



The Castle School
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CURRICULUM GUIDE YEARS 10 & 11 2021-2023

Important Dates

Year 9 Curriculum Guide sent home w/c	Monday 4 January 2021
Options Assembly	Wednesday 6 January 2021
GCSE Options Evening (Virtual Event) (Pre-recorded videos on school website)	Monday 11 January 2021 6:00pm
Individual Options Interviews (Via Teams – only if students/parents have outstanding questions/concerns)	Tuesday 19 January 2021 4:30-7:00pm
Options Returns to Form Tutor by	Friday 22 January 2021

CURRICULUM GUIDE

This booklet contains details of all the subjects available in Years 10 and 11, for the current Year 9 students. Some of the subjects are part of the compulsory curriculum, others are option subjects. Please read the details carefully before deciding on your option choices. *This booklet needs to be read in conjunction with the hand-out "GCSE Options Guidance 2021-2023 Cohort".*

On the pages that follow immediately, you will find details of the subjects which form the compulsory core of the Year 10 and 11 courses, later pages detail those subjects within the options offer.

GCSE qualifications are graded from 9-1. 9 being the highest.

There is also the option of following vocational qualifications in Child Development (Cambridge Nationals), IT (Cambridge Nationals), Performing Arts (BTEC), Engineering Design (Cambridge Nationals) and Music (BTEC). These are equivalent to GCSEs, and are graded Distinction+, Distinction, Merit or Pass.

Please note that if a subject does not attract a minimum number of students, we may not be able to run the subject. If this situation arises, the students will be informed and asked to make a new choice.

TIMETABLE MODEL YEAR 10 2021

The timetable below gives you an example of what the week **might** look like. This is an example only.

	1	2	3	4	5
Monday	English	Option 2	Maths	Option 3	PE
Tuesday	RE	Maths	English	Science	First GCSE
Wednesday	Option 1	Option 1	Science	Option 3	Maths
Thursday	First GCSE	First GCSE	English	Science	Science
Friday	English	Science	PE	Maths	Option 2

Subject	Number of hours per week	Subject	Number of hours per week
English	4	First GCSE	3
Maths	4	Option 1	2
Science	5	Option 2	2
RE	1	Option 3	2
PE	2		

ASSESSMENT TABLE

NATIONAL EXPECTATION SUBJECTS

Computer Science, French, German, Spanish, Mandarin, Geography, History

You need to make sure at least one of these is included in your choice of subjects. This could be your First GCSE that you are taking at the end of Year 10. Or it could be one of your options now.

These are highlighted in bold italics below.

You need to **select 3 subjects** from the list below and a reserve subject (please put in order of preference 1, 2, 3 – put RES for your reserve choice). You do not need to include the First GCSE you are taking at the end of Year 10.

GCSE Art & Design : Fine Art	Non-Examined Assessment (NEA): 1x60% Exam: 1x40%
GCSE Art & Design : Photography	
GCSE Art & Design : Textiles	
Child Development Cambridge Nationals	CW: 2x25% Exam: 1x50%
<i>GCSE Computer Science</i>	Exams: 2x50%
GCSE Drama	NEA: 2x30% Exam: 1x40%
GCSE Design Technology	NEA: 1x50% Exam: 1x50%
Engineering Design Cambridge Nationals	CW: 3x25% Exam: 1x25%
GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	NEA: 1x50% Exam: 1x50%
<i>GCSE French</i>	Exams: 4x25%
<i>GCSE Geography</i>	Exams: 1x35% 1x35% 1x30%
<i>GCSE German</i>	Exams: 4x25%
<i>GCSE History</i>	Exams: 2x40% 1x20%
Information Technologies (IT) Cambridge Nationals	NEA: 1x50% Exam: 1x50%
<i>GCSE Mandarin</i>	Exams: 4x25%
GCSE Music	NEA: 2x30% Exam: 1x40%
OR BTEC Music	NEA: 3x25% Exam: 1x25%
PE GCSE	NEA: 1x40% Exams: 1x36% 1x24%
BTEC Performing Arts	NEA: 2x30% Exam: 1x40%
GCSE Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	Exams: 2x50%
<i>GCSE Spanish</i>	Exams: 4x25%

Double check that you have one subject in bold italics, either here or your First GCSE

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

GCSE English Language

Exam Board: AQA

The English Department is committed to helping each student reach his or her academic potential. Within this commitment there are broader aims:

- to develop a capacity and an enthusiasm for spoken and written English through debate, discussion, role play and drama;
- to foster a lifelong interest in, and passion for, literature by introducing students to a wide range of diverse novels, poems and plays;
- to encourage students to reflect on and explore the meanings and social contexts of literature texts;
- to nurture creativity in students' writing;
- to study and analyse writers' choice of presentation and language print media.

All Year 10 and Year 11 students will study for 2 GCSEs - English Language and English Literature.

AQA English Language Syllabus

English Language exams at the end of Year 11 - 100%

All texts in the examination will be unseen. This means that the exam board will choose extracts from various sources (fiction for Language Paper 1 and non-fiction for Language paper 2). These extracts will **not** have been seen by the students. They will be expected to apply the skills acquired in lessons to respond to the questions around these extracts.

Paper 1 exam: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE

What's assessed?

Section A: Reading (40 marks) 25% - one literature fiction text

Questions:

- 1 short form question (4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (20 marks)

Section B: Creative Writing (40 marks) 25%– descriptive or narrative writing
1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for accuracy)

Paper 2 exam: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE

What's assessed?

Section A: Reading (40 marks) 25% - two linked texts - one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction.

- 1 short form question (4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1x8 and 1x12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1x16 marks)

Section B: Writing for purpose (40 marks) 25% - writing to present a viewpoint

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

Spoken Language:

This will be assessed and marked by teachers throughout the course – it will be reported separately but does not count towards the % GCSE marks.

GCSE English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

English Literature – 100% exam at the end of Year 11

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment. Closed book means that students will have studied a range of books and poems but will not have access to these in the exams. They will have to recall quotes for each of the main characters in the text, as well as being able to discuss the impact of context. Students will also have to remember, and apply, techniques (subject terminology).

Paper 1 exam: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

1 hour 45 minutes - 40% of GCSE

What's assessed?

Section A: Shakespeare plays

Students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Students will study Romeo and Juliet.

Section B: The 19th century novel

Students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Students will study either The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde or A Christmas Carol.

Paper 2 exam: Modern texts and poetry

2 hours 15 minutes - 60% of GCSE

What's assessed?

Section A: Modern texts

Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text. Students will study either Lord of the Flies or An Inspector Calls.

Section B: Poetry

Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and the other poem from their chosen anthology cluster. Students will study the conflict section of the anthology.

Section C: Unseen poetry

Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

GCSE Science – Compulsory Subject

Exam Board: Edexcel

Students at The Castle School will follow the **Edexcel** Specifications in Science. All assessment will be via terminal examinations in Year 11. A final grade of 1-9 will be achieved.

