



Key Stage 4 Preferences Guide

‘Together we
succeed’

Dear Year 9 Parents/Carers,

Students in Year 9 at Heron Hall have reached the stage where they will be choosing their preferences for GCSE or vocational courses, which they will follow for the next two years. Making the right choices for Key Stage 4 are important for your child as they work towards achieving the grades that will improve their life chances when they leave Heron Hall, and enable them to reach their full potential. These preferences therefore, represent an important milestone in your child's education.

Most students will be expected to choose between History OR Geography and French OR Spanish and then select their remaining courses from an extensive list of GCSEs and/or vocational courses that offer a different style of learning. We understand that not all students make progress at the same rate and starting Key Stage 4 which is where we have tailored the curriculum to the needs of each student.

We offer a great deal of support to students in making these important decisions:

Your child will be given a Preferences Booklet that provides important information about the preferences process and details about all of the available courses and advice on what to consider when choosing courses. Could you carefully read through this booklet with your child and discuss the choices available.

Students will have assemblies, where the process will be explained and courses will be outlined in detail by Subject Leaders and they will also have an Individual Advice and Guidance (IAG) meeting with their tutor. Finally we have Preferences Evening on **Thursday 8th February 2018 from 4.00pm – 6.00pm**. At this event you and your child can speak to subject teachers about the courses available, and how they best meet the needs of your child. There will be a talk between 5.00-5.30pm about the preferences process.

**Please note that Key Stage 4 courses are currently undergoing national reform and the detailed information for some courses listed in this guide may be subject to change.*

We are sure that all of this support will provide the information you need to help your child to make the right decisions about their future. Please ring Ms Lawson, Head of Year 9, if you have any further questions. The options form enclosed has to be returned to the main office by **Monday 5th March 2018.**

We look forward to seeing you on Preferences Evening.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Barzey
Headteacher

Ms Lawson
Head of Year 9



GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate in Secondary Education and is the standard qualification taken by 14 to 16 year olds. You will take GCSEs in English, English Literature, Mathematics and Science as well as other subjects. The courses may contain some controlled assessment and will include one or more final exams. All of your examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11.

VCERTS

V-Vert qualifications are equivalent to GCSE. These courses have a vocational rather than an academic focus and involve learning through work related contexts. Assessment is through assignments set and marked at school and one externally assessed unit.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The UK Government introduced a new performance indicator called the English Baccalaureate, which measures the percentage of students in a school who achieve five 9-5 grades in English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Foreign Language and History or Geography at GCSE level. The reason for its introduction was to ensure students receive an academically rigorous curriculum at GCSE. We are offering you a range of subjects to make sure that you meet the criteria for the EBacc. Taking a mixture of these subjects will ensure you can be more flexible in your university course choices later down the line – especially if you're not sure what you want to do yet.

This guide has been written to help you make sensible choices about the subjects you will study during Key Stage 4. Before you choose, find out all that you can about all the possible choices. This involves looking back over your last two years in school and looking forward to future career areas.

It is likely that you will have enjoyed several subjects during your time at Heron Hall. It is probable that you have enjoyed the content of the subject as well as the staff who taught you. Think about choosing subjects you do well in and that lead into the A-Levels or careers you are thinking about. Please make sure that you don't pick subjects just because you like the teacher or your friends are choosing them.

There are 5 learning blocks for all students;

Block 1 (Compulsory Subjects)	Block 2 (Humanities)	Block 3 (Languages)*
English Language English Literature Mathematics Religious Education Science (Triple) or Science (Combined) Core Physical Education PSHEE	Geography <u>or</u> History	French <u>or</u> Spanish <i>*Students may be assessed in another language that we do not teach. Please read the 'other available languages' information page.</i>

Block 4 - one of the below (Other Options)	Block 5 - one of the below (Other Options)
Art and Design Business Studies Computer Science Music Physical Education Technology - Resistant Materials	Art and Design Drama Technology - Food and Nutrition Physical Education Sociology

Useful websites

www.aqa.org.uk

For GCSE English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Sciences, Religious Education, History, French, Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Sociology and Resistant Materials

www.qualifications.pearson.com

For GCSE Geography, Business and Drama
For VCERTs

www.ocr.org.uk

For GCSE Art and Design, Computer Science and Food and Nutrition

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

For careers advice and guidance

www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships

For advice on apprenticeships

www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers

For future career options

Compulsory subjects

Block 1 (Core) - You will all study GCSEs in;

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Religious Education

Science (Triple or Combined)

Core Physical Education

PSHEE

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Having a good command of English is an integral part of everyday life. It is essential that all students leave with a good qualification in English so that they can either continue their studies or are readily equipped for the world of work.

The AQA specification will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

Content

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

How will I be assessed?

