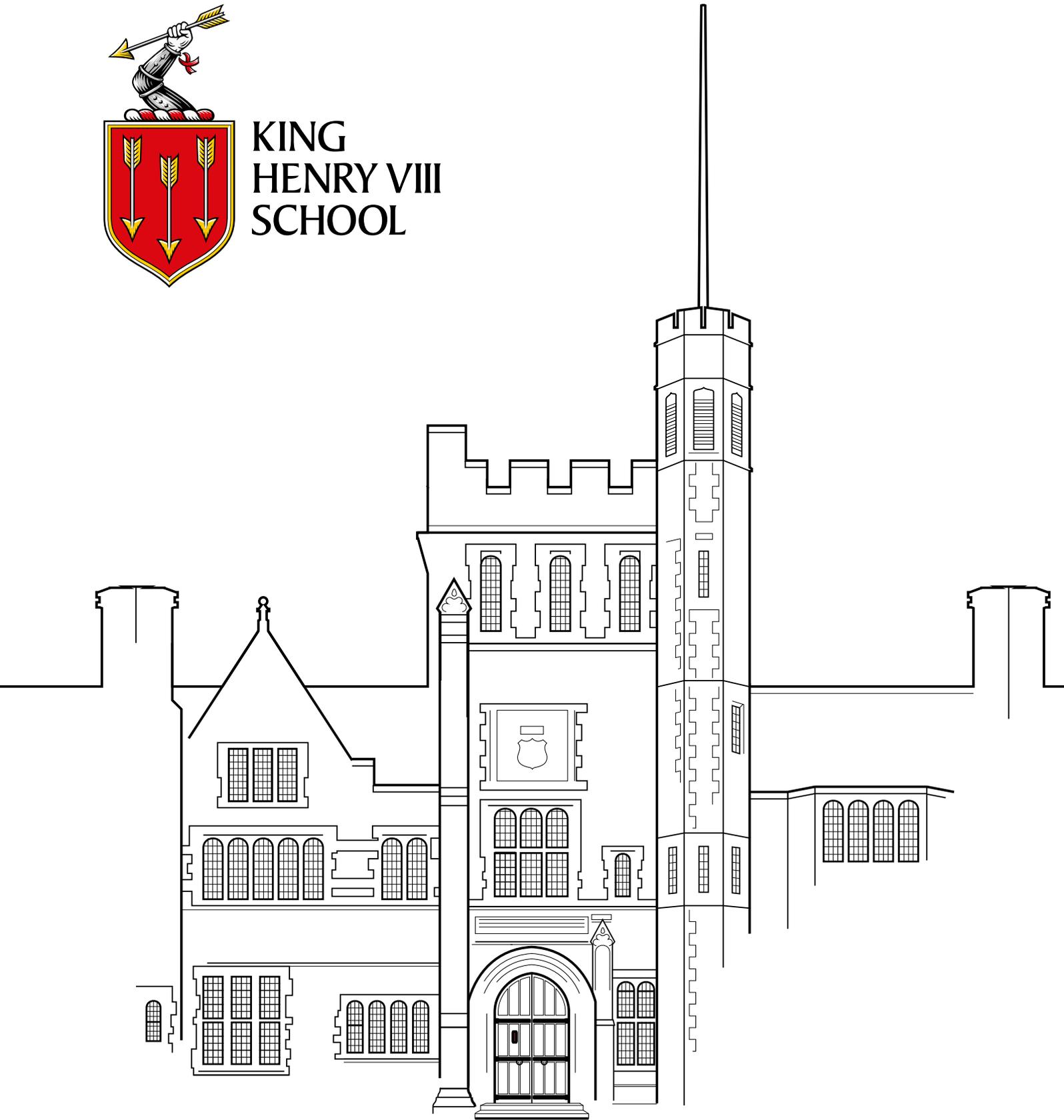




**KING
HENRY VIII
SCHOOL**



GCSE Options Booklet

Commencing September 2024



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KEY DATES

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OPTIONS ASSEMBLY

OPTIONS BOOKLETS ISSUED

OPTIONS EVENING

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

GCSE/IGCSE

9 Subjects

Core Examined
Maths
English Language
English Literature

Core Examined
You MUST choose 2 of the following
Biology
Chemistry
Physics

Core Non-Examined
Future Leaders
Games
PE
PHSE

Options (4 choices)
At least 1 language of French, German or Spanish is strongly recommended and expected

French
German
Spanish
Art - Fine Art
Art - Photography
Biology
Chemistry
Classical Civilisation
Computer Science
Food Preparation and Nutrition
Design Technology - Product Design
Drama
Geography
History
Latin
Music
Physical Education (Academic)
Physics
Religious Studies

Examinations - Summer 2026



National Picture

GCSEs were reformed in 2015 with changes to grading, content, and assessment.