There are two pathways offered in Science by the school:

- 1. GCSE Combined Science (double award).** This course will see students achieving two identical GCSE grades (1-9) by studying, and taking six examinations over the three Sciences (2 x Biology, 2 x Chemistry, 2 x Physics), each 1 hour and 10 minutes long. This route will be taken by the majority of students.
- 2. Separate Sciences: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.** These courses will require the coverage of significant additional content in the same curriculum time and each examination will be 35 minutes longer to reflect this. Three qualifications will be gained, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics with two examinations for each. The separate route is suitable for the most able students, or those who are committed to a future in Science at A-level or beyond. Suitability for this course will be decided based on performance in school exams and lessons, it is highly likely to be limited to those in the top set only.

Further information about the course will be given at the Key Stage 4 launch evening along with an opportunity to purchase revision materials.

Physical Education and Games - Compulsory Curriculum

Students in Years 10 and 11 will receive two, one-hour lessons of PE a week. Students will follow a specific ability-based learning programme. They will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities during the year. These activities include: Rugby, Football, Hockey, Basketball, Handball, Badminton, Table Tennis, Trampolining, Cricket, Softball, Tennis, Athletics, Rounders and Health and Wellbeing activities such as Spinning, Body Pump and Boxercise.

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in frequent physical activity conducive to a healthy lifestyle. House matches regularly take place at lunchtime in over 20 sports activities as well as after school fixtures at a local, county, regional and national level.

Full details of the Level 2 GCSE PE and BTEC Sport Qualification can be found in the options information later in the booklet.

Core Religious Studies – Short Course - Compulsory Subject

Exam Board: AQA – Religious Studies A - short course

A Summary of the Course:

You will be studying the beliefs and practices of two religions, Christianity and Judaism. You will also be covering two ethics topics where you will get to demonstrate the understanding of how these two religions put their faith into practice.

During the ethics topics you will be given the opportunity to discuss and share your ideas, reflecting on your interpretation of current issues and affairs in contemporary Britain.

What's assessed?

Section A: The study of religions: beliefs and teachings of two religions:

- Christianity
- Judaism

Section B: Thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies:

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict.

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

You have already visited the places of worship in Exeter and Taunton in Year 7 and 8.

Subject-specific information:

In Short Course Religious Studies you will have the opportunity to:

- develop your knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs
- develop your knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority, through your reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions you are studying
- construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating your depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life
- reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

Assessment:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, grammar and specialist terminology)
- 100% of GCSE Short course

Progression:

This is a fantastic way to start your GCSEs. Sitting your first GCSE in Year 10 gives you the opportunity to put all your skills into practice ready for Year 11.

The course is well recognised by all institutions and will contribute towards your college entry. It will help in any career working with people because of the development of empathy and people skills. This can support careers in law, social services, public services, teaching, politics and medicine.

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Compulsory Curriculum

The Year 10 and 11 PSHE course is centred on the following topics:

Year 10

Consent
Pornography
Extremism (Run, Hide, Tell)
Taunton Homeless Association
Death & Taxes (payslips)
Sleep
Self-esteem
E-safety/online exploitation
Sleep and mindfulness
Leadership – House Enterprise
Stonewall – LGBT+
Maintaining personal core values

Year 11

Drugs and alcohol
Knife crime
Decisions and assertiveness
Coppafeel
E-safety/online presence
Families
Communication
CV writing

We look at knowledge, skills and attitudes in these areas. A significant amount of the PSHE Curriculum is delivered via the Enrichment Day programmes. In addition to this, students will also have extended PSHE assemblies, time with their tutor and stand-alone lessons on a termly basis covering the above topics. The details of each Enrichment day are available to parents prior to delivery, on the school website. We would welcome any comments on content and/or delivery in order to continue to improve the experience for current and future students.

Students also work on their CVs and Personal Statements. When they leave, these documents become the property of each student and can be used for job and further education interviews.

Enterprise Education is an element of the Year 10 curriculum and is part of the PSHE programme as is House Charities' work. Each form in Year 10 has its own 'enterprise scheme' to work on.

OPTIONS 2021 - 2023

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Fine Art

Exam Board: AQA

This is a broad Art course leading to the AQA Fine Art GCSE. Fine Art builds on the work students have completed in art in the lower school, extending skills and the students' independence. Students can work in any media, from drawing and painting, to 3D art, textiles, graphic design, print-making, photography and computer-based art.

A Summary of the Course:

At the start of each project, work is guided closely, the students develop new skills and are taught to explore media and to build on their individual strengths as artists. As the projects progress students develop their own ideas to make a personal response to the project theme.

There are two projects – one in Year 10 and one in Year 11, which together are worth 60% of the GCSE. In the spring term of Year 11, students receive the exam question paper and prepare work based on the question they choose leading to a final piece that is made under exam conditions. The exam project is worth 40% of the final mark.

The assessment process includes:

- Developing ideas and inspiration including learning about the work of artists, designers and other appropriate sources.
- Observing and recording using drawing, mixed media and photography as key research tools.
- Exploring and refining through experimentation with different media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Presenting a personal response to a project theme showing independent working skills and ideas, practical art skills, and making connections with key artists studied.

Educational Visits:

Students visit the Tate Gallery in London at the start of the course on a trip (end of Year 9) that introduces at first hand some of the artists we will study. Fine artists have a further study trip in Year 10 to enhance their coursework units – past trips have included The Eden Project and Exeter Museum, Exeter Cathedral and V&A museum, for drawing, photography and first hand investigation.

Progression:

Many of our students have gone on to study A Level Art, Photography or Graphic Design at Richard Huish, BTEC Art and Design, Graphic Design or Photography at Bridgwater & Taunton College.

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Photography

Exam Board: AQA

This is primarily a digital photography course leading to the AQA Art Photography GCSE. Photography will suit students who have an interest in and a commitment to working creatively, and who are looking for a course that mixes a practical approach with opportunities to explore ideas. Students learn to use digital SLR cameras, and to enhance and manipulate their images on the computer. Projects balance developing skills and techniques with thinking about the messages that photographs can communicate. Students work in a wide range of styles, from documentary and reportage to sports, studio photography, portraiture and fashion, animation, photo-collage and experimental photo installation art. Students should have their own digital camera for homework and a USB storage device.

A Summary of the Course:

Year 10 starts with an introduction to the basics of photography. There are two major projects in Year 10 and another two in Year 11. Students are given increasing freedom in their work and they build on their skills to develop their work in directions that interest and motivate them. The Photography coursework is worth 60% of the GCSE. In the spring term of Year 11 students receive the AQA exam question paper and prepare work based on the exam question they choose leading to a final piece that is made under exam conditions. The exam project is worth 40% of the final mark.

The assessment process includes:

- Developing ideas and inspiration including learning about the work of photographers and other appropriate sources.
- Observing and recording through practical photography.
- Exploring and refining through experimentation with different media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Presenting a personal response to a project theme show, independent working skills and ideas, and making connections with key photographers studied.