AQA GCSE English Language	Paper 1 — 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)	Paper 2 — 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)
Section A	Reading – one unseen Literature fiction text (25%)	Reading – one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction text (25%)
Section B	Writing – descriptive or narrative writing (25%)	Writing – writing to present a viewpoint (25%)
Speaking and Listening is set and tested throughout the course and marked internally. This is a separate endorsement and no longer carries any weighting within the overall grade of the GCSE (0%)		

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

It is necessary to stress the importance of this subject for future prospects. Very few higher educational establishments or prospective employers will be interested in a candidate who has not achieved a satisfactory level in English.

Careers: Journalist, Lawyer, Film/Theatre Director, Public Relations Executive, Author, Newsreader, Politician, Actor, Architect, Creative Director, Scriptwriter, Teacher, Customer Service, Advertising, Proof Reader, Editor, Retail and many more!

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Having a good command of English is an integral part of everyday life. It is essential that all students leave with a good qualification in English so that they can either continue their studies or are readily equipped for the world of work.

The AQA specification will encourage students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

Content

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts. Set texts will be released upon embarking on the course to ensure that students have the most relevant and up to date information. Reading lists will be issued to enhance students' wider reading.

How will I be assessed?

AQA GCSE English Literature	Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)	Paper 2 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)
Section A	Shakespeare – question on set text requiring detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.	Modern text - one essay question on studied text.
Section B	The 19th Century novel - question on set text requiring detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.	Poetry – comparative question on one named poem within the paper and another from the studied anthology.
Section C	None	Unseen poetry – one question on analysing an unseen poem, the other on comparing two unseen poems.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Some subjects are compulsory at GCSE level and have to be taken by all young people, Mathematics is one of those subjects! GCSE Mathematics helps students develop a knowledge and understanding of: problem solving; reasoning; applying maths in context; functional elements of Maths . All GCSE exams in Mathematics will include questions that allow students to draw on elements from within and across different topic areas, and questions that allow students to provide extended responses.

All students in years 9, 10 and 11 study a maths course which leads to GCSE entry at one of two different tiers– Foundation or Higher. Each course contains content from six main elements of mathematics - Number ;Algebra; Ratio, Proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures; Probability and Statistics

At Foundation level content is included up to grade 5 and at Higher Level up to grade 9.

How will I be assessed?

The Government has decided to change the nature of GCSEs to make them more challenging - they think this will help young people to be better prepared for further academic or vocational study, or for work. We will work together to ensure that you perform well in your GCSEs as there is a requirement that you leave school with a good Mathematics grade. Should you fail to do so you will be required to continue to study the subject at post-16.

Module	Elements	Assessment	%
Paper 1 Non-calculator	Number ;Algebra; Ratio, Proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures; Probability and	Examination 1 Hour and 30 minutes	33.3
Paper 2 Calculator	Number ;Algebra; Ratio, Proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures; Probability and	Examination 1 Hour and 30 minutes	33.3
Paper 3 Calculator	Number ;Algebra; Ratio, Proportion and rates of change; Geometry and measures; Probability and	Examination 1 Hour and 30 minutes	33.3

To do well you need to:

- draw and measure accurately • apply methods in order to solve problems • display proficiency in non-calculator skills • remember key formulae • work logically, showing a clear understanding.

'Ultimately the key to success in Mathematics is small amounts of regular practise of challenging topics. The students who make the most progress are those who make the most of their valuable lesson time, make full use of the opportunities for independent study outside school, and seek out their teacher for extra help with any problems.'

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Whatever you are planning to do in the future, it is now a requirement for you to retake both Maths and English Language GCSEs until you obtain a Grade 4.

If you achieve the top grades in your GCSE you can access the AS and A level Mathematics courses.

A grade 5 in GCSE Maths is of interest to all employers and educational institutions. Many careers stem from maths qualifications including: teaching, finance, banks and building societies, technical and scientific jobs, engineering, medicine, dentistry, and nursing.

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The UK today, especially London, is a mix of different world views and religions. Therefore, it's the basic democratic right of all pupils to have an opportunity to study different world views so they can understand the beliefs of their fellow citizens and potentially further consolidate their own world views.

RS provides an opportunity to dispel many misconceptions about religion, which are ever present in world of growing social media. As pupils are more informed about the different beliefs of peoples in the UK the drive for community cohesion in the UK is strengthened.

The AQA RS GCSE is made up of two main components.

Component One: The study of **beliefs and practices** of **TWO** world religions. At Heron Hall we have decided to study **Christianity and Islam** based on the school demographics and the demographics of London.

