science.

Unit 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming—1.5hr exam—50% of final grade

Builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in Unit 1, encouraging learners to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking. Learners will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation.

Unit 3 - Programming Project—Form of assessment and percentage is under review by OCR

Students will be given a task by OCR. They will need to create suitable algorithms which will provide a solution to the problems in the task. They will code their solution in Python. The solution is tested at each stage to ensure they solve the problem and must use a suitable test plan with appropriate test data.

DANCE (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8263

WHAT IS GCSE DANCE?

GCSE Dance promotes fitness, a healthy lifestyle, team work and creativity and develops students' skills, knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles through the interrelated processes of **Performance**, **Choreography** and **Dance Appreciation**. Dance develops physical, technical and expressive skills through which students are able to; communicate choreographic intention, develop their individual qualities as performers, communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles and develop a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

- Participation in a range of practical work and tasks looking at a wide range of styles.
- Completion of theory tasks and the creation of a GCSE folder.
- Individual and small group work.
- Performance of solo, duo, trios and groups to the class.
- Choreography of your own dance material regularly.

THEMES STUDIED?

Through Performance, Choreography and Appreciation students will explore a range of political, historical, social and cross curricular themes. Students will study 6 professional works that cover a range of styles and influences that will enable them to fully appreciate how dance has developed.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code 8263

Component 1: Performance and Choreography.

Performance:

- Two set phases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration) **15% of GCSE**.
- Duet/trio performance (maximum of five minutes in duration) **15% of GCSE**.

Choreography:

- Solo or group choreography. **30% of GCSE**.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, critical appreciation of own work and critical appreciation of 6 professional works. 1 hour 30 minute written exam. **40% of GCSE**.

Both components are internally marked in a live setting by the teacher and then external moderator.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You should have a genuine interest in dance performance, choreography, enjoy working hard physically and be willing to contribute towards a team atmosphere. You must be able to rehearse after school independently and with others to complete homework, coursework and participate in clubs.

WHAT NEXT?

Students who study Dance GCSE may go on to study Dance or Performing Arts at either 'A' Level or on one of the vocational style courses. Employers always look favourably on successful dance students as they have a proven track record of enhanced communications skills, showing initiative, and working under pressure, leadership and team building. University courses in Dance are wide and varied ranging from high level professional performance courses to Degrees in Dance that can lead to education, teaching, arts therapy, theatre based careers, arts journalism, arts management, arts administration, lighting design, costume design, choreography.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Bradley and/or Miss D Stone

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN

(EXAM BOARD AQA) - COURSE CODE 8552

WHAT IS GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY—PRODUCT DESIGN?

The GCSE Design & Technology - Product Design course continues to build upon the detailed design work that students completed in Key Stage 3 - such as the coat hook, clock project and hardwood box & pendant. Students are given the opportunity to investigate topics through a wide range of both teacher led and activity based student work. Students will use creativity and imagination to **design** and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. They will learn to use new analysis and designing techniques, equipment, a range of machinery and tools as well as the use of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture), at the same time as developing existing skills, to further their understanding.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

In GCSE **Design** and Technology you will investigate the wider world of design, looking at key designers, movements, trends and the wider impact design can have on the environment we live in. Alongside this, you will use primary and secondary research sources to investigate various design tasks where you will design a number of products, using both hand drawn and computer-generated methods. These designs will be developed and finessed to create models and prototypes using a range of materials and techniques. You will develop your sketching and presentation techniques and manufacture a variety of products using some or all of the following materials - paper, cardboard, woods, plastics, and even limited textiles, metals and food.

Theory is taught through a combination of focused theory lessons as well as some practical based tasks that develop skills as well as understanding of materials and processes. This creative **design** course allows students to design and realise innovative, forward thinking products using a variety of materials and is suited to those who can work with creativity and originality. It also gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines including mathematics, science, art and computing.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

GCSE Design and Technology has a wide and varying subject content and you will study a variety of themes including:

- The analysis of past designers and companies
- The impact of new and emerging technologies
- Developments in modern and smart materials
- The categorisation and properties of Papers & Boards, Timbers, Plastics, Metals & Textiles
- The functions of mechanical devices
- How energy is generated and stored
- How electronic systems and programmable components provide functionality to products and processes
- The main material focus for this specification will then be **Papers & Boards**

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8552

The course is made up of 2 units

Unit 1 - Written exam (50%) which incorporates questions on the core subject content (20%) and Paper & Board based design questions (30%). The exam paper has 15% of the marks devoted to design related Mathematics calculation questions.

Unit 2 - Non-examined Assessment (50%) which involves the Design and Manufacture of a working prototype based on a contextual challenge **provided by the examination board**. 30% of this grade is for the design portfolio and 20% is for the practical element.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You should enjoy solving practical problems through **design** using a range of materials and be prepared to work safely with all the equipment in the workshop. Knowledge of computer design packages such as *Techsoft* 2D-Design and *Adobe* Photoshop is an advantage. The quality of your drawing skills are important in GCSE Design and Technology, supported by the ability to plan and explain how practical processes are used in production. This **academic** subject prepares students for design in the modern world through links with Mathematics, Science, Business and Art & Design.

WHAT NEXT?

A good grade in GCSE Design & Technology - Product Design enables students to progress onto a number of design based courses, including Wollaston School's Sixth Form A Level Product Design. A wide range of career paths stem from Product Design. The most common areas include; Product design, Automotive design, Interior design, Marketing and Advertising, Architecture, Furniture design, Industrial design, a range of engineering fields; civil, automotive and mechanical.

For more information please contact Mrs E Redfern - Faculty Leader for Art and Design Technology

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - TEXTILES

(EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL) - COURSE CODE 8552

WHAT IS GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY—TEXTILES?

The GCSE Design and Technology - Textiles course continues to build upon work that students completed in Key Stage 3 - such as the Keith Haring inspired pencil case, apron and urban ski hats and supermarket stitch eco containers. Students will be given the opportunity to investigate topics through a wide range of both teacher led and activity based student work. Students will use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. They will, at the same time as developing existing skills, learn to use some new equipment, a range of machinery and tools as well as use of CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture) to further their understanding.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

In GCSE Design and Technology you will design a number of products, using both hand drawn and computer generated methods, and create, using a range of materials and techniques. You will develop your sketching and presentation techniques and manufacture a variety of products using some or all of the following materials – textiles and even limited woods, plastics, metals, paper, cardboard and electronics. Theory is predominantly learned, through a range of practical-based tasks that develop skills as well as understanding of materials and processes. This design course allows students to work with a variety of materials and is suited to those who can work creatively and with originality through problem solving. It also gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines including mathematics, science, art & design and computing.