Educational Visits & Opportunities:

We often work outside of the classroom, on the school site and in the local area. Interested photographers have the opportunity to photograph school sporting and fashion events, the school play and the variety show. Photographers have also contributed to school publications. Recent trips have included a trip to the Eden Project.

Progression:

Our students have gone on to study A Level Photography at Richard Huish, or the BTEC Diploma courses at Bridgwater & Taunton College.

GCSE Art and Design

GCSE Textile Design

Exam Board: AQA

This course leads to the AQA Textile Design GCSE. Textile Design is a practical course with a focus on **decorative techniques, textile art and garment/product construction**. This course enables students to work from themes such as "Sweets & Cakes", art movements, artists' work and techniques to inspire their own personal creations in textiles. If you have an interest in tactile art or fashion and enjoy experimenting with new media and would like to explore, develop and refine your skills in textile-based techniques; and if you want to design and make really exciting **artistic textiles creations**, then this is the course for you.

A Summary of the Course:

In Year 10 there will be two projects focusing on building skills in decorative and constructive elements of textiles; in Year 11 there will be one project combining and refining these skills in a mock exam coursework piece. Together they are worth 60% of the final GCSE mark. In the spring term of Year 11, students receive an exam question paper and prepare work based on the exam question they choose, leading to a final piece that is made under exam conditions. The exam project is worth 40% of the final mark.

The assessment process includes:

- Developing ideas and inspiration including learning about the work of key designers and artists and other appropriate sources.
- Observing and recording using drawing, photography and textile techniques to record images and ideas.
- Exploring and refining through experimentation with different decorative techniques.
- Presenting a personal response to a project theme showing making/decorative skills and making connections with artists, designers and the theme you have studied.

The work will include studying decorative techniques such as machine embroidery, applique, dyeing fabrics and many more. It will also include skills in construction, using patterns, weaving, knitting and technical elements such as seams, zips and fastenings.

Educational Visits:

The Textile department values the importance of educational visits to enrich and enhance student learning. Past trips have included the Tate Britain and the V&A in London and Bath Fashion Museum.

Progression:

This can lead to an A level or BTEC at college, then students could progress onto a Foundation Diploma, and onto a degree in a wide range of Textiles subjects including Fashion and Textiles, Costume Design, Surface Design, Textiles Design, Textiles Interior Design and many more. Alternatively, students may enter training and/or careers in fashion and textile art-related vocations.

Child Development – Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Exam Board: OCR

This qualification would suit learners who wish to develop their knowledge and understanding of child development. Students who already have an interest in looking after or working with young children in the future will relish the opportunity to learn about all aspects of ensuring a child's development, health and well-being.

A Summary of the Course:

The course is made up of three modules:

1. **Health and well-being for child development (RO18).** This topic underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. Students will develop the essential knowledge and understanding in child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal check, postnatal provision, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.
2. **OCR-set Assignment (RO19) - Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years.** In the second topic of study, students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. This topic will also cover nutrition and hygiene practices and students will be given the opportunity to investigate feeding solutions, comparing these to nutritional requirements and evaluating the outcomes.
3. **OCR-set Assignment (RO20) - Understand the development norms of a child from birth to five years.** In the third topic of study, students will gain an understanding of the development norms from birth to five years and the stages and benefits of play. Students will gain knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. This topic will include researching, planning and carrying out activities with a child and observing and evaluating these activities, as well as comparing the child to the expected development norms.

Assessment:

1. The course has two internally assessed tasks and one written exam, **which have equal weighting**. The grades for the assessments are Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.
2. The written paper will be on the topic of "Health and well-being for child development," RO18. It is a single exam paper, 1 hour 15 minutes and taken in the second year of the course.
3. Task 1 (RO19) – The first assessed task is "Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years". Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to show how needs are met to promote the well-being and development of the child. This will be done in lesson time in the first year.

4. Task 2 (RO20) – “Understand the development of the child to five years”. Learners will develop an understanding of the impact of play on the developmental norms. On completion of this unit, learners will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding to show how play affects the development of individual children. This will be done mainly in lesson time in the second year but involves a small amount of work outside of school time. *You will need a child aged between 2 and 5 years old to work with on two occasions, a couple of weeks apart.*

Progression:

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 will prepare students for further qualifications in child care, health and social care, psychology, sociology and biology as well as PSHE. Students will also learn vital information on nutrition, caring and preparing for children.

Information Technologies – Cambridge Nationals

Students can opt to take IT AND Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

A Summary of the Course:

The collection and communication of data and storing of data/information happens all around us. Technology underpins how it's collected and communicated nearly all of the time. It can be seen in all walks of life, from a wearable fitness tracker recording how many steps you have taken, your mobile phone provider recording your usage to create your bill or an online retailer being able to target you with specific promotions based on your purchase history. Knowing how and why data is gathered and being able to turn raw data into something meaningful is essential as the learner moves through education and into employment. To be able to do this the learner will need to have the confidence to use a range of information technology that is currently available, as well as being adaptable and resilient enough to deal with the rapid advances.

Content:

This qualification will teach the learner what different technologies could be used, why they should use them and how to make best use of them, to gather, store, manipulate and present data; this is known as data management.

They will learn about tools and techniques for use in different digital hardware and software technologies, and how these can be integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information. They will also be taught what data and information are and the legal, ethical and moral considerations when using technology to gather, store and present data and information, and how to mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks. Through this qualification they will be able to select and use the most appropriate technology safely and effectively, to complete a data management task, such as a cable TV provider monitoring customers' viewing to make recommendations for additional packages in the customer's subscription.

They will also learn to follow a project life cycle of initiation, planning, execution and evaluation to complete a data management task and use their skills, knowledge and understanding of technology to complete each of the phases of the project life cycle.

The skills, knowledge and understanding they will develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study.

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

All students on the course will be encouraged to continue working on iDEA outside of lessons. iDEA is a programme that helps students develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Once students complete online challenges they will receive the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards sent directly from Buckingham Palace.

Subject Specific Information:

Grading

This course will lead to a Cambridge National qualification which is equivalent to a GCSE. The grading will be Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 and 2.

Who might study IT?

Students with an interest in ICT and how technology affects life. Students who enjoy working on different packages. Good for students who want to demonstrate ICT skills to potential colleges or employers.

Assessment:

Assessment Unit R012 - Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions

Examined unit of assessment, which contains underpinning knowledge and understanding of Information Technology worth 50%.

You will sit an exam to assess your knowledge and understanding of different technologies (hardware and software applications), and tools and techniques used to select, store, manipulate and present data and information.

You will also be assessed on what the phases of the project life cycle are, the interaction between the phases and the inputs and outputs within each phase. Using this understanding of the project life cycle, together with your knowledge of various information technologies, you will be prepared to develop technological solutions.

You will need to understand the different risks associated with the collection, storage and use of data and how the legal, moral, ethical and security issues can have an impact on organisations and individuals. You also need to understand how such risks can be mitigated.