These reforms were designed to drive a knowledge rich curriculum. This resulted in GCSEs becoming significantly more content heavy with a narrower and more exam-centric curriculum. Exacerbating this, with the demise of AS levels, GCSEs are now the only standardised academic currency colleges, universities and employers can utilise when differentiating between school applicants until they reach the end of compulsory education.

Consequently, a strong GCSE profile has become more important but harder to achieve. With this in mind and with student wellbeing and achievement at our core, students follow a 9 GCSE curriculum along with the non-examined curriculum, including the Future Leaders super-curricular programme.

Current government regulation requires students to study GCSEs in English, Mathematics and at least two sciences, with a very strong recommendation to study at least one modern foreign language and humanity.

Standard GCSEs had coursework and controlled assessments removed, except in creative and practical subjects, and modules were removed. However, at Henry's some non-creative subjects follow international GCSEs, commonly referred to as iGCSEs, partly because these courses include an element of non-examination based (non-examined) assessment.

Grading has changed from letters to numbers with an enhanced grade 9 higher than the previous A*, a 4 is considered a good pass, and 5 a strong pass, as pictured.

Old Grades	New Grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
D	5 Strong Pass
E	4 Standard Pass
F	3
G	2
U	1
	U





Choosing your GCSEs

Embarking on your GCSE journey is an exciting adventure filled with choices that might seem a bit overwhelming at first, but fear not – it's an opportunity to shape your academic destiny! Picture this as your very own superhero origin story, where you get to decide the superpowers (subjects) that will form your school experience and the future you.

Choosing your GCSEs is a big deal, but you will be fine if you think your options through rationally, consider the guidance offered to you and make decision for the right reasons. Think of it as building your own unique playlist of subjects- exploring the different subjects and combinations, discuss your options with friends and family, and let the possibilities swirl then settle in your mind.

Our golden rule: no panicking allowed! It's difficult to go wrong as we have spent a long time curating a core curriculum, option choices and guidance to prevent anyone making an imbalanced choice. Take your time, gather information, investigate, consider you're potential options objectively and try to avoid being influenced by your friend's choices. What is right for them will not necessarily be right for you. Oh, and remember to consider how subjects are assessed - this is quite important. Some subjects only have written exams, others have no written exams at all, whilst others have a mix. You will find this information in the subject specific pages that follow. Don't forget the magic of a good night's sleep – let those decisions simmer in your dreams before locking them in.

Future careers might not be buzzing in your brain just yet, but your GCSE choices are like unlocking secret levels in a video game, keeping doors open to all sorts of possibilities for life after GCSEs, whether it be A Levels, university, apprenticeships or the world of work.

As you step into this two-year quest, don't forget to seek guidance from wise sages – talk it out with teachers, parents, and Mrs Pike (our legendary Careers Advisor). Share your thoughts with older students and tap into the peer support network. But always remember, these are your options. The decisions are yours to make, so choose the subjects that ignite your passion and commitment.

Your GCSE adventure awaits – time to grasp and create your future how you want it.

Choosing your GCSE subjects

Deciding which subjects to take as GCSEs can be tricky. However, rest assured, the compulsory subjects you study and the breadth they give, guards against a poor choice. Provided you are choosing subjects that reflect your abilities and interests you won't go far wrong!

Your decisions about which subjects to take will inevitably be influenced by your strengths and interests. This is basically sensible because ability and motivation are vitally important in ensuring success. Taking subjects you are good at and/or enjoy often means you will gain higher grades overall, increasing the range of options available to you at post-16. You may also have a more enjoyable time in school during your studies.