THEMES STUDIED?

GCSE Design and Technology has a wide and varying subject content and you will study a variety of themes including: .

- The categorisation and properties of textiles, metals, timbers, plastics and papers
- Developments in modern and smart materials
- The functions of mechanical devices
- The analysis of past designers and companies
- The impact of new and emerging technologies
- How energy is generated and stored
- How electronic systems and programmable components provide functionality to products and processes
- The main material focus for this specification will then be Textiles

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8552

- The course is made up of 2 units

Unit 1 - Written exam (50%) which incorporates questions on the core subject content (20%) and Textiles based design questions (30%). The exam paper has 15/100 marks devoted to Mathematics calculation questions.

Unit 2 - Non-examined Assessment (50%) which involves the Design and Manufacture of a working prototype based on a contextual challenge provided by the examination board.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You should enjoy solving practical problems through design using a range of materials and be prepared to work safely with all the equipment in the classroom. The quality of your practical work and skills are important in GCSE Design and Technology, supported by the ability to design, plan and explain how practical processes are used in production. This is an academic subject, which prepares students for design in the modern world through links with both Mathematics, Science, Business, Computer Science and Art & Design.

WHAT NEXT?

A good grade in GCSE Design and Technology - Textiles enables students to progress onto a number of design based courses, including Wollaston School's Sixth Form BTEC Level 3 Fashion and Design and A Level Product Design. A wide range of career paths stem from Textiles, which include; Fashion Design, Costume Designer, Interior designer, Retail buyer, Retail Manager, Journalist, Pattern Cutter, Retail Manager and assistant, Textiles Technologist, Tailor, Production Manager, Personal stylist, Teacher/Higher education and Project Management and Textile Engineering.

For more information please contact Mrs E Redfern - Faculty Leader for Art and Design Technology

DRAMA (EXAM BOARD WJEC)

COURSE CODE 601/84206

WHAT IS GCSE DRAMA?

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE Drama specification is designed to give learners a broad and balanced experience of Drama. The course has been constructed to integrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed across a range of dramatic activities.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Across the three components learners will study:

- One complete performance text.
- Two extracts from a second contrasting performance text placed within the context of the whole text.
- Either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or the characteristics of a genre of drama.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

- **Devising Theatre:** Study of theatre practitioners and theatrical genres, developing devising, performing and evaluative skills.
- **Performing from a text:** The study of two extracts of a text, developing acting skills.
- **Interpreting Theatre:** Analysing a set text from a choice provided by the exam board and evaluating live theatre.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

The course comprises of three components:

COMPONENT 1: Devising Theatre - 40% of qualification

Learners must produce:

- A piece of devised theatre
- A portfolio of supporting evidence
- An evaluation of the final performance or design.

COMPONENT 2: Performing from a text - 20% of qualification

- Learners will be assessed on **either** acting or design.
- Learners study **two** extracts from the **same** performance text chosen by the centre.
- Learners participate in **one** performance using sections of text from both extracts.

COMPONENT 3: Interpreting Theatre - 40% of qualification

Learners will be required to sit a written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes.

Section A: Set Text

A series of questions on ONE set text from a choice of five chosen by the centre and studied throughout the course.

Section B: Live Theatre Review

One question from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students wishing to take GCSE Drama should be prepared to perform in every lesson, to contribute to discussions and challenge themselves to take on new roles in Drama. You will also be required to visit the theatre.

WHAT NEXT?

Students who complete the course can go on to study Drama and Theatre Studies at A Level or BTEC National Performing Arts. Future opportunities include journalism, media, theatre, Arts administration, teaching along with

For more information please contact

Mrs S Goodge - Faculty Leader for Drama or Mrs C Rose or Mrs V Paltridge

ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY (EXAM BOARD EDUQAS)

COURSE CODE C120P3

WHAT IS E&P?

Ethics and Philosophy encourages students to think and learn about the world around them. We aim to present students with a good understanding of two of the world's major religions and then explore topical moral issues in the world today and ask them to express their opinions and develop informed opinions regardless of moral, social, religious backgrounds. Above all students are given a forum in which to face up to the realities of the world we are preparing them to enter so that they are better equipped to deal with the variety of dilemmas, people and issues they will face as they grow.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

We begin by looking at two religions - Christianity and Islam. We begin by looking at Christian beliefs and teachings. We then look at how Christians follow their religion in practice. This is followed by a similar study on Islam. Once we have established a good understanding of both we can ask the questions we often ignore. When does life begin? Who has the right to take a life? When is it right or wrong to go to war? Should we explore the world of genetic engineering for the advancement of humankind? Is it right to judge others by their actions and beliefs? Should we help those in need and why/why not? Why do some people believe in God?

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

We study four themes 1. Relationships and Families (looking at the purpose of marriage, same sex marriage, cohabitation, divorce, equality and contraception) 2. Life and Death (looking at the origin of the universe, afterlife, environmental sustainability, euthanasia and abortion). 3. Good and Evil (good/evil, forgiveness, free will, morality, punishment and suffering). 4. Human Rights (looking at censorship, discrimination, extremism, prejudice, poverty and social justice).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - J625

The course consists of 3 exam papers.

Paper 1 = 25%, paper 2 = 25% and paper 3 = 50%.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You do not have to be religious to enjoy the course and achieve a top grade GCSE. You need to be willing to engage with moral issues and listen to other points of view.

WHAT NEXT?

It is highly regarded by employers, colleges and universities. It may lead to A level Ethics and Philosophy or even a degree in Philosophy.

This course also helps students develop marketable skills and aptitudes including:

- analytical and strategic thinking;
- research skills;
- critical judgment;
- the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict;
- problem-solving skills;
- leadership skills;
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

For more information please contact Mr M Wade - Subject Leader for Ethics & Philosophy

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8585

WHAT IS GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION?

The GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition course continues to build on work that students study at Key Stage 3.

