



# Key Stage 4 Preferences Guide 2020/21

**'Together we  
succeed'**

# Welcome to your Year 8 Option Booklet.

Please take the time to read through the documentation carefully so that you gain a full understanding of what each subject entails as you move from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4.

All students will have the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications. These qualifications are:

## **GCSE**

Most GCSEs are now exam based only. The reformed GCSEs put a greater emphasis on applying and using knowledge – it varies, but typically only about 15 per cent of marks test knowledge recall only, so that means 85 per cent of marks will test students utilising that knowledge.

Applying knowledge is particularly important in the new GCSEs. Students need to demonstrate that they can apply their knowledge in unfamiliar contexts as that's where a lot of the marks will come from. All students will be fully prepared and supported for their exams.

## **BTECS**

BTEC qualifications are equivalent to a GCSE. These courses have a vocational (rather than an academic) focus and involve learning through work related contexts.

Assessment is through assignments set and these are marked at school with one externally assessed unit. BTECs and vocational courses are options students may be directed towards to suit their academic needs.

## **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 so you may 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 Academy. 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 as there is no guarantee you will have the same teachers or be in the same set as your friends.

## Useful websites

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

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

[www.qualifications.pearson.com](http://www.qualifications.pearson.com)

For GCSE Geography, Sciences, Business and Drama  
For VCERTs

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

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

[www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)

For careers advice and guidance

[www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships](http://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships)

For advice on apprenticeships

[www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)

For future career options

## **Compulsory subjects**

You will all study GCSEs in;

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science (Triple or Combined)

Core Physical Education (non GCSE)

Religious Education

Citizenship or PSHE

# Compulsory Subjects Overview

# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT:

English Language and English Literature are two separate GCSEs studied as part of one combined subject. Students are assessed in the un-tiered, closed book examinations. Grades 1 to 9. KS4 focuses on both language and literature and sometimes uses literature texts as vehicles for studying language skills. Specifically, year by year, students will study:

- Year 9: students begin their study of the 'Conflict' anthology of poems for GCSE Literature. Students will also complete their Spoken Endorsement this year, an additional certification grading their oracy and presentation skills.
- Year 10: Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' and Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' are both taught this year. Students also prepare for Language Paper 1 before revising the 'Conflict' cluster and studying 'Unseen' poetry at the end of the year.
- Year 11: Paper 2 is taught. Students also study their final Literature text, Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Students then return to all exam papers in both Literature and Language. Skills are revised and honed in preparation for the final GCSE.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN TO DO?

You will learn a range of skills including how to read and analyse a wide range of texts from an anthology of poems to Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. You will also explore how meaning is created in a variety of texts from different eras. You will learn how to develop complex analytical ideas through meaningful discussion in formal and informal contexts. You will also learn how to translate these complex analytical ideas into clearly expressed, confident essays on a wide range of different subjects, as diverse as Charles Dickens, Shakespeare, 19th, 20th and 21st Century texts.

## WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

- Fluent reading and writing skills
- The ability to develop and communicate your ideas clearly through discussion
- Extended writing skills
- The ability to analyse text
- The ability to learn and use textual evidence to support your ideas
- The ability to convey complex ideas in a range of informal and formal contexts, such as discussion and essay writing

## ASSESSMENT

English will be assessed in the following ways:

English Language written examinations = 100% of the final grade for English Language is examined in two written papers

English Literature written examinations = 100% for the final grade for English Literature is examined in two written papers.

Spoken Language Endorsement = will be awarded as a separate grade on your certificate

## BEYOND YEAR 11

English Language and Literature can be studied at A-Level, degree and far beyond. Qualifications in English may open the door to a wide variety of jobs in many different areas, involving such skills as team work, creativity, independent thinking and problem solving.

**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 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 and 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.

The teaching groups are set accordingly to students pace and comprehension and students in the accelerated sets will study and extra qualification in either AQA certificate in Further Mathematics and/or GCSE Higher Statistics.