You should also be looking to try to achieve a balance in your choices, to keep options open. It may help to think not simply in terms of what knowledge your subjects will give you but also the skills and techniques which they will develop – your chosen subjects should build up a range of transferable skills – in other words, skills which can be used across a wide variety of occupations, such as critical thinking, verbal and written communication, personal organisation. For example, studying History allows you to learn about historical events but also enables you to develop your analytical, comprehension and essay writing skills; all of which are desirable in careers requiring these skills such as areas of law and business.

Another factor to consider when choosing subjects, is to think whether these are things/skills you wish to take with you as a broader life skill or just for fun. So, you may take Food Technology not because you wish to be a chef but because you wish to be able to cook when you move out of home or live away at university. Perhaps you wish to take Spanish because you plan to travel when older, or you want to show you have the ability to learn a language - ever important in the globalised world we live in- and giving you an advantage over others who may not have a language qualification.

If you are already considering continuing your education in the Sixth Form, then you must remember that the study of many A Levels, although not all, will require you to have taken those subjects to GCSE. Furthermore, if you have some ideas around career areas, you will need to check which subjects are prerequisites. For example, if you are thinking potentially about a medical career, it's worth bearing in mind that some Medical and Dental Schools want to see all 3 sciences at GCSE grade 6/7 and above.

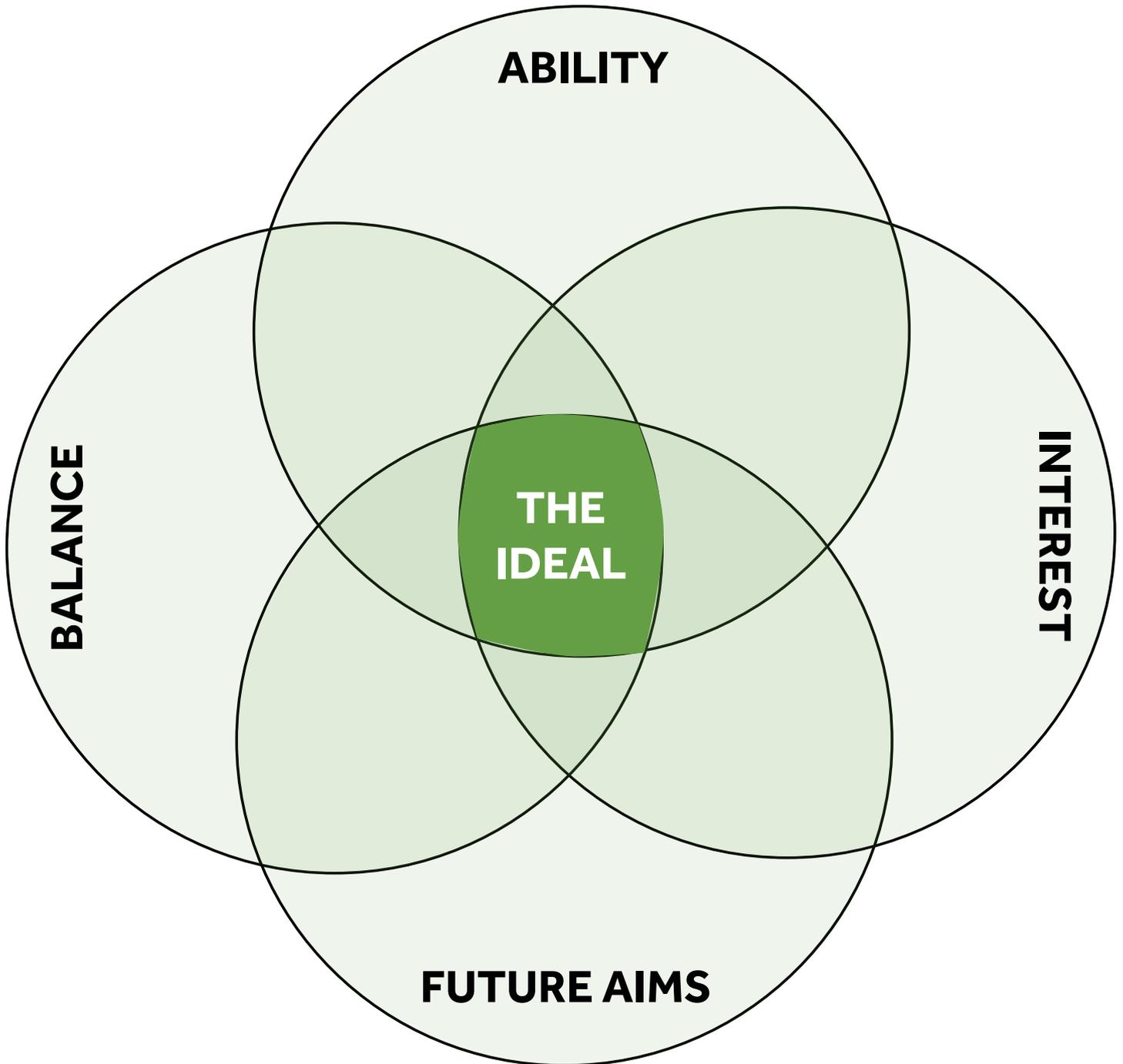
You can explore all of this by using the extensive resources in the Careers Room and by speaking to our Careers Adviser, Mrs Pike, who will happily help you with your research – being curious and exploring what is out there is probably the best thing you can do. However, do remember that you may well change your mind! If you do not have any clear ideas about possible careers, then do not worry – most people your age do not!