Students will be given the opportunity to investigate topics through a wide range of both teacher led and student activity based work. Students will investigate a range of food topics and will learn to use a range of different equipment and tools to further their understanding.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

By studying this course, you will learn about ingredients and methods used to make nutritious food products. You will learn about the function of ingredients used, the nutritional properties of the foods used, the effects of combining different ingredients during the preparation and cooking of foods. You will need to demonstrate that you are able to use a range of different food preparation skills to produce high quality products.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

The GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition course has a wide and varying subject content. You will study a variety of topics including:

- Food preparation skills including general practical skills, use of equipment, cooking methods, making sauces, setting mixtures, making dough mixtures.
- Food, nutrition and health including making informed choices for a varied and balanced diet, energy needs and carrying out nutritional analysis of food products.
- Food science including the cooking of food, heat transfer, the functional and chemical properties of food. Food safety including food spoilage, food contamination and the principles of food safety.
- Food choice including factors affecting food choice, food labelling and marketing influences, British and International cuisines and the sensory evaluation of foods.
- Food provenance including food sources, environmental issues associated with food, sustainability of food, food production and technological developments associated with better health and food production.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8585

There are two components to the assessment for this course.

Unexamined assessment worth 50% comprising of two tasks and a single examination paper worth 50%:

Task 1: The Food Investigation (15%) Recommended time: 10 hours.

An example of the type of task you may do to allow you time to demonstrate your skills is: (a) investigate which type of flour is the best for making bread; or (b) investigate the type of raising agent used to make baked products.

Task 2: The Food Preparation Task (35%) - is an opportunity to showcase your practical skills Recommended time: 20 hours and will include an extended 3 hour practical to allow you time to demonstrate your skills. An example of the tasks you may do for this investigation is: (a) plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills, from the Mediterranean culinary tradition and present three final dishes or (b) plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills, which would be suitable for vegetarians and present three final dishes.

Single examination paper 50%. This will comprise a paper of 1 hour and 45 minutes. Section A is worth 20 marks and will be Multiple Choice Questions and Section B is worth 80 marks and you will have to answer five questions.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will do practical work each week and you must therefore be prepared to bring ingredients every week. When we do experimental work, school will provide the ingredients for you to do these investigations. You will learn a lot of the theory through practical activities.

WHAT NEXT?

Success in Food Preparation & Nutrition can lead on to a number of varied and interesting careers in, for example, Catering, Nutrition, Teaching and Product Development.

For more information please contact Mrs E Redfern - Faculty Leader for Art and Design Technology

FRENCH (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1FRO

WHAT IS GCSE FRENCH?

This two year course is designed to develop students' knowledge of French and their ability to use it in a range of contexts and situations. Students are taught the skills to use and understand both spoken and written language with accuracy and confidence. This GCSE forms part of the English Baccalaureate, a measure of achievement in core academic subjects, and an indication of a young person's general potential to study at a higher level (e.g. A-Level, University). A GCSE in French will certainly give you 'the edge'.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course builds on language learnt at Key Stage 3. Students engage in group and individual speaking and comprehension tasks, independent research using authentic materials and online resources, and creative writing assignments. Written and learning homework is set regularly and is central to students' preparation for termly teacher assessments. These are in the style of the real exams and check that at least expected progress is being made. Students are also set weekly vocabulary to learn to support their comprehension.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

The course focuses on issues relating to young people (their interests, future plans, relationships) as well as broader issues relating to the wider world (media and culture, sport and leisure, travel, the environment, business and employment).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 1FRO

Students are assessed by exam at the end of Year 11 in:

- **Listening (25%)** - candidates listen to a range of short passages in the language relating to GCSE topics, and then answer questions about them. Questions are in English and French.
- **Reading (25%)** - candidates read a range of passages in the language, topic-based and literary, and answer questions about them in both English and French. There is also a short translation into English.
- **Speaking (25%)** - candidates complete a role-play, picture discussion and topic conversation in a 7 - 9 minute exam with their teacher. Tests are based on topics covered during the course. Candidates are given preparation time beforehand and can make notes which they can use during the exam.
- **Writing (25%)** - candidates write a total of 200 - 250 words across a range of tasks e.g. a short letter, a topic essay, a short translation into French.

EXTRA INFORMATION

GCSE students have regular opportunities to work with our French Assistant (native speaker) to practise their conversational French and to gain in confidence for their speaking exam. To improve listening skills students have priority access to our Language Lab. Students may be offered the chance to spend some time in France.

Students with languages skills are in high demand in today's society. Linguists are needed in business, the travel and tourism industry, the media, teaching, or indeed in any area of life where the UK is working in co-operation with overseas partners. It is therefore no surprise that colleges, universities and employers have a high regard for candidates with a languages qualification.

WHAT NEXT?

Students with consistently good effort grades and who secure grade 4 or better by the end of Year 9 should cope well with French at GCSE.

If you have any questions about the course, your suitability for it, or the many career paths for students with languages skills, please talk to your French teacher. Further information and sample assessment tasks for the new GCSE can also be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html>. For opportunities for those with languages watch the video at www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/teachers/video

For more information please contact Mrs H Berry - Subject Leader for French

GERMAN (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1GN0

WHAT IS GCSE GERMAN?

This 2 year course is designed to develop students' knowledge of German and their ability to use it in a range of contexts and situations. Students are taught the skills to use and understand both spoken and written language with accuracy and confidence. This GCSE forms part of the English Baccalaureate, a measure of achievement in core academic subjects, and an indication of a young person's general potential to study at a higher level (e.g. A-Level, University). A GCSE in German will certainly give you 'the edge'.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course builds on language learnt at Key Stage 3. Students engage in group and individual speaking and comprehension tasks, independent research using authentic materials and online resources, and creative writing assignments. Written and learning homework is set regularly and is central to students' preparation for termly teacher assessments. These are in the style of the real exams and check that at least expected progress is being made. Students are also set weekly vocabulary to learn to support their comprehension.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

The course focuses on issues relating to young people (their interests, future plans, relationships) as well as broader issues relating to the wider world (media and culture, sport and leisure, travel, the environment, business and employment).

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 1GN0

Students are assessed by exam at the end of Year 11 in:

- **Listening (25%)** - candidates listen to a range of short passages in the language relating to GCSE topics, and then answer questions about them. Questions are in English and German.
- **Reading (25%)** - candidates read a range of passages in the language, topic-based and literary, and answer questions about them in both English and German. There is also a short translation into English.
- **Speaking (25%)** - candidates complete a role-play, picture discussion and topic conversation in a 7 - 9 minute exam with their teacher. Tests are based on topics covered during the course. Candidates are given preparation time beforehand and can make notes which they can use during the exam.
- **Writing (25%)** - candidates write a total of 200 - 250 words across a range of tasks e.g. a short letter, a topic essay, a short translation into German.

EXTRA INFORMATION

GCSE students have regular opportunities to work with our German Assistant (native speaker) to practise their conversational German and to gain in confidence for their speaking exam. To improve listening skills students have priority access to our Language Lab. Students will be offered the chance to spend some time in Germany and be partnered with a student in a German school.