## 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.

## To do well you need to:

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

•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.

## CAREERS

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.



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# GCSE Science

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT:

GCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Science groups are organised by the Science Department, based on ability, attitude and progress made at the end of year 9. Students will receive Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons. There are two routes available based on the new AQA specifications (from 2016).

### 1: GCSE - Combined science (9-1 from 2016)

Pupils follow a programme leading to 2 GCSEs in Science. They will study a wide range of scientific concepts and is appropriate for students with a general interest in Science.

### 2: GCSE Triple Science (9-1 from 2016)

GCSE Biology (9-1 from 2016), Chemistry (9-1 from 2016) and Physics A (9-1 from 2016). Students follow a programme leading to GCSE qualifications in each Science separately. This is a more demanding route for students to study, with significantly more content to cover and more challenging concepts. The route is appropriate for those who have shown a strong interest and aptitude for science, especially in Year 9.

## AIMS

- To gain a systematic body of scientific knowledge, and the skills needed to apply this in new and changing situations
- To gain an understanding of scientific ideas, of how they develop, and of the factors which may affect their limitations
- To consider and evaluate critically students' own data and conclusions, and those obtained from other sources
- To evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments, including those related to the environment, personal health and quality of life, and to consider ethical issues where these arise
- To use electronic and more traditional sources of information to collect data and ideas on a topic of scientific interest

## WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

- Fluent reading and writing skills
- Extended writing skills
- The ability to learn and use scientific ideas and apply them in a new context
- The ability to develop and communicate your ideas clearly
- Mathematical skills

## ASSESSMENT

The AQA Combined Science: Trilogy GCSE (9–1) consists of six externally examined papers (two for each science) lasting 1h 15min each. Students must complete all assessments in the same tier, these are available at foundation tier and higher tier. Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

The AQA separate sciences GCSE (9–1) in Triple Science consists of six externally examined papers (two for each science) lasting 1h 45min each. Students must complete all assessments in the same tier, these are available at foundation tier and higher tier. Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year.

## BEYOND YEAR 11

Science can be studied at A-Level, BTEC L3, apprentices, degree and far beyond. Qualifications in Science may open the door to a wide variety of jobs in many different areas, involving such skills as team work, creativity, independent thinking and problem solving.

## CAREERS:

Variety of careers which is not exhausted only in medical and healthcare but can include engineering pharmaceutical, biotechnology, chemical, food, environmental water industries life sciences, quality assurance, regulatory affairs, physical sciences, technical support, sales and others.

# 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.

RE 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 RE GCSE is made up of two main components.

**Component One:** The study of **beliefs and practices** of **TWO** world religions. At Heron Hall Academy 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 Academy, 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 RE 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.

# GCSE CITIZENSHIP

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable young people to become thoughtful, active citizens.

## What will I learn to do?

Students gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society.

They will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.

## 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?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

**Paper 1**—Active Citizenship and Politics and Participation - 1hr45– 50% of GCSE

*Section A: Active citizenship questions: questions on the citizenship action of others and questions on the students taking citizenship action investigation (40 marks)*

*Section B: Politics and participation question (40 marks)*

*Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended answer*

**Paper 2**—Life in Modern Britain and Rights and Responsibilities - 1hr45– 50% of GCSE

*Section A: Life in modern Britain questions (40 marks)*

*Section B: Rights and responsibilities questions (40 marks)*

*Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, source-based questions, extended answer*

# 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.

# Option Choices

You have 4 Options to Choose. Depending on the route that you will be taking, you will have a choice to continue studying the following subjects:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Design Technology
- Drama
- Art and Design
- Music GCSE
- GCSE PE
- Vocation PE: Sport Science
- Computer Science
- Business Studies
- Sociology
- ASDAN/BTEC Vocational Studies