This knowledge and understanding will help you to make decisions and appropriate choices when developing a technological solution, which you will be asked to do in the practical assignment.

Assessment Unit R013 –Developing technological solutions

Centre assessed unit offering practical task-based Information Technology assessment opportunities worth 50%.

This assessment focuses on how effectively you use your skills when developing a technological solution.

You will be given a project to develop a technological solution that processes data and communicates information.

You will follow the project life cycle phases of initiation/planning, execution, communication and evaluation, demonstrating the practical skills you have acquired such as carrying out a SWOT analysis, creating GANTT charts, developing online surveys, and/or presenting data through web-based technologies; keeping your project on track through on-going, iterative reviews.

You will use different hardware and software technologies to create an integrated technological solution for data processing and communication of information.

Progression:

IT can lead to many courses at College with IT and Business elements. It is also perfect to addition to CVs to demonstrate IT skills to potential employers.

GCSE Computer Science

To fully access this course you must currently be in one of the top three sets of Maths. Students can opt to take IT AND Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

A Summary of the Course:

GCSE Computer Science will consist of two elements:

Computer systems

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

1 hour and 30 minutes

Written paper

(no calculators allowed)

50% of total GCSE

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

1 hour and 30 minutes

Written paper

(no calculators allowed)

50% of total GCSE

Content of the course:

Students should be able to...

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically

- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- Apply high level mathematical skills relevant to computer science

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

All students on the course will be encouraged to continue working on iDEA outside of lessons. iDEA is a programme that helps students develop digital, enterprise and employability skills. Once students complete online challenges they will receive the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards sent directly from Buckingham Palace.

In the autumn term all GCSE Computing students in Year 10 take part in the National Competition Bebras designed by the University of Oxford to test Computational thinking. All students taking part receive a certificate and many receive a Merit or Distinction.

Throughout the year we also take part in many cyber challenges most notably the Cyber Discovery challenge from GCHQ.

We also enjoy visits from Computing employers and colleges.

Subject Specific Information:

Who might study Computing?

A more specialist qualification for those wishing to pursue specific jobs involving Computing. The qualification suits students who enjoy and excel in both Maths and Science.

Assessment:

The students currently two exams worth 50% in the summer term at the end of the course.

Progression:

This course can lead students onto study A Level Computer Science at college, and further to this a degree in a Computing related field such a programming or networking.

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 Performing Arts

Exam Board: Edexcel

Overview:

This course combines elements of Drama and Musical Theatre (dance and drama). The course is vocational in approach which means it shines a spotlight on the theatre industry and how experts from the creative fields work together to stage, market and perform in live theatre.

The Course details:

The course is split into three components.

Component 1: (30%) The first component is an exploration into the roles that make up the performance industry and how professionals work together. During the component performers will investigate three styles of performance; Musical Theatre, Verbatim and Theatre in Education. We will experiment with performance extracts from each field and research into how companies combine a range of skills in the creation of performance. Students will meet with industry professionals and take part in a range of performance workshops – they will create a portfolio that shows their understanding of the 3 styles.

Component 2: (30%) Students will be directed in a piece of performance from an existing production. Performers will hone their performance skills and have to respond to feedback from a director. Students will perform in a showcase and keep a journal to document the process.

Component 3: (40%) Students will respond to a stimulus from the exam board. Performers will form companies and create a bespoke piece of performance that draws from the styles they have learnt about in the course. Again, students will be expected to answer questions about the creation of their work.

Students will thrive on this practical and fast paced course that delves into the performance industry. There will be opportunities to take part in workshops, Q&As, theatre trips and the New York Trip 2023. This course is for students who have a passion for theatre making and production or want to develop these skills/confidence in this area.

GCSE Design and Technology

Exam Board: AQA

Overview:

This GCSE would suit creative and innovative learners who have a passion for problem solving and designing and making things whilst using a range of materials and techniques. Students will develop an awareness as they learn about sustainable design and other influences such as social, moral, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Design and Technology is an ideal course for well-motivated creative students who enjoy turning their ideas into reality. A good level of Maths and Science knowledge is required for the course.

A Summary of the Course:

Students will cover the course content through a mixture of theory based lessons, discussion, focused practical tasks and mini projects.

Content:

Core technical principles: new technologies, energy generation, developments in new materials, a systems' approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their physical and working properties.

Specialist Technical Principles content: students will study two material areas in more depth: selection of materials and components, forces and stresses on materials, ecological and social footprint, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, scales of production, specialist techniques and processes, surface treatments and finishes.

Designing and Making Principles content: investigation, primary and secondary data environmental, social and economic challenge, the work of others, design strategies, iterative design, communication of design ideas, product development, selection of materials and components, tolerances, material management, specialist tools and equipment, specialist techniques and processes, risk assessments and health and safety.

Subject Specific Information:

For this GCSE all students will need to purchase a D&T starter kit at the beginning of Year 10 which includes the necessary guide and workbooks as well as an A3 carry folder and folio. All items produced as part of the practical courses within the Design and Technology Department are retained by students. To enable this to happen, parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of materials.

Assessment:

During Year 10 they will build their knowledge needed for the written paper and develop their practical skills – students will undertake small designing and making projects. The course is made up of two assessments, 50% Non-Exam Assessment (coursework) and 50% written exam.

NEA: During the second half of the summer term of Year 10 until February in Year 11 they will undertake the non-exam assessment – the briefs/context will be set by the exam board. This is a design and make task where students are required to submit a 3-dimensional outcome alongside a concise folio of research, design, planning and evaluation

Written exam: The written exam is 50% of the final grade.

The exam is made up of 100 marks and questions will vary from multiple choice, short answer questions, mathematical questions such as working out area, percentages, ratios and extended long answer written responses.

Progression:

D&T will help to prepare students for life in a technological society as well as enabling career opportunities within growing industries such as business, architecture, graphic and product design, engineering and project management. Learners who study Design and Technology can progress further to A Level Design and Technology and Engineering. Students will also learn to work independently and become creative and effective time managers.

Design and Technology – Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design Level 1/2

Exam Board: OCR

A Summary of the Course:

The ***Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design*** encourage learners to communicate and consult with a client to develop a viable and innovative product. Learners will apply practical skills to produce a prototype in the form of a model and test ***design*** ideas to inform further product development. An inquisitive mind about how things are manufactured and work alongside a good level of Maths would be beneficial to cope with the content of this course.

Students will cover 4 units over 120 hours. Unit R105 Design briefs, design specifications and user requirements is a 1 hour written examination, Unit R106 Product analysis and research, Unit R107 developing and presenting engineering designs and Unit R108: 3d design realisation will all be assessed separately and are tasks set from a bank of assignments from OCR. All 3 of these units will be centre assessed.