There is lots of support and advice available for you. You can speak to individual Heads of Department and subject teachers, older students and Mrs Pike. You may also find the following website useful: [Careers Pilot](#). Mrs Pike will be available exclusively for Year 9 students to talk informally with members of the Year 12 Peer Support Team during lunchbreak, based in tutor rooms:

9AB - 22nd and 31st January | 9SEB - 23rd and 31st January

9NCJ - 24th and 29th January | 9EMK - 26th and 29th January

Main factors to bear in mind



Parents are also welcome to contact Mrs Pike with any questions.

Ultimately, your options decision should be made by you, in consultation with your parents. On no account be influenced by your friends' decisions – your future is far too important and they will not be taking the lessons or the exams for you!

Mrs Pike - spike@csfoundation.org.uk | Tel: 024 7627 1124

Why Study Art?

Art and Design at GCSE level fosters and encourages, through direct personal expression: imagination, conceptual thinking, powers of observation, analytical abilities and practical attitudes/increasingly, people in further education and employers, are realising the values of having skills in a practical subject. You will also have the opportunity to visit galleries and exhibitions to aid with your studies. If you have a love and passion for being creative and want to explore this further by working independently then Art and Design could be the option for you.

What will I study?

You will use a wide variety of media within the course exploring the creative process and taking inspiration from other creative individuals. You will follow the creative process to build two practical projects based around a chosen theme and use the key skills to refine your work with the guidance of specialist teaching staff.

Key Skills needed

There are many key skills required for Art, however, below there is a snapshot of the attributes required.

- Experimentation with a broad range of materials
- Independence with your own learning
- Intuitive learning
- Higher order thinking creativity
- Critical and analytical theory

Where next?

Art and Design will help you to embark on creative careers such as Animator, Web Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Artist and much more. It will also provide you with key skills that can be directly linked to a variety of different career opportunities.



Examination Info:
Exam Board : OCR
GCSE
Course Code : J171
60% *Personal Portfolio*
40% *Examination*
Internally assessed
Externally moderated

Why Study Photography?

Photography & lens based media are becoming more widely used in today's digital world. Photography will enable you to be creative but learn vital digital skills with software such as Photoshop. Photography will allow you to explore a creative subject without the need to paint and draw and could offer a balanced curriculum with other academic subjects. Photography will also enable you to analyse the work of other creatives and think critically about their work. If you have a passion for creativity and can work independently then Photography could be a perfect option.

What will I study?

You will learn how to use DSLR cameras and the main software Photoshop within your course, and analyse and take inspiration from the work of other creatives. You will follow the creative process to build two practical projects based around a chosen theme and use the key skills to refine your work with the guidance of specialist teaching staff.

Key Skills needed

There are many key skills required for Photography, including:

- Photographic manipulation and processes
- Independence with your own learning
- Intuitive Learning
- Higher order thinking
- Creativity
- Critical and analytical theory

Where next?