How it's assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks (plus 6 marks for Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))
- 50% of GCSE

Component Two: The study of **four Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes**. Students should consider different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and their impact and influence in the modern world. They should be aware of different perspectives on the issues studied, within and/or between religions, as well as non-religious views. At Heron Hall the chosen themes are the following

• **Relationships and families** • **The existence of God and revelation** • **Religion, peace and conflict** • **Religion, crime and punishment**

How will I be assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- 96 marks (plus 3 marks for Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG))
- 50% of GCSE

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

The skills learnt in RS are similar to other skills developed within the humanities e.g. History. Pupils learn analytical and evaluative skills needed in any humanities subject at A level and graduate level.

With further study Religious Education can lead into the following careers:

- National and local government, including the Civil Service and government agencies.
- Schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions);
- Charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations;
- Social services and other caring professions;
- Financial and legal firms;
- The National Health Service;
- PR, advertising, sales and marketing companies;

GCSE BIOLOGY (as part of Triple Science)

GCSE Science: Biology has a similar emphasis as the combined science GCSE – this is the knowledge and understanding that learners need to recognise the impact of science and technology on everyday life. By taking Sciences separately at GCSE level you will cover more content and find you're better prepared if you want to take Science A Levels. The specification requires students to complete 2 units of study based on a range of Biological topics.

Biology Unit One: Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and response and Bioenergetics

Biology Unit Two: Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams that will assess this learning as well assessing the understanding of the 8 required experimental tasks. Each unit will be assessed in one exam that will be a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

These exams are taken in a linear system; these will be sat at the **end of year 11**. The breakdown of the exams and the modules they link to is shown below along with the length of the paper and the percentage of the GCSE it is worth.

Exam	Module	%	Duration of Paper
Biology 1	Biology Unit 1	50	105mins
Biology 2	Biology Unit 2	50	105mins

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

A good grade in the Separate Sciences (Triple) provides pupils with a secure knowledge to continue on to A level sciences. Students will need to achieve a minimum of a grade 7 (equivalent of an A grade) in all three GCSEs to do this.

Careers associated with this qualification

A high grade in Science GCSEs allows access to careers such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, engineering, computer science, forensics, laboratory based work and research. We know that more universities now look at Science GCSE grades as well as A level grades when considering students for dentistry and medicine. Careers linked to Biology include;

- Biotechnologist
- Marine biologist
- Microbiologist
- Nature conservation officer
- Pharmacologist

GCSE CHEMISTRY (as part of Triple Science)

GCSE Science: Chemistry has a similar emphasis as the combined science GCSE – this is the knowledge and understanding that learners need to recognise the impact of science and technology on everyday life. By taking Sciences separately at GCSE level you will cover more content and find you're better prepared if you want to take Science A Levels. The specification requires students to complete two units of study based on a range of Chemistry topics.

Chemistry Unit One: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry and Chemical Changes and Energy Changes

Chemistry Unit Two: The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis and the Chemistry of the Atmosphere and using Resources

How will I be assessed?

There are six exams that will assess this learning as well assessing the understanding of the 8 required experimental tasks. Each unit will be assessed in one exam that will be a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions

These exams are taken in a linear system; these will be sat at the **end of year 11**. The breakdown of the exams and the modules they link to is shown below along with the length of the paper and the percentage of the GCSE it is worth.

Exam	Module	%	Duration of Paper
Chemistry 1	Chemistry Unit 1	50	105mins
Chemistry 2	Chemistry Unit 2	50	105mins

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

A good grade in the Separate Sciences (Triple) provides pupils with a secure knowledge to continue on to A level sciences. Students will need to achieve a minimum of a grade 7 (equivalent of an A grade) in all three GCSEs to do this.

Careers associated with this qualification

A high grade in Science GCSEs allows access to careers such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, engineering, computer science, forensics, laboratory based work and research. We know that more universities now look at Science GCSE grades as well as A level grades when considering students for dentistry and medicine. Careers linked to Chemistry include;

- Analytical chemist
- Chemical engineer
- Healthcare scientist, clinical biochemistry
- Forensic scientist
- Research scientist (physical sciences)

GCSE PHYSICS (as part of Triple Science)

GCSE Science: Physics has a similar emphasis as the combined science GCSE – this is the knowledge and understanding that learners need to recognise the impact of science and technology on everyday life. By taking Sciences separately at GCSE level you will cover more content and find you're better prepared if you want to take Science A Levels. The specification requires students to complete two units of study based on a range of Physics topics.

Physics Unit One: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter and Atomic Structure

Physics Unit Two: Forces, Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism and Space Physics

How will I be Assessed?

There are two exams that will assess this learning as well as assessing the understanding of the 8 required experimental tasks. Each unit will be assessed in one exam that will be a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. These exams are taken in a linear system, these will be sat at the **end of year 11**.

The breakdown of the exams and the modules they link to is shown below along with the length of the paper and the percentage of the GCSE it is worth.