Content:

R105: Design briefs, specifications and user requirements:

Students will sit a 1 hour exam that will test their knowledge of the design cycle, manufacturing plans, function & purpose of products, design and client needs, market research, materials, design specification, manufacturing, scale of production, regulations and safeguards, legislation linked to design requirements and emerging technologies

R106: Students will perform effective product analysis and assess the development of engineered products:

Students will gain practical experience of assembly and disassembly procedures. They will understand different manufacturing processes. They will also consider what makes a good product by analysing a variety of solutions. They will be taught commercial manufacturing methods such as one off and batch production and will learn about processes such as forming, shaping and finishing. They will consider product life cycle and the importance of safety standards.

Students will analyse primary and secondary data and will present their work through using charts, diagrams, sketches and digital evidence

R107: Students will generate design proposals using a range of techniques.

They will be taught 2d and 3d techniques and learn technical drawing skills such as 3rd angle orthographic or isometric drawing. They will also be taught CAD applications and how to communicate design proposals using display boards, models and PowerPoint.

R108: 3D design realisation:

Students will apply practical skills to produce a prototype using craft-based modelling possibly alongside computer control machines. They will test their ideas in a practical context to inform more complex production methods. They will compare their product against a product specification and evaluate possible improvements.

They will learn how to plan, risk assess hazards and safe working practices. They will learn about a range of materials including the use of card, foam, board plastics, wood and metals. Throughout

the task students will have to keep a production diary, keep notes and record technical difficulties and solutions.

Subject Specific Information:

All students will need to purchase an Engineering Design starter kit at the beginning of Year 10 which will include a workbook, course guide and A3 carry folder and folio.

All items produced as part of the practical element of the course will be retained by students at the end of the course. To enable this to happen, parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of materials.

Assessment:

Throughout the course students will cover the subject knowledge needed for the written paper and develop their analytical, design and making skills. Students will undertake small projects to equip them with the necessary skills to complete each unit. The course is made up four units. R107 is a written paper and worth 25% of the final mark, R106, R107, R108 are centre assessed units and are worth 75% of the final grade.

Progression:

The course will prepare and enable students to follow a pathway to college or an apprenticeship route. Students who study Engineering Design can progress further to study A Level Design and Technology and Level 3 Engineering apprenticeships/courses.

GCSE Drama

Exam Board: OCR

Overview:

Drama is a practical course. Students will be expected to perform in a range of groups and on their own. The GCSE relies heavily on collaborative skills. Groups will work together to bring their creative ideas to fruition. Drama hones performance skills for passionate performers but it also refines presentation, innovation and teamwork skills that will be important for all in future careers.

"Our task is to educate their (our students) whole being so they can face the future. We may not see the future, but they will and our job is to help them make something of it."
— [Ken Robinson, The Element: How Finding Your Passion Changes Everything](#)

A Summary of the Course:

The course will be assessed in three components (30% + 30% + 40%) and the teacher will be the examiner for the first component only. Component 2 will be assessed by a visiting examiner and Component 3 will be an exam.

Component 1 will be completed in Year 10 and Components 2 and 3 in Year 11.

Component 1 - Devising Performance. 30%

Students will be given a selection of stimuli that will inspire a short group devised performance. Students will research one stimulus and develop and evaluate their work. Students will be assessed on both their final performance and a supporting portfolio that can either be written or delivered as a presentation.

Component 2 - Presenting Performance. 30%

Students will study a play in full and then work on extracts from it. Students will perform in two extracts from the play to a visiting examiner. The performance they do can be a monologue, duologue or a group piece. Students are assessed on their ability to realise a role on stage.

Component 3 - Exam. 40%

The exam paper is split into two sections. In Section A students will study the play Blood Brothers in a practical manner in lessons. In the exam they will be expected to reflect on their practical work and answer questions about their exploration. For Section B, students will respond to a set question about a live production they have seen.

"Creativity is as important as literacy" — [Ken Robinson](#)

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

- All GCSE Drama students are eligible to go on the New York Performing Arts Trip 2021.
- We will have a visiting theatre company come and perform to students in the Autumn Term of Year 10 and 11.
- Students will take part in a workshop with a professional theatre company in the first term of Year 10.
- We also run a theatre trip to Bristol or London in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Progression:

Ex-students have gone on to study and pursue careers in the following fields:

- Performance
- Events' Management
- Teaching
- Law
- Politics
- Screenwriting
- Set Design
- Drama therapy
- Stage Management
- Creative Start-Up Companies

Why choose Drama?

"Drama gives you the confidence for the future. You feel that you can do anything with the skills that you learn. I want to go into law. I really feel I have the skills now to deliver... to public speak in front of big audiences."

Year 11 student Nov 2019

"The best memories I have from school are all to do with Drama. My best friends are in the subject because I have grown so close to my classmates. I am so glad I picked it."

Year 11 student Nov 2019

"Drama feels chilled. Drama is like a little calm family. It gives you confidence. It's an opportunity to express yourself and meet your creative potential. It was a toss-up between two subjects and I am so glad I chose Drama."

Year 10 student Nov 2019

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA

The GCSE would suit those who are pursuing an interest in Nutrition as well as links to Science and PE. It is aimed at learners who enjoy all elements of cooking, technical skills, presentation/food styling and the understanding of the functions of ingredients.

Food preparation and nutrition is a creative and interesting subject, which where possible is taught through practical application.

Topics covered and summary of the course:

Nutrition; a healthy diet, nutrition, energy balance, hydration and health implications.

Food provenance; where food comes from, the environment, technological developments in food, British and international cuisine.

Food choice; sensory qualities of food, seasonality, cost, religion, occasion, time of day, medical, ethical, portion size and preferences.

Scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food; why food is cooked, cooking methods, functional and chemical properties of food and preparing food safely.

Preparation and cooking techniques; preparing fruit and vegetables, making sauces, making doughs, cooking methods, marinating and tenderising, weighing and measuring, using raising agents, setting mixtures and many more.

Assessment:

The course will be made up from 50% exam and 50% non-exam assessment. Non-exam assessment will be split into two tasks, both undertaken in Year 11. These are 15% and 35% of the overall grade.

Briefs for these tasks will be set by the exam board in Year 11.

NEA1: Students will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food.

This task will provide learners with an opportunity to demonstrate knowledge and practically apply their understanding of the science behind cooking. Students will practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why.

NEA2: Students will plan, prepare, cook and present 3 dishes in 3 hours.

This task will provide learners with an opportunity to cook up a storm and showcase their creativity and cooking skills. Students might make street dishes, food for sports people, create delicious tapas dishes or cook up dishes for students on a budget.

Progression:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip students to go on to further study. After taking this course, they could begin an apprenticeship or perhaps begin employment in the catering or food industries. Students will also have the knowledge and skills to feed themselves (and others) affordably and nutritiously for life.

GCSE Geography

Exam Board: AQA

A Summary of the Course:

An innovative, relevant and interesting Geography GCSE course which contains traditional aspects of geography with modern-day issues to reflect the ever-changing world of geography. It offers a balance of theoretical and practical work, encouraging an active involvement in the subject. It's an ideal foundation for students who want to pursue geography at A Level or as a career, and it gives an understanding of global geographical issues and how to apply this to a range of contexts.