Students with languages skills are in high demand in today's society. Linguists are needed in business, the travel and tourism industry, the media, teaching, or indeed in any area of life where the UK is working in cooperation with overseas partners. It is therefore no surprise that colleges, universities and employers have a high regard for candidates with a languages qualification.

WHAT NEXT?

Students with consistently good effort grades and who secure grade 4 or better by the end of Year 9 should cope well with German at GCSE.

If you have any questions about the course, your suitability for it, or the many career paths for students with languages skills, please talk to your German teacher.

Further information and sample assessment tasks for the new GCSE can also be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/languages.html>. For more reasons to continue learning German go to www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/wdl.html and for opportunities for those with languages skills watch the video at www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/teachers/video

For more information please contact Mrs H Sumner - Subject Leader for German

GEOGRAPHY (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8035

WHAT IS GCSE GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is concerned with the study of places, the human and physical processes which shape them and the people that live in them. It helps students to make sense of their surroundings and the wider world.

Geography has a unique position in the curriculum to help students develop up to date knowledge and understanding of current events on a variety of scales. In addition, it gives students the opportunity to understand the complexity of human and physical environments and make connections between natural, economic, social, political and technological systems. Through fieldwork students have the opportunity to develop first-hand investigations of places, environments and human behaviour. All these features can provide a meaningful context for developing transferable skills such as literacy, numeracy, ICT, problem solving, team work, thinking skills and enquiry whilst stimulating an interest in, and a wonder of the world around us.

GCSE Geography would be suitable for students keen to continue with academic subjects as it complements Sciences, other Humanities and core subjects such as English and maths. Students will need a good level of written English as the exam questions do require students to **write extended paragraphs** in a complex and coherent way. It is a challenging but highly rewarding subject choice.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE AND HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8035

1. Living with the physical environment:

- Exam 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 35% of GCSE
- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world

2. Challenges in the human environment:

- Exam 1 hour 30 minutes, worth 35% of GCSE
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

3. Geographical applications:

- Exam 1 hour, worth 30% of GCSE (based on pre-released material)
- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical skills

WHAT NEXT?

Geography provides students with a range of skills and knowledge which supports progression into a wide range of careers such as cartography, transport, the oil industry, ecology and education.

For more information please contact Mrs R Collins - Subject Leader for Geography

HISTORY (EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1H10

WHAT IS GCSE HISTORY?

This course will appeal to students who are interested in examining historical events that have an impact on all our lives. Students complete a study of the history of medicine, this involves looking at time periods from medieval medicine to modern medicine. Students will find out about the important developments in medicine that have led us to the healthcare we have today. There is also a focus study in the medicine exam on injuries and treatment in the trenches in World War One. For the British History element students will look at Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88. This will include how the Normans gained and maintained power in England. For the in depth period study, students will learn about the American West, 1835-95, including the way of life for the Plains Indians and early settlement of the West. Students also study Germany 1918-39, this gives an insight into the dramatic rise of Hitler and the Nazis, how they were able to come to power and how they ran Germany. By looking at events that happened in the past we can understand better what is happening today and why things happen.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

Four main themes are covered over the two years:

- Medicine through time, 1250– present. Also includes a focus on medicine in World War One
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88
- The American West, 1835-95
- Germany, 1919-1939

Course requirements:

Most importantly, you must be interested in History. It is an academic subject and you need to be prepared for the volume of reading and writing you will need to do during each lesson and in the exam.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 1H10

The course is assessed by examination only. All students sit the same exam papers and there is no foundation paper option.

- **Examination (100%):**
- Paper 1- Medicine in Britain, also a focus on medicine in World War One, 1 hour and 15 minutes, 30%
- Paper 2 - Anglo-Saxon England and American West, 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40%
- Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1 hour and 20 minutes, 30%

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will develop many skills for example:

1. Source analysis – looking critically at evidence to develop an understanding of historical events.
2. Explaining your answer and forming your own conclusions.

You will be learning to think for yourself, using the evidence and applying what you have learnt to draw your own conclusions. These skills will be welcome in any career such as journalism, law, teaching, and also in business and industry.

Specification name and website link: Students will study the Edexcel GCSE History syllabus. More information can be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

For more information please contact

Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities or Miss R Murts - Subject Leader

MUSIC (EXAM BOARD OCR)

COURSE CODE J536

WHAT IS GCSE MUSIC?

GCSE Music encourages musicians of all interests and range of abilities to further their knowledge and understanding of the subject through performance, composition and listening activities.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students are required to:

- Perform one solo piece on their chosen instrument.
- Compose a piece which features their chosen instrument from the solo performance.
- Perform one piece as part of an ensemble.
- Compose a piece based on a brief set by the OCR exam board.
- Undertake listening activities throughout the course on a range of styles from the areas of study in preparation for a listening exam at the end of the course.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

- **My Music:** Exploration of your chosen instrument through performance and composition.
- **The Concerto Through Time:** Exploration of the musical styles of the Concerto and its development from 1650 to 1910 through Baroque solo Concerto, Baroque Concerto Grosso, the Classical Concerto and the Romantic Concerto.
- **Rhythms of the world:** Studying traditional rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world: India and Punjab, Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East, Africa, Central and South America.
- **Film Music:** Explores music which has specifically composed for a film, music from the Western Classical tradition which is used within a film and sound tracks for video games.
- **Conventions of Pop:** Studying a range of popular music from the 1950's to the present day. The focus being Rock'n'Roll, Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads and Solo Artists.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - J536

Compositions and Performances = 60% of the final GCSE.

Completed under controlled conditions during class time, assessed by the teacher and moderated by an external examiner.

Listening and appraising = 40% of the final GCSE.

An exam paper lasting 90 minutes where students hear music extracts from the styles studied during the course and identify musical features. This is assessed by an external examiner.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Any student wishing to take GCSE Music should be able to play an instrument or sing with a good level of **confidence** and **competence** and will be required to complete a short performance audition to confirm they meet the required standard. Students able to perform to approximately Grade 3 standard or above should achieve well. If GCSE Music is a challenging but creative GCSE. It allows students to demonstrate and build on existing skills in performance as well as develop composition techniques and critical aural analysis skill. The course is delivered in a very hands-on approach with a focus on doing rather than observing. GCSE Music students are also expected to participate in one of the school's many musical ensembles which take place at lunchtimes and after school on a weekly basis.

WHAT NEXT?

Students who complete the course may choose to go on to study Music at A level or BTEC Level 3. The subject can open many doors in Performance, Music Technology, Media, Theatre, Teaching, or the Armed Forces among many other careers.