Exam	Module	%	Duration of Paper
Physics 1	Physics Unit 1	50	105mins
Physics 2	Physics Unit 2	50	105mins

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

A good grade in the Separate Sciences (Triple) provides pupils with a secure knowledge to continue on to A level sciences. Students will need to achieve a minimum of a grade 7 (equivalent of an A grade) in all three GCSEs to do this.

Careers associated with this qualification

A high grade in Science GCSEs allows access to careers such as medicine, dentistry, nursing, engineering, computer science, forensics, laboratory based work and research. We know that more universities now look at Science GCSE grades as well as A level grades when considering students for dentistry and medicine. Careers linked to Physics include;

- Accelerator Operator
- Applications Engineer
- Data Analyst
- Design Engineer

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

Science attempts to explain the world in which we live. Scientists try to explain phenomena and solve problems using evidence. The data to be used as evidence must be reliable and valid, as only then can appropriate conclusions be made. A scientifically literate citizen should, amongst other things, be equipped to question, and engage in debate on, the evidence used in decision-making. The reliability of evidence refers to how much we trust the data. The validity of the evidence depends on the reproducibility of the data, as well as whether the research answers the question. If the data is not reproducible then the research cannot be valid. The specification requires students to complete six units of study equally spread across Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Biology Unit One: Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and response and Bioenergetics.

Biology Unit Two: Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology.

Chemistry Unit One: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry and Chemical Changes and Energy Changes

Chemistry Unit Two: The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis and the Chemistry of the Atmosphere and using Resources

Physics Unit One: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter and Atomic Structure

Physics Unit Two: Forces, Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism

How will I be assessed?

There are six exams that will assess this learning as well assessing the understanding of the 16 required experimental tasks. Each unit will be assessed in one exam that will be a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. These exams are taken in a linear system, these will be sat at the **end of year 11**.

Paper	Module	%	Duration of Paper
Biology 1	Biology Unit 1	16.7	75mins
Biology 2	Biology Unit 2	16.7	75mins
Chemistry 1	Chemistry Unit 1	16.7	75mins
Chemistry 2	Chemistry Unit 2	16.7	75mins
Physics 1	Physics Unit 1	16.7	75mins
Physics 2	Physics Unit 2	16.7	75mins

Block 2 and Block 3 choices

You will need to choose one subject from Block 2 and one subject from Block 3 to study.

If you like both of the subjects then you may want to consider selecting one of them in Block 4 as well.

Block 2

Geography or History

Block 3

French or Spanish

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Geography is important as it allows us to understand the world we live in. Geography helps us to think more about ourselves, how to live and the futures that we may need to face. The study of Geography stimulates an interest and a sense of wonder about places, people and the environment.

The Geography GCSE Specification B is split into three content components.

Component 1: Global Geographical Issues (37.5% of grade)	Hazardous Earth
	Development dynamics
	Challenges of an urbanising world
Component 2: UK Geographical Issues (37.5% of grade)	The UK's evolving physical landscape
	The UK's evolving human landscape
	Geographical investigations
Component 3: People and Environment Issues (25% of grade)	People and the biosphere
	Forests under threat
	Consuming energy resources

How will I be assessed?

There are three papers. All the papers are 1 hour and thirty minutes long, two are worth 37.5% of the final grade and one is worth 25% of the final grade. The topics for each paper are displayed in the table above.

Field study

The field study element of the course is a study of rivers or coasts which is assessed through the component 2 examination instead of through coursework. The field study will involve students visiting at least 2 locations to collect data.

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Geography is the most sought-after subject by employers! This is because students of Geography develop the largest variety of skills. A qualification in Geography also keeps all your options open for the future! As it is such a broad subject it links with English, Maths, Science, Sociology, Economics, ICT, Politics, Ecology and many other subjects.

A GCSE in Geography can lead to careers in: Tourism, Social Work, Journalism, Law, Military, Marketing, Architecture, Civil Service and many more.

GCSE HISTORY

History is all around us; we can see historical footprints in technology, human rights, laws and society. Through a challenging but exciting GCSE History course, students will explore how the world has changed and developed. We will investigate different interpretations of historical events.

Who should consider this course?

Historians are independent thinkers and enquirers, who are skilled at learning, developing, researching and debating historical events. Students should have the ability to analyse and evaluate factual evidence using key concepts and differing interpretations to form their own conclusions about past and present events.

What will we study?

Students will complete two papers in History. Paper One consists of two units, the first unit looks at the changes in Germany between 1890-1945 and includes the reasons behind Hitler's rise to power and how he changes Germany. The second unit looks at International Politics after WWI and how Europe deals with the conflict right up until the outbreak of WWII. Paper Two is more focused on British History and unit one includes our breadth study which looks at the change and developments in medicine from 1000 to the present day. The focus is on the key individuals and events that have developed the understanding of medicine. The second unit in the paper is our medieval unit and looks at the Normans from 1066-1100 and how they founded and consolidated their position in England.