# 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:	Hazardous Earth (earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes)
Global Geographical Issues (37.5% of grade)	Development dynamics (how to improve countries)
	Challenges of an urbanising world (problems living in cities)
<b>Component 2:</b> <b>UK Geographical Issues</b> <b>(37.5% of grade)</b>	<b>The UK's evolving physical landscape (coasts and rivers)</b>
	<b>The UK's evolving human landscape (Why London is important)</b>
	<b>Coasts and Urban Areas Fieldwork (trips to Walton on the Naze and Stratford in Y10)</b>
Component 3: People and Environment Issues (25% of grade)	People and the biosphere (how humans rely on the earth)
	Forests under threat (rainforests and taiga)
	Consuming energy resources \ (renewable energy and alternatives)

## 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 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. There is also a study of the impact of regeneration in Stratford to make up the human geography element.

## What use would this qualification be after I leave school?

Geography is a highly 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, and the civil service to name a few. Many employers see a geography qualification as an indication of a well rounded student due to the balancing of literacy, and mathematical skills as well as the focus on problem solving and essay writing.



# 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 changed Germany. The second unit looks at International Politics after WWI and how Europe dealt 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. There are 18 questions across the 4 papers which involve a range of historical skills including interpretation, source analysis, source comparison, inference and essay writing.

## **What use would this qualification be after I leave school?**

History develops skills of analysis and evaluation which are particularly 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 as 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

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT:

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable you to:

- Use and prepare you for further language study and use in school, higher education or employment, develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing
- Express and develop you thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- Deepen your knowledge about how language works and enrich your vocabulary in order for you to increase your independent use and understanding of the language in a wide range of contexts.
- Acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material including literary texts
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of countries and communities where French is spoken
- Develop language– learning skills

## WHAT WILL I LEARN TO DO?

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE (Grades 9—1) in French consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.

- During Year 9 students will study the topics of Local area, Holiday and School
- During Year 10 students will study Identity and Culture
- During Year 11 students will study the topics of Future Inspiration, Study and Work

When you study French at GCSE level, the emphasis is on developing your confidence to use and understand authentic materials in order to enjoy your development in the language and culture that you are studying. This course has a strong focus on French Culture in particular, and we will study French arts, poetry and movies

## WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

At GCSE, your skills will be developed and refined. You will need and ability to understand the French culture, and to expect to bring in a European and worldly dimension.

## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in French

Paper 2: Speaking in French

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French

Paper 4: Writing in French

# GCSE SPANISH

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT:

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable you to:

- Use and prepare you for further language study and use in school, higher education or employment, develop your ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing
- Express and develop you thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- Deepen your knowledge about how language works and enrich your vocabulary in order for you to increase your independent use and understanding of the language in a wide range of contexts.
- Acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material including literary texts
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of countries and communities where French is spoken
- Develop language– learning skills

## WHAT WILL I LEARN TO DO?

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE (Grades 9—1) in Spanish consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.

- During Year 9 students will study the topics of Local area, Holiday and School
- During Year 10 students will study Identity and Culture
- During Year 11 students will study the topics of Future Inspiration, Study and Work

When you study Spanish at GCSE level, the emphasis is on developing your confidence to use and understand authentic materials in order to enjoy your development in the language and culture that you are studying. This course has a strong focus on Spanish Culture in particular and we will study Spanish arts, poetry and movies.

## WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

At GCSE, your skills will be developed and refined. You will need and ability to understand the Spanish culture, and to expect to bring in a European and worldly dimension.

## ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Listening and understanding in Spanish

Paper 2: Speaking in Spanish

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish

Paper 4: Writing in Spanish

# 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.

# 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. Learn to 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 year 10/11. 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	<b>Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)</b> <b>Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)</b> 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.

# GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT

Are you interested in finding out how things are designed and manufactured? Do you want to be the next Robert Dyson? Do you enjoy designing products, modelling prototypes and manufacturing in a range of materials? This course offers you the opportunity to develop all of these skills as well as evaluating products currently available to the consumer.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN TO DO?