For more information please contact Mrs E Hollis-Brown - Subject Leader

PHOTOGRAPHY (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8206

WHAT IS GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY - LENS-BASED AND LIGHT BASED MEDIA?

GCSE Photography is a skills based course for students who have an aptitude and interest in the visual elements associated with Photographic image making. The aim is to develop skills, techniques, processes and the ability to explore and expand creative ideas. The course encourages students to look at artistic, cultural and historical influences, to inform and support their own awareness of Photography within a broad context.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course will allow students to explore the formal elements of visual language including Photographic Theory, Formal Elements and light experiments all in the context of lens-based and light-based media. There will be the chance to investigate different ways of working responding to an issue, theme, concept, depth of field, movement and narrative. Alongside this, students will use the work of other photographers, artists and images from primary observation, experiment with a range of printing and manipulation techniques, and carry out research which will allow them to develop final pieces that are inspired by the creative journey.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

The students will be asked to work from a variety of themes for their coursework which might include portraiture, landscape, pattern, reflection, distortion illusion, abstract, conceptual, documentary and black and white. These topics will be used as the starting point for a range of research and development work that will result in final pieces of photographic based artwork. Students will be encouraged to combine traditional art techniques while developing their creativity with photographic imagery. The exam unit is a set theme given by the exam board and these vary from year to year.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8206

Coursework– Made up of 2 units of work (2 projects).

Unit 1 - Portfolio of work (60%) and **Unit 2** - Exam (40%)

All work done in class and for homework during the course will be assessed as part of your final grade.

The preparatory work for the final exam - A theme will be set by the exam board, appropriately 8 weeks before the timed exam. You will produce a range of research work and develop an idea for the final piece.

The timed exam - A timed examination of 10 hours in the Art department to produce a finished piece, in response to the exam theme.

Homework - You will be encouraged to use portfolios for each project. The work in your portfolio will form the research for your projects. It will also help you to demonstrate and develop skills, techniques and processes. You will be expected to take your own photographs so a camera of your own is essential.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will be asked to show evidence of the following assessment objectives:

Recording ideas and investigations from different sources.

Refine work by exploring ideas and selecting and experimenting with appropriate media and materials.

Record ideas and observations.

Present your final outcome and evaluate.

Where can this take you?

Students will be able to take photography further with A Level Photography options. Students will be able to study with a grade 5 or higher or at college with a Level 4. Potential careers that come from studying photography, include, Freelance Photography, Media, Journalism, Web design, Marketing, Buyers, Planning, Architecture, Games and Game console design, Product design, Illustration, Publishing and Editing, Education, Museums and Gallery,

For more information please contact

Mrs E Redfern - Faculty Leader for Art and Design Technology or Mrs N Hawkins - Subject Leader

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 1PE01

WHAT IS GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

The GCSE PE qualification is made up of two exams (worth 60% of final grade) one written piece of coursework (worth 10% of final grade) and three practical activities (worth 30% of final grade). GCSE PE builds on the understanding developed at Key Stage 3, supporting a smooth transition to the next level of study. It encourages learners to become more competent, confident and expert in their techniques, and apply them across different sports and physical activities. GCSE PE also helps students develop important transferable skills for progression to the next level of study, including numeracy, communication and an understanding of practical performances. The blend of scientific and social knowledge positions candidates to access a range of qualifications in the future.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

There are two examinations in GCSE PE, both of which are taken at the end of the course in Year 11. Paper 1 (worth 36% of the final grade) is based on scientific principles of PE, whereas Paper 2 is based around the Health and Performance aspects of PE (worth 24% of the final grade)

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

Fitness and Body Systems: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data.

Health and performance: Health fitness and wellbeing, psychology in sport, sociocultural issues, data.

Personal Exercise programme: Planning, perform, analyse and evaluate training performance.

Practical performance: Skills in isolation, skills in competition from three activity areas (at least one individual sport and one team sport).

PRACTICAL

GCSE PE requires students to be assessed in three practical areas over the two year course. These activities need to come from the approved list of either Individual or Team activities. Pupils must select at least one individual activity and one team activity across their three activities.

It is an expectation that students who study GCSE PE are participating in at least one of these activities outside of School to ensure success in the subject. They must demonstrate competence in one Team and one Individual activity before starting the course. They will be expected to attend at least one extra curricular club in school during year 10 and 11 e.g. Badminton, Dance, Trampolining, Athletics or Table Tennis.

Students will be taught a variety of practical activities in GCSE PE to ensure they are fully prepared for the practical requirements of the course.

Sports such as Golf, Horse-riding, Skiing, Climbing, can all be assessed from outside school via video evidence which must meet the boards criteria and be submitted at the start of year 11. Please note Martial Arts are accepted as an activity.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Students who study GCSE PE are in an excellent position to transfer the skills learnt on the course across a wide-range of future areas of study. The course not only allows smooth transition into either A Level PE or OCR Sport at Level 3 but to all other academic courses available in the 6th form. GCSE PE assesses students physically and intellectually and is widely regarded as one of the most enjoyable and rewarding GCSE subjects.

For more information please contact
Miss S Meekcom - Faculty Leader for PE or Mr P Bevan - Subject Leader

PSYCHOLOGY (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8182

WHAT IS GCSE PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the study of the mind and the processes behind behavior. Throughout Psychology GCSE you will:

- Develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society, specifically in terms of mental health.
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of psychology, developing an understanding of the self and others, and how psychological understanding can help to explain everyday social phenomena
- Develop your reflective thinking skills by developing arguments and drawing conclusions from Psychological evidence provided.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and personal, moral, social and cultural issues, and develop an understanding of ethical issues in psychology
- Understand how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Psychology will teach you to think independently, to challenge concepts and apply theories to real life contexts and behaviours. The course will give you an insight into many things - some key questions answered are; how does perception differ between people? What happens if we don't form bonds with our parents? How can we forget things we have just seen? And, what causes psychiatric illness and how can it be best treated?

Overall Psychology teaches you to recall key concepts and details, interpret data and research, analyse studies in terms of their effectiveness and critically evaluate how psychological theories explain behaviour.

The skills you learn in Psychology will complement many other GCSE subjects such as; science, maths, English, history, geography, sociology and ethics and philosophy.

In order to study Psychology you will need strong literacy skills as there is a lot of extended writing. In addition you will need to have a sound understanding of maths, as data analysis is a required theme throughout the course. If you feel you would struggle with this, Psychology may not be for you.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED

Memory, perception, cognitive development, research methods, social influence, language thought and communication, the brain and neuro-psychology and psychological problems such as depression and addiction.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8182

- **50% Cognition and behaviour - 1 hour 45 minutes exam:**

This unit consists of two multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions about memory, perception, development and research methods.