Photography will help you to embark on digital careers such as Marketing, Advertising, Graphic design, Television, Journalism and much more. It will also provide you with key skills that can be directly linked to a variety of different career opportunities.

Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel
GCSE
Course Code : 1PY0
60% Personal Portfolio
40% Examination
Internally assessed
Externally moderated

Why Study Biology?

Have you ever wondered why we are all unique, what your body is made from or how it works? Alternatively, you might be wondering why there are so many species, both past and present that display such amazing variation and live/ lived in a diverse range of ecosystems? Biology is the study of life from the molecules that make up organisms to the complex interactions that exist between them and their environment. It is all around us and by studying Biology you will develop an excellent insight into the living World and the part that humans have to play.

What will I study?

The course covers a wide range of theoretical topics ranging from biological molecules and enzymes, levels of organisation and the functions of different organs in both plants and animals to the study of different organisms in their ecosystems. Practical work is an important and essential part of the course and fully supports the development of theoretical understanding.

Key Skills needed

You will build on skills acquired in Science lessons in years 7-9 including practical skills such as being able to follow a method, data analysis skills such as table/ graph drawing and completing calculations. Good organisational skills and an excellent attitude to learning will enable success in Biology.

Where next?

IGCSE Biology provides an excellent foundation to A Level. Following this, students can go on to read a variety of Biology related courses at university. There are currently many exciting Biology linked career opportunities available that will enable you to use the skills learned effectively to make a real difference in the future.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Pearson Edexcel
iGCSE
Course Code : 4BI1
2 Written Papers

Why Study Chemistry?

Chemistry is an exciting subject and is fundamental to our future. We are surrounded by chemicals and chemical processes and it plays a role in everyone's lives. From the air we breathe and the food we eat, to our health, and the clothes, shelter and energy we need, chemistry is crucial. Studying chemistry can lead to discoveries and creations that can improve our lives, such as new medicines and sustainable materials that will help protect and preserve our world.

What will I study?

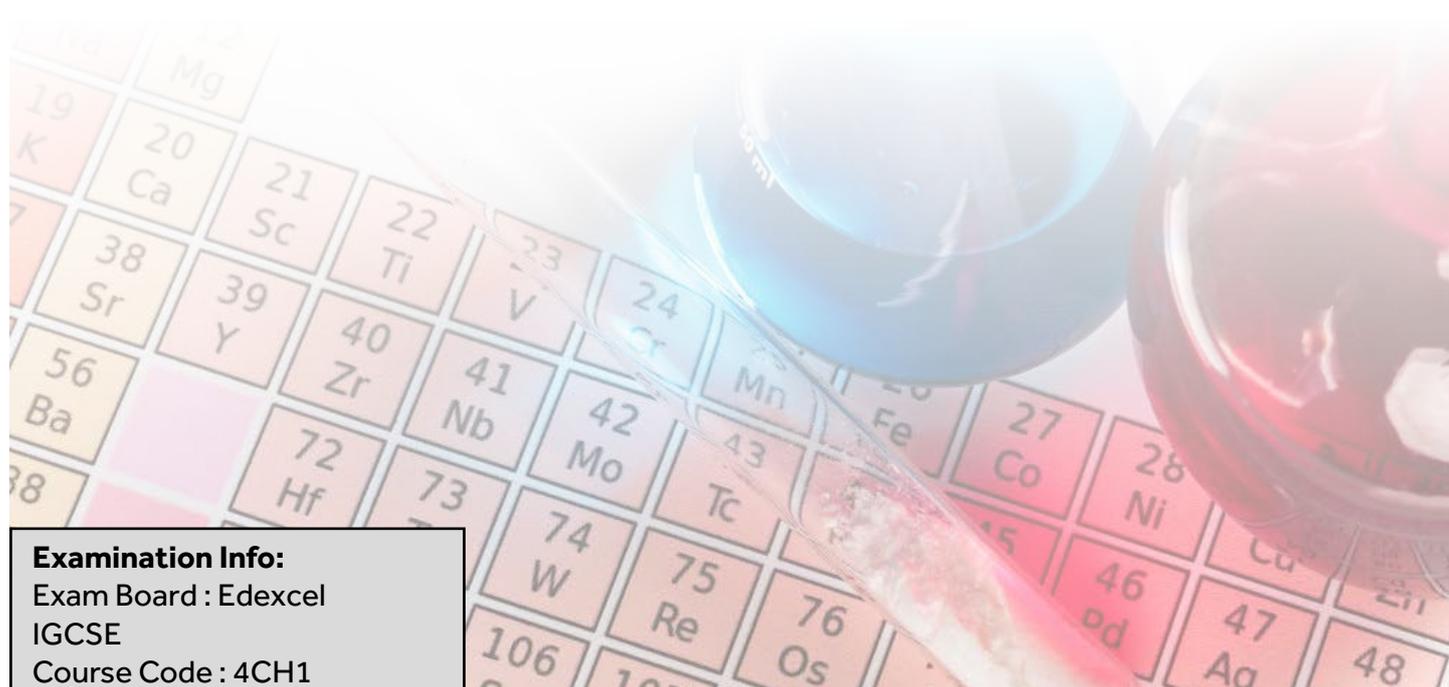
You will learn how to problem solve and think analytically. Through plenty of practical work your observation and evaluative skills will also develop and you will gain confidence in handling chemicals and complex apparatus. Topics studied include: atomic structure & bonding, rates of reaction, the chemistry of elements, acids and organic chemistry.