How will I be assessed?

There are two papers. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and are worth 50% of the final grade. All papers involve 5-6 written answers.

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

History develops skills of analysis and evaluation which are particular helpful to those who wish to progress on to A-Level History and other Humanities subjects-Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Politics, Geography, and Law. GCSE History is used a stepping stone for future lawyers, journalists, archaeologists, and politicians.

It is a respected academic subject which shows employers your skills to research, evaluate and organise at the highest level.

GCSE FRENCH

Languages are present everywhere in our society: on the television, on the internet, in films, at work or on holiday. Being able to communicate well is one of the most important skills to have in our personal and professional lives. Learning a language will undoubtedly help you develop and improve your literacy in your own language. A GCSE qualification in a language will be invaluable for those aspiring to study at university. Language courses will also aim to offer an insight into the culture and civilisation of other countries, develop an awareness of the nature of language and language learning, and provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

Content

This new GCSE course enables you to understand and converse in real life situations using French. You will study contemporary themes which includes a lot of topics;

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

How will I be assessed?

There will be two tiers of examination entry Foundation and Higher tier. All exams will be externally examined in year 11. For assessment purposes the skills are weighted equally.

In the **listening exam** (25%) you will understand and respond to different types of spoken language. You will respond to questions in English or non-verbally, and in French or non-verbally.

In the **speaking exam** (25%) you will communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes including a role-play, discussing a stimulus and have a conversation on a variety of topics.

In the **reading exam** (25%) you will understand and respond to different types of written language. You will respond to questions in English, in the Target Language and translate from French to English.

In the **writing exam** (25%) you will communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes including writing a list, completing a message and completing a final writing task in response to topic and instructions given.

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Learning a foreign language is always considered a great advantage for student. Students who learn a foreign language often achieve higher grades in other subjects as well.

Learning languages improves your vocabulary and it also helps in problem solving, self-discipline and the development of memorisation skills.

Some universities require and prioritise applicants with a language GCSE, as it shows you have a conscientious committed and disciplined approach to learning.

GCSE SPANISH

Languages are present everywhere in our society: on the television, on the internet, in films, at work or on holiday. Being able to communicate well is one of the most important skills to have in our personal and professional lives. Learning a language will undoubtedly help you develop and improve your literacy in your own language. A GCSE qualification in a language will be invaluable for those aspiring to study at university. Language courses will also aim to offer an insight into the culture and civilisation of other countries, develop an awareness of the nature of language and language learning, and provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation. (The department also aspires to offer visits to appropriate countries.)

Content

This new GCSE course enables you to understand and converse in real life situations using Spanish. You will study contemporary themes which includes a lot of topics;

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

How will I be assessed?

There will be two tiers of examination entry Foundation and Higher tier. All exams will be externally examined in Year 11. For assessment purposes the skills are weighted equally.

In the **listening exam** (25%) you will understand and respond to different types of spoken language. You will respond to questions in English or non-verbally, and in French or non-verbally.

In the **speaking exam** (25%) you will communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes including a role-play, discussing a stimulus and have a conversation on a variety of topics.

In the **reading exam** (25%) you will understand and respond to different types of written language. You will respond to questions in English, in the Target Language and translate from French to English.

In the **writing exam** (25%) you will communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes including writing a list, completing a message and completing a final writing task in response to topic and instructions given.

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Learning a foreign language is always considered a great advantage for student. Students who learn a foreign language often achieve higher grades in other subjects as well.

Knowledge of a foreign language is also a very useful advantage to any type of employment. In addition you will have the basis for learning language undertaken later in life.

Speaking more than one language fluently can lead to careers in teaching, translating and interpreting, finance, sales and marketing in many different business sectors.

OTHER AVAILABLE GCSE LANGUAGES

We may be able to enter you for your home language as an independent subject. Some of the other languages that are available from exam boards include;

- Turkish (OCR)
- Polish (AQA)
- Bengali (AQA)
- Mandarin (AQA)
- German (AQA)
- Italian (AQA)
- Modern Hebrew (AQA)
- Punjabi (AQA)
- Urdu (AQA)

Students will be tested using past papers to ascertain their ability to perform at GCSE level in all the required skills. Successful students will then be entered for the languages GCSE when they are in Year 11.

Please note that taking another available language does not exclude the student from completing either French or Spanish within their normal options preferences.

For more information on any of the languages listed above and the skills that they assess, please use the useful websites page to access the website for the appropriate exam board.

Block 4 and 5 - Options Choices

Students then have a choice from the table of additional subjects that they would like to study at GCSE level. They can select one subject from each column that they would like to study during Key Stage 4.