- **50% Social context and behaviour - 1 hour 45 minutes exam**

This unit consists of two multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions about social influence, language, thought and communication, brain and neuropsychology and psychological problems.

PROGRESSION ROUTES?

Sixth form, college, university, jobs such as clinical psychology, forensic psychology, rehabilitation centres, medicine (psychiatry), Business development, accountancy, human resources, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, nursing, teaching, sport psychology.

For more information, please contact

Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities or Miss L Pickwick - Subject Leader

SOCIOLOGY (EXAM BOARD AQA)

COURSE CODE 8192

WHAT IS GCSE SOCIOLOGY?

Sociology is the study of society and culture, what makes us who we are and what aspect of society control our behaviour. Through studying sociology you will:

- Improve your understanding of cultures around the world and within the UK.
- Analyse and evaluate data and research methods while learning the difficulties in studying people and society.
- Develop discussion skills and recognise a range of extreme viewpoints.
- Gain knowledge of political and societal issues that will directly affect your life now and in the future.
- Improve your literacy skills, vocabulary and skills for producing an argument.
- Understand how we learn the rules of society and why this can go wrong for certain individuals.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Sociology is the study of how societies organise social life, and how that impacts individuals in a variety of ways.

This means that as sociologists, we study how people experience social life, whether that is through our families, communities, occupation, race and religion or even in terms of what sports we play and what clubs we belong to. It also deals with global issues like poverty, inequality the environment and globalisation.

Sociology links with a huge range of subjects including, science, maths, history, geography, ethics & philosophy and English.

WHAT THEMES WILL BE STUDIED?

Students will look at many aspects of society from differing perspectives, mainly feminism, functionalism, interactionism and Marxism. They will gain understanding of the changing roles of Families, the issues within education and understanding the patterns and trends in crime in deviance. Students will also look at issues surrounding distribution of power and poverty in society and also gain a strong knowledge of the methods Sociologists use in order to gather their research.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 8192

- **50% The sociology of the family and education - 1 hour 45 minutes exam:**
- This unit is divided into two sections. Both sections consist of having two multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions about the Family and the Education system.
- **50% The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification - 1 hour 45 minutes exam:**
- This unit is divided into two sections. Both sections consist of having two multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions on crime and factors such as class, authority and poverty.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

Sixth form, college, university, careers in social work, human resources, advertising, policing, nursing, marketing, journalism, law, occupational therapy, teaching, family planning, rehabilitation centres.

EXTRA INFORMATION

In order to study Sociology you will need strong literacy skills in English as there is a lot of extended writing. The exam at the end of Year 11 will involve writing four essays, if you feel you would struggle with this, sociology may not be for you.

For more information, please contact

Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities or Miss L Pickwick - Subject Leader

COMBINED SCIENCE TRILOGY (AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8464

WHAT IS GCSE SCIENCE TRILOGY?

Science is everywhere. If you ride to school on a bus, there are many examples of technology based on the scientific method. The school bus is a product of many areas of science and technology, including mechanical engineering and innovation. The systems of roads, lights, pavements and other infrastructure are carefully designed by civil engineers and planners. The smartphone in your hand is a miracle of modern computer engineering that uses Physics and Chemistry. Outside the window, trees turn sunlight into stored energy and create the oxygen that we need to survive. Whether “natural” or man-made every aspect of your life is filled with science - from you own internal biology to the flat-screen TV in the living room.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying this course provides an opportunity to develop a firm foundation to go on to study Science at Level 3 and beyond. It will provide a good background to study other Sciences and Mathematics and Engineering. The course is designed to give a good grounding in the science disciplines and to provide two Science GCSE qualifications for students not wishing to take an individual Science subject.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Biology

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

Chemistry

8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
10. Quantitative chemistry
11. Chemical changes
12. Energy changes
13. The rate and extent of chemical change

Physics

18. Energy
19. Electricity
20. Particle model of matter
21. Atomic structure
22. Forces
23. Waves

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

There are six exams and you will gain two GCSE Grades as a result of all six papers.

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 70 marks and 16.7% each. All papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

TRIPLE SCIENCE BIOLOGY (AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8461

WHAT IS GCSE BIOLOGY?

Biology plays an important role in the understanding of complex forms of life involving humans, animals and plants. Biologists study the structure, function, growth, origin, evolution and distribution of living organisms.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course helps students develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods. It provides the opportunity to gain a good understanding across a broad range of rich and relevant topics in human biology, other living organisms, evolution and the environment.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Paper 1 - Topics 1–4

1. Cell biology: cell structure and transport, cell division. 2. Organisation: digestive and circulatory systems. 3. Infection and response: infectious diseases, immune system and non-infectious diseases. 4. Bioenergetics: energy transfer in organisms including photosynthesis and respiration

Paper 2 - Topics 5-7

5. Homeostasis and response: nervous and endocrine systems. 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution: reproduction, genetics and natural selection. 7. Ecology: adaption, interdependence, competition, biodiversity and ecosystems.

In addition to the content, you will also complete Required Practicals (RPs) where you will learn how to use a range of apparatus or techniques while working scientifically (WS). 15% of the marks will cover different aspects of practical work through RPs and WS skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the results of both papers will determine your GCSE Biology grade.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks and 50% of GCSE each
- Both papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

TRIPLE SCIENCE CHEMISTRY (AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8462

WHAT IS GCSE CHEMISTRY?

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, how and why substances combine or separate to form other substances, and how substances interact with energy. Chemistry is involved in everything we do, from growing and cooking food to cleaning our homes and bodies to launching a space shuttle. Chemistry is one of the physical sciences that help us to describe and explain our world.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying this course provides an opportunity to develop a firm foundation to study Chemistry and other Sciences at A-level and beyond. It helps to develop a critical approach of scientific evidence and methods. You will gain a good understanding of the nature of substances and how they react together, how chemistry is used in business and industry and how our use of fuels and raw materials can affect our environment.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Paper 1: Topics 1-5

1. Atomic Structure
2. Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes

Paper 2: Topics 6-10

6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

In addition to the content, you will also complete Required Practicals (RPs) where you will learn how to use a range of apparatus or techniques while working scientifically (WS). 15% of the marks will cover different aspects of practical work through the RPs and WS skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the results of both papers will determine your GCSE Chemistry grade.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks and 50% of GCSE each
- Both papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science

TRIPLE SCIENCE PHYSICS (AQA)

COURSE CODE: 8463

WHAT IS GCSE PHYSICS?