Over the three years there will be an emphasis on designing and manufacturing of products.

**Year 9:** You will learn the skills of investigating, designing and making various products based on core principles and techniques. Skills such as designing packaging, furniture and toys will be explored.

**Year 10:** You will develop knowledge and skills in a variety of industrial processes, tools and computer aided design/manufacturing techniques through practice assignments.

**Year 11:** You will need to prepare for the written exam paper, demonstrating your knowledge, skills and understanding. You will need to undertake research, marketing, consumer protection and use this information to help you design and make your final product. You will be expected to analyse and evaluate your final product and produce a portfolio for submission.

## WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Analytical skills

Planning skills

Thinking Skills

Evaluation skills

Making skills

Self-reflective skills

## ASSESSMENT

Product Design is assessed in two different ways:-

Written exam – 50% (2 hours)

Coursework - 50% (Controlled assessment to be completed in Year 11)

## BEYOND YEAR 11?

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,

# GCSE DRAMA

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT

GCSE Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The specification promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. We engage in, and actively explore, a wide range of activities that are thought-provoking and stimulating, drawing from a variety of situations and contexts that you can relate to.

GCSE Drama encourages you to develop critical thinking skills and become effective and independent learners. With the focus on working imaginatively, collaborating creatively and communicating effectively, Drama is highly beneficial to all students. However, it is those with a passion for the subject who succeed.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

<b>Component 1</b> <i>(Devising):</i>	40% of GCSE	<b>Combination of practical and written work (Coursework)</b> ⇒ Internally assessed by your teacher consisting of a; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Devised performance</li> <li>2,000 word log book</li> </ul>
<b>Component 2</b> <i>(Performance from a text):</i>	20% of GCSE	<b>Performance of a key extract</b> ⇒ Externally assessed by a visiting examiner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perform two extracts of a play text specifically chosen for you</li> </ul>
<b>Component 3</b> <i>(Theatre Makers in Practice):</i>	40% of GCSE	<b>Written exam – 1 hour 30 minutes</b> ⇒ Exploring a set play text (An Inspector Calls) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section A = Responding to questions as a performer, director and designer</li> <li>Section B = Analysing and Evaluating a Live Theatre Performance that we will go and see</li> </ul>

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Drama develops a wide range of social skills, useful in all subject areas and outside of the school environment. **Transferable skills** developed in Drama include:

*Creativity      Self-discipline      Time management      Organisational      Team work*  
*Confidence      Communication      Leadership      Cultural understanding*  
*Self-esteem      Respect      Cooperation      Ability to deal with critique*

## WHERE NEXT?

The Drama GCSE course provides a strong foundation for courses in **Drama, Media, Law and Performing Arts**. It is one of the few subjects which assesses a student's ability to work as part of a dynamic team and this is recognised by schools, colleges, universities and businesses alike.

# GCSE ART & DESIGN

## **ABOUT THE SUBJECT**

GCSE Art and Design is suitable for students with an interest in drawing and painting who are willing to be creative. Students will be introduced to a variety of materials and techniques and will learn about artists' work through research and gallery visits. Students are encouraged to be experimental; to work from observation and imagination and to develop their ideas from the beginning to the end.

## **YEAR GROUP BREAK DOWN:**

Year 9: Natural Forms, Still Life and Architecture Project (coursework)

Year 10: Identity and Portraiture Project (coursework)

Year 11: Mock exam and GCSE Exam

## **WHAT WILL I LEARN TO DO?**

- To respond personally to ideas, subjects and themes, within a historical, cultural and environmental context
- To use different skills and approaches to recording images such as, observations, analysis, expression and imagination
- To work independently on an idea from a starting point to a finished outcome
- To experiment with ideas, materials, tools and subject matter
- To show an understanding of the conventions of representational and abstract, and imaginary genres.
- To make use of appropriate materials tools and techniques
- To provide evidence of the use of safe working practices
- To develop your imagination and creative abilities