Key Skills needed

A desire to understand the world we live in and how things work. Lots of curiosity, diligence and enthusiasm is vital!

Where next?

This subject is vital if you want to go on to study Medicine or other medical and science related degrees. It also gives you valuable skills needed for a wide range of other degrees, apprenticeships and careers.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel
IGCSE
Course Code : 4CH1
2 Written Papers

Why Study Classical Civilisation?

Do you like the ancient world? Are you interested in learning more about the Romans, Greeks and other cultures? Classical Civilisation is like a Latin lesson but with the language taken out. If you enjoyed learning about Pompeii, the Trojan War or Egypt, then this is the subject for you. Not many people do this subject nationally so you'll stand out to universities and employers (as well as being great to have in quiz teams!). You'll develop lots of skills and we guarantee you'll never be bored in a Classical Civilisation lesson.

What will I study?

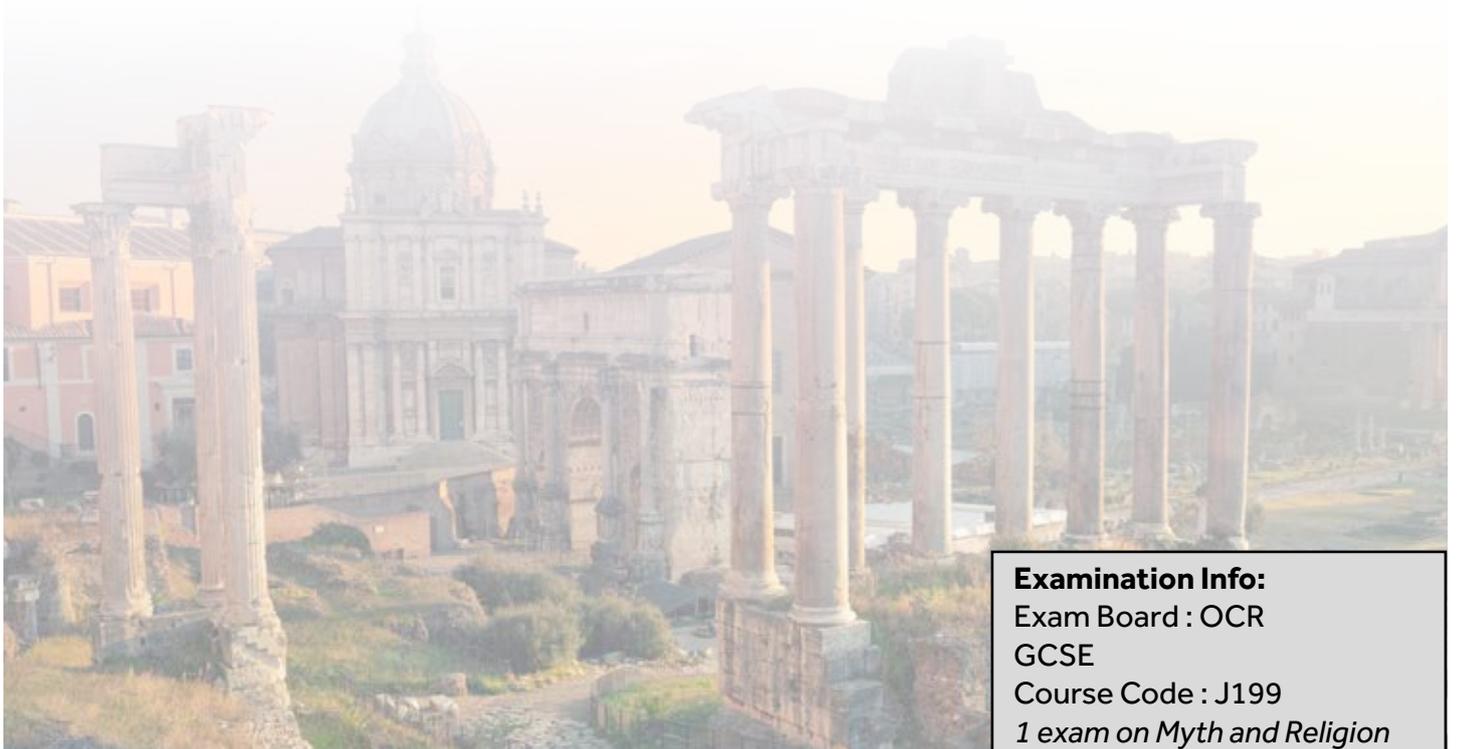
One module contains the Greek and Roman heroes you'll have heard of like Hercules and Theseus as well as some you won't know. You'll study ancient buildings like the Parthenon and weird festivals like the Lupercalia. The other module looks back to the Mycenaeans and their culture while also studying the Odyssey, Homer's epic about Odysseus' return from Troy.