Content:

Living with the Physical Environment: Students will study physical geography topics for this component. The three key topics are:

1. **The challenge of natural hazards:** students will study extreme weather events such as tropical storms, flooding and drought, as well as tectonic hazards such as volcanoes and earthquakes. Students will also study the evidence for climate change along with the causes and impacts of climate change.
2. **The living world:** students will study the characteristics and value of tropical rainforests and polar environments as well as the impacts of human activity in these regions.
3. **Physical landscapes in the UK:** students will study processes and landforms in coastal and river landscapes as well as looking at the distribution of glaciated landscapes in the UK.

Challenges in the Human Environment: Students will study human geography topics for this component. The three key topics are:

1. **Urban issues and challenges:** students will study urbanisation and the growth of megacities as well as the challenges and opportunities that exist for cities today.
2. **The changing economic world:** students will investigate why some countries are richer than others and why some LICs and NEEs are experiencing rapid economic development.
3. **The challenge of resource management:** students will investigate how our increasing demand for resources has affected our planet, specifically looking at either food, water or energy security.

Geographical Applications: this exam will be synoptic in nature and will draw on students' knowledge and understanding and skills from the full course of study. The exam consists of:

1. **Issue evaluation:** a resource booklet will be provided before the exam so students have an opportunity to work through the resources and become familiar with the material. The assessment will consist of a series of questions related to a contemporary geographical issue leading to a more extended piece of writing which will involve an evaluative judgment.
2. **Fieldwork:** Fieldwork will be undertaken on at least two occasions in contrasting locations eg coastal and urban. Students will complete an investigation on a question they have

been set for each location. They will be required to analyse the data they have collected and write up their findings. The students will then answer questions about their fieldwork in this exam.

3. Geographical skills: students will develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills, throughout their study of the course. Skills will be assessed in all three written exams.

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

Human Fieldwork - How successful is the regeneration at Bristol Temple Quay?

Physical Fieldwork - How successful is the coastal management at Lyme Regis?

Assessment:

Living with the Physical Environment (35%)	Challenges in the Human Environment (35%)	Geographical Applications (30%)
<p>What is assessed: The challenge of natural hazards The living world Physical landscapes in the UK</p> <p>Geographical skills</p> <p>Exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes (88 marks)</p> <p>Worth 35% of overall GCSE Grade</p>	<p>What is assessed: Urban issues and challenges The changing economic world The challenge of resource management</p> <p>Geographical skills</p> <p>Exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes (88 marks)</p> <p>Worth 35% of overall GCSE Grade</p>	<p>What is assessed: Issue evaluation Fieldwork Geographical skills</p> <p>This exam releases a resource booklet before the exam</p> <p>Exam lasts 1 hour 15 minutes (76 marks)</p> <p>Worth 30% of the overall GCSE Grade</p>

Progression:

According to the Royal Geographical Society, geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting.

The army, police, government, research organisations, law and business world also love the practical research skills that geographers develop. Because geographers learn about human and population development, geography can be useful for jobs in charity and international relations too.

GCSE History B (School's History Project)

Exam Board: OCR

A Summary of the Course:

This is an interesting and varied course that covers a wide range of periods in History touching on aspects of ancient Greece and Rome right through to the 20th and 21st Centuries. This GCSE is divided into three papers. However, we will be studying 5 different topics.

Content:

1. British Depth Study: The Elizabethans

This course will give us a really good insight into Elizabethan Britain. The course allows us to look at political, religious, economic, social and cultural issues to gain a real flavour of the time. We will focus on the daily lives of the people and popular culture including theatres and the persecution of witches and the significance England had on the wider world.



This will count for 20% of your final mark.

2. Thematic Study: The People's Health, c.1250 to present



This course traces the development of public health from Medieval Britain, Early Modern Britain, Industrial Britain and Britain since c1900 to the present day. We look at key areas such as housing, food, clear water and waste as well as the role of the government. We look at what has progressed and what has held back the developments of public health and the repercussions that these had on the people of the time.

This will count for 20% of your final mark.

3. A period study: The Making of America, 1789 -1900

We look at Indian life and early settlers, the White settlement of the Great Plains and the inevitable conflict between the two races and ways of life, the Civil War and reconstruction of America, as well as the development of American cultures including the impact of reservations, growth of cities and mass migration.



This will count for 20% of your final mark.

4. History around us



This study is of a site in its historical context. Our site will be Glastonbury Abbey. We will be looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the physical remains, the ways historical sources add to our evidence and how the site fits into its wider historical context. *Will also include a site visit.*

This will count for 20% of your final mark.

5. World Depth Study: Living under Nazi Rule

This course offers us the understanding of the Nazi dictatorship. We will be looking at the impact felt across Germany and Europe. We will gain an insight into people's experiences of living under Nazi Rule, from a range of perspectives.



This will count for 20% of your final mark.

Educational visits and opportunities:

There will be an opportunity to visit Berlin and Auschwitz to chart the horrors of Nazi Germany in the Easter of 2022.

We will also have a field trip to Glastonbury Abbey for our History Around Us exam paper.

Assessment:

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Thematic Study The People's Health, c.1250 to present	40 marks for each study unit.	20% Of total GCSE
	Total marks for paper 80 marks. Paper length: 1hour 45 minutes	20% Of total GCSE
British Depth Study The Elizabethans, 1580-1603	Total marks for paper 40 marks +10 marks SPaG Paper length: 1 hour	20% Of total GCSE
History Around Us (Glastonbury Abbey)	Total marks for paper 40 marks +10 marks SPaG Paper length: 1 hour	20% Of total GCSE
Period Study The Making of America, 1789 -1900	40 marks for each study unit.	20% Of total GCSE
	Total marks for paper 80 marks. Paper length: 1hour 45 minutes	20% Of total GCSE
World Depth Study Living under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945	Total marks for paper 40 marks +10 marks SPaG Paper length: 1 hour	20% Of total GCSE

- The structure of the main two papers will be similar (eg big judgment questions at the end of each paper) exactly the same ie the same layout and question styles for each, which will enable students to familiarise themselves with how to tackle certain question types. None of these should be a surprise as your teacher will be able to show you some examples to help you practise and, therefore, do well.
- Remember that the examiners want you to do well and will be looking for comments to reward rather than looking to spot mistakes or gaps in your knowledge.
- Many of the question styles will be like those you have already seen in Key Stage 3. There will be questions which ask you what you know and have learnt, and other questions which are more about your own opinions, allowing you to give your own explanations and reasons for something that happened in the past.