## **WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?**

- An understanding of how to use materials such as paint, pencils and clay
- Drawing skills for different needs and purposes
- The ability to experiment with different ideas
- The ability to research and analyse artist's work
- To be reflective and critically annotate practical work

## **ASSESSMENT**

*Component 1—Portfolio (coursework) will be worth 60% of the total grade*

*Component 2—Externally set assignment (exam) will be worth 40% of the final grade*

**AO1:** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources

**AO2:** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes

**AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses

**AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

## **BEYOND YEAR 11**

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A level, which can lead to study at a Foundation Course in Art or and/or a degree in various areas of Art and Design, for example Architecture, Interior Design, Product Design, Fashion, Photography, Graphic Design and Fine Art.



# GCSE MUSIC

## ABOUT THE SUBJECT:

Students will learn a range of genres from across the world from the following Areas of Study: AoS 2 The Concerto Through Time (Baroque, Classical and Romantic concerti), AoS 3 Rhythms of the World (including the India and Punjab, Middle East and Mediterranean, Africa and Central and South America), AoS 4 Film Music (including gaming music) and AoS 5 Conventions of Pop (Rock 'n' Roll, Rock, Pop Ballads and solo artists to the present day). These will be taught through a variety of different lessons from performance to composition and theory.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Engage actively in the process of music study
- Develop performing skills individually and in groups to communicate musically with fluency and control of the resources used
- Develop composing skills to organise musical ideas and make use of appropriate resources
- Recognise links between the integrated activities of performing, composing and appraising and how this informs the development of music
- Broaden musical experience and interests, develop imagination and foster creativity
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians
- Develop awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing
- Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in the creation and presentation of music
- Recognise contrasting genres, styles and traditions of music, and develop some awareness of musical chronology
- Develop as effective and independent learners with enquiring minds
- Reflect upon and evaluate their own and others' music
- Engage with and appreciate the diverse heritage of music, in order to promote personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

## ASSESSMENT

INTEGRATED PORTFOLIO (30%) Performance on learners chosen instrument and a composition to a brief set by the learner.

PRACTICAL COMPONENT (30%) Ensemble performance and a composition to an OCR set brief

LISTENING AND APPRAISING (40%) A written paper, with CD. Aural recognition and context unheard/unfamiliar music from within the Areas of Study 2, 3, 4 and 5.

## WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

You need to be able to sing or play an instrument ideally to a grade 2 standard although all levels of ability are accepted. It is expected that you will join one of the school ensembles or regularly rehearse with your own band. These ensembles and bands will then form the basis of school performances throughout the year.

## BEYOND YEAR 11

If you enjoyed the GCSE Music course then you can consider an:

- A Level in Music/Music Technology/Performing Arts
- Btec level 3 in Music/Music Technology/Performing Arts

Your listening skills will enhance your listening and understanding in other subjects like foreign languages. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience – useful if you intend to pursue, for example, drama or law.

# GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The content and structure of GCSE PE study is based on mathematical and scientific principles which will lead onto A Level or Level 3 Further Education Sports Industry courses.

We use the AQA exam board GCSE syllabus which 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 they are worth 30% of the GCSE. The exam comprises a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

Practical performance requires the student to perform 3 activities to a high standard in at least one team activity and one individual activity. The third choice sport 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, up to 25 marks per activity and a further 25 marks on coursework evaluating your own performance on one of your chosen activities.

## **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 & Leisure, Diploma in Sport and Leisure and working in the Leisure Industry as an Apprentice.

With further training this course is a pre-requisite leading to Sports Coaching, Sports Psychology, Sports Analyses, Sport Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy, NHS, Civic Service and Teaching.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Sports Studies Award & Certificate levels 1&2

The Cambridge National (OCR exam board) in Sport Studies enables students to develop and apply knowledge of sports-related activities, with a particular focus on officiating. They explore contemporary issues in sport, different ways of being involved in the sports industry and the impact of sport on wider society.