The subjects that they can choose from are;

Block 4 - one of the below (Other Options)	Block 5 - one of the below (Other Options)
Art and Design Business Studies Computer Science Music Physical Education Technology - Resistant Materials	Art and Design Drama Technology - Food and Nutrition Physical Education Sociology

GCSE ART

Students will be taught to work independently on an Art project, they will manage their class and home study hours to meet deadlines. They will explore drawing, painting, sculpture and printmaking using a variety of methods and materials. They will be expected to use their imagination, together with their research skills to investigate periods of Art History in order to produce exciting pieces of work. All students will be required to keep a sketchbook in which to record their experiences, ideas, experiments and knowledge of Art and Artists.

To do well you need to:

- Have good observational drawing skills.
- Have a creative mind.
- Produce a portfolio which shows the development and investigation of your ideas.
- Explore and write about the work of Artists, Craftspeople and Designers.
- Research Art History and ideas connected with your work at home.
- Be expected to do four hours home work per week.

The Art GCSE is made up of two main modules.

Module	Elements	Assessment	Date	%
Unit 1	Produce a portfolio of work over the period of 45 hours	Assessment is done regularly through the use of sketchbooks, homework and projects.	On-going throughout course	60%
Unit 2	A practical examination at the end of the course. The practical examination is 10 hours long and takes place over two days. Exam titles are given on the 1st January for preparation.	Externally assessed	Summer 2019	40%

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

This course is for anyone who is serious about developing their Art skills. It is essential for those who already know they wish to study Art at A level or even Art College. There are many careers for which Art is a valuable foundation. These include Architecture, Graphic Design, Teaching, Jewellery Design, Fashion, Television work, Shoe Design, Textile Design, Film making, Printing, Pottery, Animation, Illustration, Costume Design, Theatre Design and Garden Design.

GCSE BUSINESS

If you enjoy:

communicating and explaining your ideas

thinking creatively and making decisions

working with numbers to solve business problems

learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands then the GCSE Business course is the right subject for you.

What will I learn to do?

You'll start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You'll learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business.

Then you'll move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You'll learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business.

What skills do I need?

- Strong communication skills (oral and written)
- Analytical and critical thinking.
- Problem solving.
- Decision making.
- Logical thinking.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification will be assessed in two equally weighted exam papers. There is no coursework

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

After this qualification you'll understand the world of business and have developed skills in:

- making decisions and developing persuasive arguments
- creative and practical problem solving
- Understanding data, finance and communication.

It's also a great step preparing you for further and higher education such as A levels and BTEC courses. A GCSE Business course could help prepare you for an entrepreneurial role and help you to gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, like accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Following on with additional training, you could pursue many jobs in the health and fitness industry for example; Coaching, sport and leisure management tourism.

This course helps to highlight intra personal skills such as communication, team work and leadership all of which are valuable assets in the work place.

What will I learn to do?

It's a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. Students who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science will find it provides a superb stepping stone.

You will learn how to use exciting new resources: we've teamed up with partners such as Raspberry Pi and Computing At School to invigorate the curriculum.

This subject is relevant to the modern and changing world of computer science. It is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement.

What skills do I need?

Students entering this course should have achieved a general educational level equivalent to National Curriculum Level 3; or an Entry Level 3 within the National Qualifications Framework; completed the Year 9 computing programme and achieve a very good level in Maths and Computer Science.

How will I be assessed?

The examination consists of two written examinations (40% each) and an externally moderated non-exam assessment (20%).

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

The course will provide an excellent background for Advanced level qualifications which enable students to progress either directly to employment, or to proceed to further qualifications, e.g. Level 3 qualifications such as GCE, AS and A level Computing and GCE ICT.

Students who are awarded mainly Grades 9 - 5 at GCSE would be well prepared for study at Level 3 within the National Qualifications Framework.

The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

GCSE DRAMA

GCSE Drama is a course with written elements supporting some practical Drama work. People are often surprised to discover GCSE Drama involves a lot of writing; this is because there is a distinct focus on **making** and **responding** to drama in all GCSE Drama courses with small opportunities for performing. Drama links extremely well to English and GCSE Drama helps perfect your verbal/written communication as well as presentation skills.

One performance is created in groups and you will keep a journal/log book of 1500-2000 words which is worth 25% of the GCSE. Students will be able to work individually, in pairs or a group as performers or designers for this unit.

Students will sit an exam that explores a set text (***An Inspector Calls***) and students will respond to an extract and how they would perform said extract. Students will also write about a production they have seen (chosen by teacher) and analyse/evaluate the production.

Finally, **only 20% of the GCSE course is based on performing** where students are required to memorise 2 scenes from a script and perform them to an external examiner. In this unit, students may choose to adopt the role of performers or designers.