Key Skills needed

You'll undertake source analysis looking at fascinating objects from the ancient world and think about what we can learn from them. You'll practise putting forward arguments and evaluating choices while also making comparisons between people and cultures.

Where next?

"I studied classical civilisations and look what I achieved", Alexander the Great, 324BC. The GCSE leads naturally onto A Level but you'll also develop skills that can be transferred to lots of different subjects and jobs.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : OCR

GCSE

Course Code : J199

1 exam on *Myth and Religion*

1 exam on *The Homeric World*

Why Study Computer Science?

One of the best reasons to study computer science is because computer scientists are needed in every industry in the digital age. You could work in many areas from developing new technology to software fixes and more. You can apply your skills to finding new ways to drive changes in your chosen industry.

It is a dynamic subject that will develop your problem-solving skills and challenges you every day to think about real-life problems and how to solve them. It will enable you to make a positive difference to the world.

What will I study?

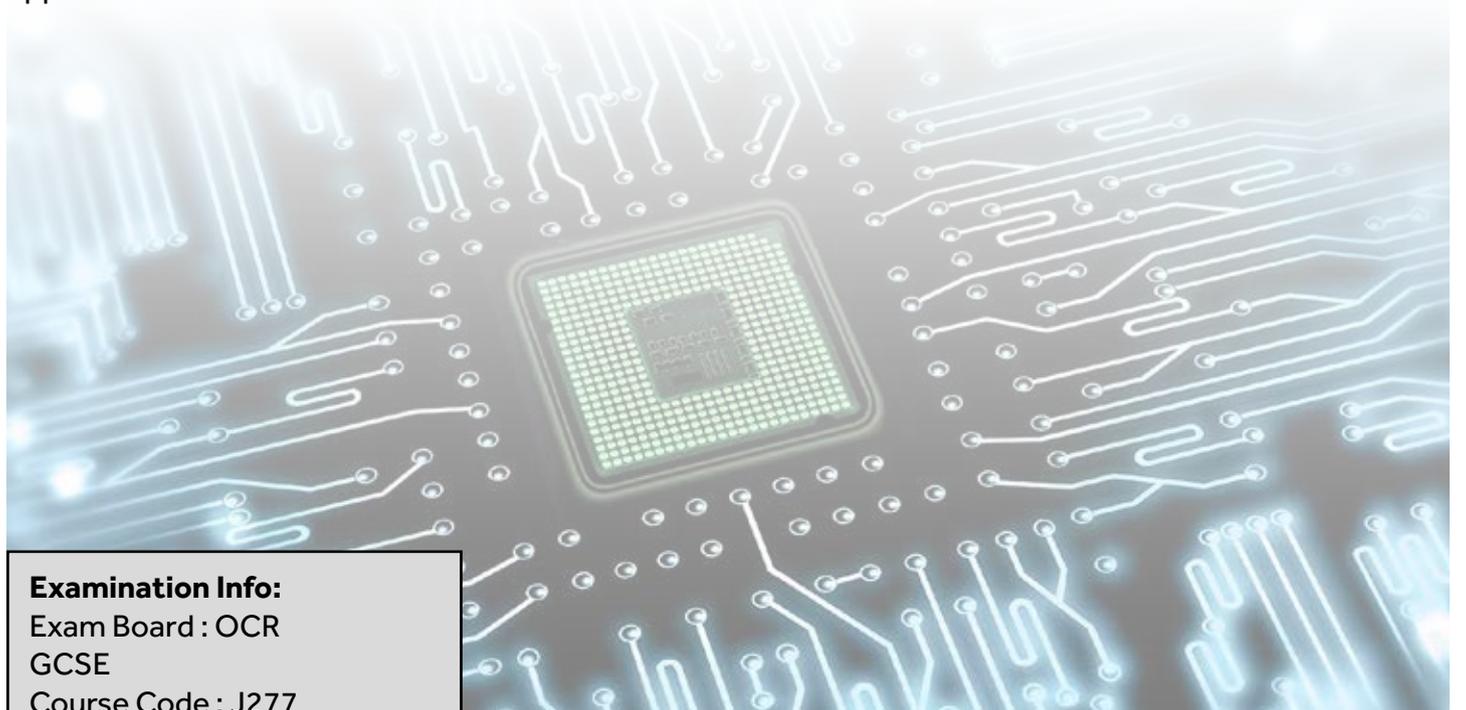
The course requires students to engage and develop their creativity and problem solving. You will look at different components of the computer and how they work, as well as networking, ethics, and legislation. You will also need to analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative programming solutions by designing, writing, testing, and evaluating programs.

Key Skills needed

A strong interest in coding is essential, along with persistence and resilience – computers are very stubborn! Effective communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills will test your ability to collaborate effectively, convey ideas, and approach challenges with a holistic perspective. Critical and logical thinking are key attributes.

Where next?