There are 2 compulsory units that all students must study with one exam lasting 1 hour. The other unit will be moderated by an external examiner.

### 1. Contemporary Issues in Sports

Students explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting values and ethical behaviour, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment.

### 2. Developing Sports Skills

As a sports scholar, you will be able to try out a range of sports-related skills and techniques, including different practice methods for improving your own performance and that of others. Using tactics and strategies in both individual and team sports, understanding of the rules, enabling them to carry out a number of officiating roles within the activities.

*The following units are optional studying 2 from the list below:*

- **Sports and the Media**

We will explore the relationship between sports and the media; how sport uses the media to promote itself and the media uses sport to expand and maintain uptake of its products.

- **Working in the Sports Industry**

This is where students get a chance to explore the wide range of career opportunities related to sports including those not directly linked to a sport or physical activity.

- **Developing knowledge and skills of outdoor activities**

You will get a chance to explore practically and use information technology to gain insight into the vast range of outdoor adventure activities and the organisations that provide access to them. You will be able to plan, participate and become independent decision-makers with leadership skills.

### **What use would this qualification be after I leave school?**

The Sports Studies course is a foundation start in preparation for further studies such as, BTEC Sports & Leisure, Diploma in Sport and Leisure and working in the Leisure Industry as an Apprentice.

With further training this course is a pre-requisite leading to Sports Coaching, Sports Psychology, Sports Analyses, Sport Rehabilitation, Physiotherapy and other Public Services.

# GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

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 BUSINESS STUDIES

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

# 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 and 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
- Mathematical knowledge - Research methods

## **How will I be assessed?**

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

### **Paper 1— The Sociology of Families and Education (1hr45) - 50% of GCSE**

*Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.*

*Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses*

### **Paper 2—The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification (1hr45) - 50% of GCSE**

*Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.*

*Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses*

## **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.

# ASDAN/BTEC Vocational Studies

Students will study an ASDAN course in Year 9 and in Year 10 & 11 with study BTEC Vocational Studies.

ASDAN programmes and qualifications are widely recognised by educators for providing an engaging curriculum that empowers students through personalised learning and choice. The courses motivate and enhance learners' confidence, self-esteem and resilience. In addition, learners develop core skills in teamwork, communication, problem solving, research and self-management.

This BTEC qualification is an engaging and relevant introduction to the vocational sector. The course has been designed for pre – 16 students working at Level 1. It provides an introduction to some of the key themes within the sector, enabling students to develop and apply their knowledge whilst acquiring a range of relevant practical, communication and technical skills of a vocational sector. There are also opportunities to understand more about customer service, working with others as a part of a team, and working safely, enabling them to make informed choices about their future learning and career.

During this time, you will be required to complete a total of 5 units. Minimum number of credits acquired to achieve the qualification is 14 Credits

## **Students will study:**

Unit 1: Self-Assessment

Unit 2: Career Progression

Unit 15: Working in Sport and Active Leisure

Unit 12: How the body works

Unit 4: Taking part in sport

## **WHAT WILL I LEARN TO DO?**

The BTEC Certificate in Vocational studies has been developed to give learners the opportunity to:

- \* Experience more than one vocational sector where they have not yet decided on a specific sector to follow.
- \* Develop knowledge, understanding and skills of different vocational sectors to motivate learners in progressing to higher qualifications.
- \* Develop employability skills and engage in learning which is relevant to them and provide opportunities to develop certain skills and techniques essential for successful performance in working life.

## **WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?**

Students entering this course do not have to fulfil any requirements other than be committed to hard work.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Level 1 qualifications; the grade is a Pass only. Learners whose level of achievement is below a Level 1 will receive an Unclassified (U) result. It is a portfolio-based approach to assessment designed to be taken as a part of a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 4 alongside GCSEs.



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

Malcolm X (1964)