Progression:

Students of History find a wide range of careers open to them. Key positions in the media – newspapers, journals and magazines, television, film and radio – have been colonised by historians. There are several History graduates in the entertainment area of the media. Jonathan Ross; Simon Thomas, a presenter of Blue Peter since 1999, is a Birmingham graduate. Likewise, Timmy Mallett!! (Warwick Uni) began his career as a children’s presenter but has since diversified into acting and producing. Behind the scenes of television and radio are senior managers many of whom are History graduates - such as James Moir (Nottingham Uni), Controller, BBC Radio 2; Alan Watson (Cambridge Uni), chair of the Corporate TV Networks; Rachel Attwell (Warwick), Deputy Head BBC TV News; John McCormick (Glasgow), Controller BBC Scotland; and Lesley Anne Dawson (Keele), Head of the Press Office at ITN. These are important people in TV!

Historians are packed ‘behind the scenes’ of TV - researchers, producers and editors, whose names whizz by in the programme credits, cannot for want of space be given even that brief passing mention here. The daily appearance of news and current affairs presenters on ‘the box’ has made several History graduates household names.

The press also boasts a fair number of historians working as education correspondents, home affairs editors, journal editors and freelance journalists. Two of these are particularly well-known and will serve as examples of what can be achieved: Peter Wilby (Sussex), the editor of the New Statesman, and David Montgomery (History and Politics, Queen’s Belfast), Director of News UK and former chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers. Journalists require many of the skills of the historian.

In addition to news journalism, many historians have entered politics at local and national levels. Five of the recent Labour cabinets running the country have been Historians: Gordon Brown (Edinburgh), former Prime Minister; Alan Milburn (Lancaster), former Health Secretary; Dr John Reid (Stirling), former Northern Ireland Secretary; Paul Murphy (Oxford), former Welsh Secretary; John Prescott (Hull), former Deputy Prime Minister and former Environment, Transport and the Regions Secretary; and Nick Brown (History and Politics, Manchester), former Agriculture Secretary. Another 8 had History as part of their degree! The diplomatic branch of the civil service, in particular, has provided an outlet for the talents of History graduates.

Many History graduates have attained distinction in the ‘private’ pursuit of the arts, notably as writers. Good writing is a quality that is highly prized by historians.

There are a significant number of lawyers whose first degree is in History. The ability to present cases and use evidence is obviously very suited to historians!

So what, may we conclude, is the use of History in the world of work? A History degree undoubtedly provides an opening to a wide range of careers. Some will come as no surprise: teaching, academia, clerical and administrative, PR, retail and catering, politics, and library, museum and information services. Others, notably business, may raise an eyebrow. Perhaps most surprising though is the extent to which historians have risen to the very top of a diverse range of professions and to key positions in civil society and in the attainment of which their education must have played no mean part. A truly remarkable number of History graduates have gone on to become the movers-and-shakers of modern-day Britain. Many top jobs are within the grasp of historians. With a History degree you can aspire to be prime minister, press baron and media mogul, overlord of the BBC, Archbishop of Canterbury, top diplomat, Oxbridge Vice-Chancellor, England footballer and football manager or chairman of the richest football club in the world, celebrated pop musician, best-selling novelist, trade union boss, business millionaire and perhaps even, one day, monarch of the realm!

After successfully completing the course, you could go on to study Advanced level History, Law, Media Studies, Politics, Economics and Sociology, Business Studies, Leisure and Tourism, vocational courses, to mention a few.

Next steps.....

You can find out more about this course by going online and looking at:

www.ocr.org.uk
thehistorylowedown.weebly.com

GCSE French, German, Spanish or Mandarin Chinese

Exam Board: Edexcel

A Summary of the Course:

GCSEs are offered in French, German, Mandarin and Spanish.

Content:

You will study 5 broad themes, each of which is broken down into smaller sub-topics. The themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

You will spend time on activities which enable you to listen, speak, read and write in the foreign language, with a partner, in small groups or with teachers. We will make use of a range of ICT resources and our language assistants will support you in developing your speaking skills.

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

There will be opportunities for trips and/or exchanges to France, Spain, Germany and China. Further details will be given to students and parents when these become available. There will also be opportunities to take part in a range of competitions.

Assessment:

You will be assessed in the four main language skills:

LISTENING

READING

SPEAKING

WRITING.

All exams will take place at the end of Year 11.

WRITING - 25% of final grade

This exam will include translation into the Target Language and short essays in that language. You will **not** be able to use a dictionary so there will be lots of practice of exam-writing techniques in your lessons.

SPEAKING - 25% of final grade

For this exam, you will be able to prepare a presentation on one topic. You will also take part in a role-play, describe a picture and answer some general conversation questions.

You will not have to perform in front of a class; just you, your teacher (who will be the examiner) and a microphone so that your exam can be recorded and sent to the exam board for marking.

LISTENING - 25% of final grade

This will incorporate a variety of comprehension exercises, including gap-fills, multiple-choice questions and answering in both English and the Target Language.

READING - 25% of final grade

There will be a range of different questions about different texts; multiple-choice exercises, gap-fills and longer answers in both English and the Target Language. There will also be a question for translating into English on this paper.

Progression:

The content of the GCSEs in MFL builds on the understanding developed at KS2 and KS3 and provides a firm foundation for students to make a smooth transition to A Level or the International Baccalaureate.

Music - GCSE Music OR Edexcel BTEC First Award Music

GCSE Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

A Summary of the Course:

The GCSE Music examination consists of 3 sections: Performing (30%), Composing (30%) and Listening paper (40%).

*For students considering taking GCSE Music the minimum instrumental or vocal standard required at the start of the course is GRADE 3.

Performing: 30%

1. Solo Performance: you will be assessed by the teacher and moderated by an external examiner on singing or playing an instrument (own choice of piece).
2. Ensemble performance: you will be assessed by the teacher and moderated by an external examiner on one piece (own choice of piece).

Composing: 30%

This forms the coursework part of the examination. The candidate is required to submit 2 original compositions (minimum total playing time 3 minutes) which will be assessed by the teacher and moderated by the examiner.

Appraising: 40%

This is a listening examination based mostly on the following set works and Areas of Study:

Instrumental Music 1700–1820:

- J S Bach: 3rd Movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- L van Beethoven: 1st Movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music:

- H Purcell: Music for a While
- Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')

Music for Stage and Screen:

- S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of Wicked)
- J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope)

Fusions:

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

Appraising Exam Assessment:

The examination is divided into two sections:

Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)

- Six questions related to six of the eight set works.
- One short melody/rhythm completion exercise.
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

- One question that asks students to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.
- A CD with the music extracts will be played to all students at the same time and will repeat the extracts a set number of times.

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

A Summary of the Course:

This course allows you to engage with the music industry and develop a range of relevant practical and technical skills. You will explore music product development and events management, and apply your knowledge in new and practical industry-related contexts. The qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE, and is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about the music industry.

Over the two-year course you will work towards completing 4 units each worth 25% of the final qualification.

Mandatory units

You will study the following two mandatory units, covering the fundamental knowledge, skills and understanding required for the music sector:

The Music Industry - 1 hour written exam

This unit provides an overview of the industry, particularly focusing on the shape of the modern industry and covering the emergence of the role of the self-employed producer, performer and promoter.