Many of the everyday technological inventions that we now take for granted resulted from discoveries in physics. Physics is a natural science based on experiments, measurements and mathematical analysis with the purpose of finding quantitative physical laws for everything from the nanoworld of the microcosmos to the planets, solar systems and galaxies that occupy the macrocosmos.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Studying this course provides an opportunity to develop a firm foundation to go on to study Physics at A-level and beyond. It will provide a good background to study other Sciences and Mathematics and Engineering. You will gain a good understanding of use and transfer of energy, waves radiation and space together with a look at some of the applications of Physics in our lives today.

WHAT ARE THE THEMES STUDIED?

Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure.

Paper 2: Topics 5 -8

5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics.

In addition to the content, you will also complete Required Practicals (RPs) where you will learn how to use a range of apparatus or techniques while working scientifically (WS). 15% of the marks will cover different aspects of practical work through the RPs and WS skills.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

You will sit two exams: Paper 1 and Paper 2 and the results of both papers will determine your GCSE Chemistry grade.

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes each
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks and 50% of GCSE each
- Both papers have multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

In exam papers a question will assess both topic content as well as required practical skills and maths skills.

For more information please contact Mrs W Pearmain - Faculty Leader for Science



Vocational Qualifications

A maximum of 2 vocational qualifications can be chosen.



INSPIRE MOTIVATE ACHIEVE

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN ENTERPRISE

(EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

WHAT IS BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN ENTERPRISE?

This is a level 2 BTEC Award (equivalent to a GCSE) that is designed to help KS4 14-16 year-old learners in schools develop their business skills through practical, skills-based learning.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is graded on two internally-set assignments on various themes in Enterprise. Much of the work requires independent learning after assignments. Students will need to be consistently motivated to complete work in lessons. The final component focuses on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices through an external exam.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

These are all essential to developing a basis for progression. Learners need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification.

Component 1: Exploring enterprises - This includes examining different enterprises to develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs. You will examine the characteristics of enterprises, explore how market research helps enterprises meet customer needs and understand competitor behaviour, investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise and develop transferable skills, such as research, and data analysis in order to interpret their findings (30%)

Component 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity - This explores ideas and enables students to plan and pitch a micro-enterprise activity to an audience, and use feedback to review their business plan. You will explore ideas and plan for a micro-enterprise activity, pitch a micro-enterprise activity, review their own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity, develop their planning and research, presentation, communication and self-reflection skills (30%).

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise - This explores the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. You will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records, interpret and use promotional and financial information in relation to a given enterprise, make connections between different factors influencing a given enterprise, advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on ways to improve its performance.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Component 1 (36 Guided Learning Hours) is an INTERNALLY assessed unit and will account for 30% of their final grade.

Component 2 (36 Guided Learning Hours) is an INTERNALLY assessed unit and will account for 30% of their final grade.

Component 3 (48 Guided Learning Hours) is an EXTERNALLY assessed unit and will account for 40% of their final grade.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WILL THE STUDENT DEVELOP AS PART OF THIS QUALIFICATION AND HOW MIGHT THESE BE OF USE AND VALUE IN FURTHER STUDIES?

Each assessment draws on real-life scenarios so students can demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course applying them in context. Additional skills include independent research, development of ICT skills and self-reflection, the personal attributes essential in working live.

EXTRA INFORMATION

The award complements the learning of other GCSE programmes such as Geography and Travel and Tourism.

All coursework is completed in lessons under direct supervision of staff to ensure quality control over delivery and accessibility for all students. If absent students are expected to attend additional catch up sessions after school to prevent students falling behind with workloads and to meet the 36 hours guided learning requirements.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

COURSE CODE W404A

WHAT IS BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

The BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care at level 1/2 is designed for those who may wish to enter a caring profession or work with children. It allows students to gain an understanding of the health and social care sector and builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you learn in your GCSEs, such as English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by GCSE Biology or GCSE Psychology by allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

To achieve the Level 2 Award students must achieve 120 credits over the two years. The credits are obtained through three components that all students must complete in order to gain the BTEC qualification. The components provide a variety of teaching and learning methods designed to meet the needs of all students'.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

- **Component 1 Human Lifespan Development** (*Within this unit students will explore how people grow and develop throughout their lives and the factors which affect this growth and development*) **36 credits.**
- **Component 2 Health and Social Care Services and Values** (*Within this unit students look at the different services and care values that contribute to the delivery of effective health and social care practice*) **36 credits.**
- **Component 3 Health and Wellbeing** (*This exam will allow students to build on prior knowledge learnt for component 1 and 2 in order to answer short questions and create a person-centred health and wellbeing improvement plan*) **48 credits.**

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - W404a, QAN code 603/0395/5

The qualification consists of three components that give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of health and social care at Levels 1 and 2.

- **Components 1 and 2** are internally assessment by the teacher in year 10.
- **Component 3** is an external assessment where students will receive a task set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions. The task will be completed in 3 hours within the period timetabled by Pearson and is available in either the February or May of year 11. There are 60 marks available for this component.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students are required to have an interest in the health and social care sector and should be prepared to look at a range of service users during the two years. The course is exciting and rewarding and will allow any student interested in this area to fully understand and appreciate all aspects of health care.

WHAT NEXT?

College - a natural progression onto a Level 3 Health and Social Care course in this area.

Sixth Form - Level 3 BTEC National in Health and Social Care.

Employment in a variety of health care settings with training and qualifications to be continued whilst working.

For more information please contact Mrs Z Bradley - Subject Leader

BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN TRAVEL & TOURISM

(EXAM BOARD EDEXCEL)

COURSE CODE 603/3038/7

WHAT IS BTEC LEVEL 1/2 TECH AWARD IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM?

It is a level 2 BTEC Tech Award (equivalent to a GCSE) that helps students understand the working environment in the Travel and Tourism industry; a key growth sector of the UK. This course would help anybody interested in working in the sector, while themes such as customer service and marketing are common transferable skills.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

The course is graded on internally-set assignments on various themes in the Travel and Tourism industry. Much of the work requires independent learning after assignments. Students will need to be consistently motivated to complete work in lessons. The three components focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices.

THEMES STUDIED?

These are all essential to developing a basis for progression. Learners need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification.

Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations - This includes the different roles of tourism organisations, such as making a profit, providing services or contributing to the community. This unit also covers how organisations work with each other to offer products and services, and the importance of the travel and tourism sector to the UK economy, including direct and indirect contributions.