Unit	Assessment	Weighting	Options and additional information
Devising Drama	Written and Practical	40% (60 marks)	Devised performance = 15 marks Journal / log book = 45 marks
Texts in practice	Practical only	20% (48 marks)	Study and performance of two key extracts from one scripted play chosen by the teacher (can be individual, in pairs or in a group).
Theatre Makers in Practice Length of exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes	Written exam	40% (60 marks)	Two compulsory sections: - Section A : six questions on an extract from a play studied (<i>An Inspector Calls</i>) - Section B : a two questions on a live production seen.

Students may complete practical work as the following:

- performer • lighting designer • sound designer • set designer • costume designer • puppet designer

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Apart from occupations such as professional acting or designing in Theatre, Film, TV, Radio or Digital Media; Drama can also be useful in areas such as:

- Giving presentations • Job interviews • Public speaking, Debating or Politics • Jobs where you are dealing with others or the public such as;
- Public Relations • Sales • Retail • Tourism • Advertising • Marketing or Education or Public Service.

GCSE MUSIC

This qualification is for students who have a keen interest in music, who want to study music further, play a musical instrument, DJ, Produce (using software) or sing. Do not worry if you do not play an instrument as the course now offers the option of DJing and Production based performance. Therefore you will have the opportunity to re-record or remix a song of your choice. Students will have the chance to use industry standard programs such as Sibelius, Logic and GarageBand. You must be open minded about the music we will study. This qualification will allow you to develop a range of skills in: composing, performing, analysis, listening, recording, producing and music theory (see below for the course breakdown).

What will I be studying and how will I be assessed?

During the course you will: compose two pieces of music (component 3), perform/record (component 2), the exam at the end of year 11 has a listening test and a separate written section that focuses on two study pieces (component 1). The coursework allows you to secure 60% of your grade before the exam. Coursework can be revisited over the two years, this offers an attractive option for managing your workload across other subjects. The written exam for this course is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. There is a breakdown of the course in the diagram below.

Component 1: Understanding music	+	Component 2: Performing music	+	Component 3: Composing music
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening Contextual understanding 		What's assessed <p>Music performance</p>		What's assessed <p>Composition</p>
How it's assessed <p>Exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music.</p>		How it's assessed <p>As an instrumentalist and/or vocalist and/or via technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance 1: Solo performance (36 marks) Performance 2: Ensemble performance (36 marks). 		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition 1: Composition to a brief (36 marks) Composition 2: Free composition (36 marks).
Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section A: Listening – unfamiliar music (68 marks) Section B: Study pieces (28 marks). <p>The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes.</p> <p>This component is worth 40 % of GCSE marks (96 marks).</p>		<p>A minimum of four minutes of performance in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance.</p> <p>This component is 30 % of GCSE marks (72 marks).</p> <p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA. Performances must be completed in the year of certification.</p>		<p>A minimum of three minutes of music in total is required.</p> <p>This component is 30 % of GCSE marks (72 marks).</p> <p>Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA.</p>

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Good preparation for further study into Music, this will help when you come to study A level, degree level or other qualifications related to Music such as: Music technology, Musical theatre, Drama, Media studies, Music production.

You may wish to enter a career in the industry; this qualification will help with acquiring jobs in such fields as performing, producing, recording, publishing, events management and teaching.

To a prospective employer having a passion or an interest in such creative subjects are very desirable.

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The content and structure of GCSE PE has dramatically changed. In previous years the marks awarded were split 60% practical and 40% theory. Now under the new syllabus this has been reversed. This has placed a greater emphasis on mathematical and scientific principles required for PE GCSE.

The syllabus is broken into 2 study areas:

1) The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

This will cover 4 main areas Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, practical training and use of data.

2) Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

This module covers psychology in sport, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being and use of data.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written exams, each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long with a total of 78 marks and worth 30% of the GCSE. The exam comprises of a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

Practical performance requires the student to perform 3 activities in at least one team activity and one individual activity. The third choice can be either. The assessment is conducted internally by members of staff and moderated by AQA externally, each performance must be filmed to highlight the student completing the skills listed in the assessment criteria. The assessment is worth 100 marks in total, 25 per activity and a further 25 marks on the analysis and evaluation of performance on one activity.

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

The GCSE PE course can help to prepare you for A level PE, BTEC Sports and Leisure or a Diploma in sport and leisure.

With further training this course help to lead on a career in Sports coaching , Sport Psychology, Sport Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy, NHS, Civic service and Teaching.

GCSE SOCIOLOGY

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways. Studying Sociology gives students the opportunity to consider the world through perspectives other than their own and to be respectful and tolerant young people.

What will I learn to do?

Students that study Sociology will develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, and how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues.

Sociology is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives. This specification encourages students to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, thus developing their critical, evaluative skills.