Managing a Music Product. - Practical and Written Coursework

This unit looks at the development a music product. You will look at the roles of planning and promotion in the management of a music product. You will base your work on a live concert or event including online promotion, providing opportunities for both music performers and technologists.

Choice units - Practical and Written Coursework

You will build on the knowledge gained in the mandatory units, and explore two sub- sectors of the music industry, by choosing a further two units, covering areas such as:

Introducing live sound

A plan for a live music event

B demonstrate understanding of health and safety

C set up and use live music systems.

Introducing music composition

A explore creative stimuli to meet a brief

B develop, extend and shape music for performances

C present compositions appropriately.

Introducing music performance

A develop your music performance skills and review your own practice

B use your music performance skills within rehearsal and performance.

Introducing music recording

A plan a recording session

B use recording equipment safely to produce multi-track recordings.

GCSE PE

Exam Board: Edexcel

A Summary of the Course:

This course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Students will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well-being.

Content:

Anatomy and Physiology
Fitness and Training
Health, Lifestyle and Diet
Sport Psychology
Sports based Physics
Performance enhancing drugs
Social economic influences in sport
Practical Sports Development

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

Trips will be organised which are relevant to the content of the course, as and when appropriate.

Subject-Specific Information:

The course is aimed at students who are actively engaged in sport both in and out of school and are playing sport in either a school or a club environment. The theoretical content does have challenging elements due to the extended writing and detail required, but all students who are willing to work hard and apply themselves, can achieve in this subject area.

Assessment:

60% Examined Assessment

Component	Content	Assessment
Exam 1 – Fitness and body systems	Anatomy Movement analysis Physical training Use of data	1 hr 45 mins 90 marks 36% overall
Exam 2 – Health and performance	Health, fitness and wellbeing Sport psychology Socio cultural influences Use of data	1 hr 15 mins 70 marks 24% overall

40% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

30%	10%
Practical performance in 3 activities as a player/performer Each marked out of 30	Analysis and evaluation of a performance to bring about personal improvement in physical activity and sport.
One team activity	Written Personal Exercise Programme
One individual activity	Assessed on analysis and evaluation skills
Final activity is a free choice	

Component 3: Practical Performance – 30% of the qualification

Overview

The purpose of this component is to test students' skills in a range of practical performances. Students will be required to perform in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer. They will be required to demonstrate their skills in isolation/unopposed situations and demonstrate their skills in a formal/competitive situation while under pressure.

Students must choose and perform three different physical activities from the list below.

- one team activity
- one individual activity
- one activity of their choice, either a team or individual activity.

Students must participate in three separate activities.

Team Activities	Individual Activities
Association Football	Amateur Boxing
Badminton Doubles	Athletics – Field events
Basketball	Athletics – Track events
Hurling and Camogie	Badminton
Cricket	Canoeing
Dance	Diving
Gaelic Football	Golf
Handball	Gymnastics
Hockey	Equestrian
Lacrosse	Kayaking
Netball	Rock climbing
Rowing	Sculling
Rugby League	Skiing
Rugby Union	Snowboarding
Squash	Swimming
Table Tennis Doubles	Trampolining
Tennis Doubles	Tennis
Blind Cricket	Table Tennis
Goal ball	Boccia
Powerchair football	Polybat
Table Cricket	
Wheelchair Basketball	
Wheelchair Rugby	

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) – 10% of the qualification

Overview

The purpose of this component is to assess students' skills in analysing and evaluating performance through a personal exercise programme (PEP) in order to improve/optimize performance in a chosen physical activity.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the principles of training, relevant methods of training and use of data in order to analyse and evaluate their PEP. The PEP will cover a six- to eight-week period, and can relate to any physical activity of their choice from the activities list given in Component 3: Practical Performance.

Progression:

A Level PE

BTEC Level 3 Sport and Exercise Science

GCSE Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

Exam Board: AQA Religious Studies A (8062)

A Summary of the Course:

If you are looking for an option that requires you to face some of the most important issues in Britain today then look no further than GCSE Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. It is a subject where you shape the lessons with ideas, discussions and your knowledge of current affairs. The topics you study aren't static, they accommodate our country's issues, you get to scrutinise how you view "truth" and analyse how people handle controversial topics.

Content:

We will study the following Ethics topics which will give students the chance to discuss some controversial issues that are current in the world and media.

- Religion, conflict, war and peace - covering different types of war, Just War theory, pacifism, current conflicts, reasons for going to war, charities and organisations who work during and after war.
- Relationships - covering different types of relationships, contraception, sexuality, gender, family, marriage, co-habitation, adultery, divorce.
- Crime and Punishment- covering judgment, criminal activity, the law and justice, sentencing, prison, capital punishment, redemption, society's attitudes.
- Life - covering when life begins, the questions around termination and the laws, euthanasia and the law, how the world began.

All of these topics will look at different perspectives, including the perspectives of two religions, Atheist and Humanist.

Religion

Half of the exam is based on religious understanding and evaluation. The two religions we study in depth are Christianity and Buddhism. Students have already started their learning of the Christian faith in Year 9. We learn about the beliefs and the practices of religion which will give clarity to the religious ethical standing.

The area in the religion we look at is their understanding of the meaning of life, death, creation, how and why they are influenced today by their scripture, how they worship, festivals they follow and the core teachings of their faith.

Educational Visits and Opportunities:

There is the potential to go anywhere in the world with Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. We hope to organise a trip to Italy to visit Rome and the Vatican, where the focus will be to unpick the nature of creation and the very background of the Christian faith. Additionally, we will also be going to London for a multi faith day to imbed our understanding of a range of religious views.

Subject-specific information:

What skills will you develop?

We are going to teach you how to argue your point and persuade others.

We are going to give you the diplomacy to take into account other people's beliefs and the confidence to question all of it. Constructive arguments, honesty and respect will all be exercised in lessons. We will be covering things which you could go home and discuss with family and friends. With increasing maturity you will start to discuss issues which will challenge your interpretation of the world we live in.

Assessment:

How will this be assessed?	
Religion Beliefs and Practices	Ethics and Philosophy
What's assessed? Beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions: Christianity Hinduism/ Buddhism	What's assessed: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes: Theme A: Relationships and families. Theme B: Religion and life. Theme C: The existence of God and revelation. Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict. Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.
How is it assessed? Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)) 50% of GCSE	How it's assessed Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)) 50% of GCSE

Progression:

I challenge you to find a subject which is more relevant. Where else will you question whose responsibility it is to provide humanitarian aid in Aleppo, whether a family should still be a nuclear construction, if gender reassignment is liberalism gone mad, if Trump is right to change abortions laws, if China over uses the death penalty or why there are proportionately more ethnic minorities in British prisons?

Philosophy and Ethics will help in any career working with people because of the development of empathy and people skills. This can support careers in law, social services, public services, teaching, politics and medicine.

Please note that if this subject does not attract a minimum number of students, we may not be able to run it. If this situation arises, students will be informed and asked to make a different choice.

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