Component 2: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism – This incorporates factors influencing tourism including economic, political and natural changes. It considers the impact of tourism on destinations and destination management to travel and tourism contexts.

Component 3: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism - Pupils will apply their knowledge and skills developed from components 1 and 2 to show their understanding using specific examples. They will need to demonstrate knowledge of customer trends and need to show their understanding of travel and tourism organisations, destinations, factors influencing travel and tourism and how organisations respond to these factors.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Component 1 (36 Guided Learning Hours) is an externally assessed (exam) unit, taking 1 hour and 30 minutes to complete. Students will complete this exam in year 10. This will account for 30% of their final grade.

Component 2 (48 Guided Learning Hours) is an externally assessed piece of coursework and will account for 40% of their final grade.

Component 3 (36 Guided Learning Hours) is an internally assessed piece of coursework. This will account for 30% of their final grade.

WHAT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS WILL THE STUDENT DEVELOP AS PART OF THIS QUALIFICATION AND HOW MIGHT THESE BE OF USE AND VALUE IN FURTHER STUDIES?

Each assessment draws on real-life scenarios so students can demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the course applying them in context. Additional skills include independent research, development of ICT skills and self-reflection, the personal attributes essential in working life.

EXTRA INFORMATION

The award complements the learning of other GCSE programmes such as Geography and Business Studies.

All coursework is completed in lessons under direct supervision of staff to ensure quality control over delivery and accessibility for all students. It is not possible to complete this work at home or outside of school.

If absent, students are expected to attend additional catch up sessions after school to prevent students falling behind with workloads and to meet the 36 hours guided learning requirements.

Additional trips are offered for students to gain a first-hand experience of the travel and tourism industry.

WHAT NEXT?

This course can lead into a variety of employment options such as working for travel agencies or tour operators, events and management, marketing executive, air/cabin crew, park rangers, customer service or outdoor activities/education manager.

For more information please contact

Mrs Z Correa-Humphries - Faculty Leader for Humanities or Miss S Gregory - Subject Leader

EDUQAS LEVEL 1/2 AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

COURSE CODE - 601/7703/2

WHAT IS EDUQAS LEVEL 1/2 AWARD IN HOSPITALITY AND CATERING?

This course concentrates on the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

Students will be expected to make a range of food products and develop skills related to commercial food preparation including food hygiene, food presentation and considering production in quantity. They will be expected to apply technical and practical expertise to ensure that food meets customer needs and preferences and is appropriate for a given occasion. They will have the opportunity to use a wide range of practical skills and techniques, gaining an understanding of catering and an awareness of related career paths.

WHAT THEMES ARE STUDIED?

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry

In this unit students will learn about different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation which needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. They will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. The knowledge and understanding they gain will enable them to respond to issues relating to all factors within the hospitality and catering section and provide them with the ability to propose a new provision that could be opened in a given location to benefit the owner and the local community.

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action

In this unit students will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for them to plan nutritional dishes to go onto a menu. They will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course Code - 601/7703/2

The course is made up of 2 units:

- **Unit 1 (40%): The Hospitality and Catering Industry** will be externally assessed with an online examination that lasts 90 minutes. You will be graded as follows: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction.
- **Unit 2 (60%): Hospitality and Catering in Action** is internally assessed: This involves you completing a 9 hour piece of controlled assessment in school under examination conditions. You will be set a task by EDUQAS and will have to safely plan, prepare, cook and present dishes to satisfy the task.

EXTRA INFORMATION

You will do practical work each week and you must therefore be prepared to bring ingredients every week. When we do experimental work, school will provide the ingredients for you to do these investigations. You will learn a lot of the theory through practical activities. The quality of your practical work and skills are important in this Technical Award, supported by the ability to plan and explain how practical processes are used in production. Also you should be aware that regular theory work is set to support your classroom experience.

WHAT NEXT?

After completing the Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering, students have a range of skills which lead them to a number of options. Students have the option to stay at school and study for a new course, WJEC Food Science and Nutrition (Level 3) or go to college and study a range of Level 3 qualifications, such as Professional Cookery and Public Services. Equally the qualification sets them up for an apprenticeship within the hospitality sector itself where students can study for a Level 3 qualification or just gain more practical experience.

For more information please contact Mrs E Redfern - Faculty Leader for Art, Design & Technology

WHAT IS VEHICLE ENGINEERING?

It is a Vocational Related Qualification (VRQ) designed to engage and motivate 14 - 16 year olds who are interested in learning about the automotive and engineering industries. This course is open to all students, both girls and boys, who are keen to study a practical based course.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE COVER?

The course covers workshop safety, introduction to the automotive maintenance and repair industry, workshop tools and engineering processes and equipment. Further aspects cover principles of vehicle components, mechanisms and routine maintenance.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE INVOLVE?

This course suits students who enjoy practical methods of learning and enjoy basic problem solving tasks. Basic safety clothing and footwear is needed. Lessons will be taught mainly in a workshop environment using the Vehicle Engineering Centre on the school site. It is envisaged that students will study this course for 3 periods a week. A relevant two week work experience placement makes up part of the course for all students studying this subject.

THEMES STUDIED?

Students work through a series of tasks linked to different main concepts of vehicle mechanics and linked engineering concepts. Key areas such as engines, suspension and braking are all covered in detail. Basic engineering machining is taught and students will use a centre lathe and other machines. The facilities provided in the Vehicle Engineering Centre are similar to that in a commercial garage or engineering workshop and can be fully used by students.

HOW IS IT ASSESSED?

Course code - 603/3089/2 (Level 2)

Assessment is aimed at learners who prefer and respond to 'hands-on' learning. There is a practical approach to most assessments and this includes many visual questioning techniques which stimulate and interest learners. Assessment is divided into key units. Some units are assessed through observations and questioning of key tasks. Others require a written response which is graded. Computer based online assessments are also used. There is a content of theory to cover to aid the understanding of the key principles.

EXTRA INFORMATION

Students will need to purchase appropriate footwear, work trousers, polo shirt and jumper. More information will be given about this by Mr Hollis-Brown.

Specification name and website link: IMI Award Level 2 Automotive Maintenance VRQ.

<http://awarding.theimi.org.uk>

WHAT NEXT?

The course directly links to other Level 2 or 3 qualifications in most areas of the automotive and engineering industry and can create career opportunities in automotive retail, maintenance, engineering and development. It is an ideal route to progress onto employment, apprenticeships and further job related training.