What skills do I need?

- Fluent reading and writing skills
- The ability to develop and communicate your ideas clearly through discussion
- Presentation skills
- Extended writing skills
- The ability to analyse text
- The ability to use textual evidence to support your ideas

How will I be assessed?

Sociology is a completely linear assessment, there is no controlled assessment.

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Students can study A level Sociology at post 16 or other A Levels such as Philosophy, Ethics and Anthropology. It demonstrates to Further and Higher educational establishments that the student can apply extended writing skills.

GCSE RESISTANT MATERIALS

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Year 9/10

Metals 1 – Jewellery. Shape cutting and cold enamelling project; Metals 2 – Pewter Casting;

Woods 1 – Jenga Bricks and packaging / Childs Modular Toy.; Plastics 1 – Mobile Phone Charging Cradle and Desk Stand; Mini Controlled Assessment Project / Smart Materials; Controlled Assessment Task

Year 11

Controlled Assessment Task; Theory Course

Paper 1
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core technical principles Specialist technical principles Designing and making principles
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written exam: 2 hours 100 marks 50% of GCSE
Questions <p>Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.</p> <p>Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.</p>

Non-exam assessment (NEA)
What's assessed <p>Practical application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core technical principles Specialist technical principles Designing and making principles
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx 100 marks 50% of GCSE
Task(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial design and make task Assessment criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying and investigating design possibilities Producing a design brief and specification Generating design ideas Developing design ideas Realising design ideas Analysing & evaluating In the spirit of the iterative design process, the above should be awarded holistically where they take place and not in a linear manner Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA

What can I do with these qualifications after I leave school?

Designer, Fashion Design, Engineering, Graphic Design, Textiles Technology, Architecture, Theatre Lighting, Industrial Design, Furniture Design, Interior Architecture, Surface Design, Prosthetics Design, Materials Science, Mechanical Engineering, Structural Engineering, Film Design, Vehicle Design, Stage Design, Urban Planning, Lighting Design, Civil Engineering, Software Engineering, Sign making, Naval Architecture, Design Engineering, Medical Engineering, Special effects work, Packaging Design, Landscape Architecture, Carpentry and joinery, Trading standards/consumer protection, Product Design, Web design and management.

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

What will I study?

To develop your Designing and Making skills and your knowledge and understanding of nutrition. You will learn how to design and make food products whilst considering environmental issues. You will also study the importance of health and safety, minimising food waste and reducing sugar and salt for a healthier diet.

Year 9. You will learn: Pastry - how to prepare, use and cook a range of sweet and savoury pastry products encompassing seasonal and locally sourced produce. Become an artisan bread maker. Use yeast and other leavening agents to create a range of bread/bread based products.

The Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills and will ensure students develop greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. The new course at GCSE focuses on the practical aspects of food with an emphasis on preparation and terminology.

The new specification has replaced food technology, home economics and catering. Over the two years students will undergo a written assessment- food investigation (15%) and a practical assessment (35%). These can be completed in either or both yr10/11. The course concludes with a written exam combining multiple choice and 5 long questions.

Year 10 and 11. You will learn: To develop an understanding of nutrition, the effects of cooking and the awareness of Global food supplies and World foods. You will investigate how different cooking methods affect food, use terminology appropriately and confidently whilst making a variety of dishes from around the World. The emphasis is on nutrition so many of the dishes will be savoury. These skills will be combined with meal planning and consider both time and financial constraints in line with household budgeting. By year 11, students should be able to 'dovetail' tasks e.g. preparing two or three dishes at a time.

How is it assessed?

Assessment	How it is assessed?
Paper 1 - Food Preparation and Nutrition	Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes Worth 100 marks 50% of GCSE
Non-exam Assessment	Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks) Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks) 50% of GCSE

What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Core PE ensures that children aged between 14-16 take part in at least 2 hours of physical activity per week during term time.

With the facilities which will be available students will be given a choice of 2 activities per term providing a broad and balanced curriculum. The choices will be dependent upon the sporting seasons.

Autumn term

- Football and Netball
- Rugby and Handball

Winter term

- Basketball and Table-tennis
- Trampolining and Badminton

Spring and summer

- Rounders and cricket
- Volleyball and athletics

Following on from the schools Duke of Edinburgh programme the PE department will be offering external Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) which will include: Canoeing, Kayaking, Climbing, Caving and Archery.

We will also be offering JSLA Junior Sports Leader Awards and numerous sporting qualifications such as level 1 coaching and refereeing.

How can core PE help me after I leave school?

Following on with additional training, you could pursue many jobs in the health and fitness industry for example; Coaching, sport and leisure management tourism.

This course helps to highlight intra personal skills such as communication, team work and leadership all of which are valuable assets in the work place.



'Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.'

Malcolm X (1964)