In Year 12 you have the option of taking A-level Computer Science and developing your own system in a language of your choosing. From there, university or work, you cannot lose with the technology business booming. Computer Science is one of the most in-demand degrees offering an extensive range of career opportunities.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : OCR

GCSE

Course Code : J277

2 Written Papers

Why Study Design Technology?

While the course aims to teach and apply a wide range of practical skills, the emphasis of the subject is firmly focussed on design understanding. You will be expected to explore and communicate creative ideas as well as research, analyse, gain feedback from others and develop innovative solutions. Being able to understand what decisions and implications lie behind design and manufacture is vital for engineering, architecture, product design, retail and the creative industries. With the advances in computer-driven design and rapid prototyping it is an exciting time to immerse yourself in the world of Design and Technology.

What will I study?

This is a demanding and exciting course that combines all aspects of DT including engineering and systems, product design, materials and manufacturing theory, electronics, textiles, CAD/CAM, graphic design, 3D technologies and sustainability; all with practical applications throughout. You will also learn to use a wide range of software, tools and equipment to produce professional products including your own coursework portfolio.

Key Skills needed

Independence. Problem solving. Collaboration. Creative thinking. Sketching and presentation skills. Practical hand tools, manufacturing and machining knowledge. Software and hardware expertise. Project management. Working with clients. Analysing and evaluating. Creating professional portfolios.

Where next?

This is an excellent course to help prepare students for independent problem solving and communication whatever subject route is taken next. It also leads to A-level Product Design and a degree in Engineering, Design or Architecture as well as apprenticeships.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : AQA

GCSE

Course Code : 8552

50% Examination

50% NEA (coursework)

Why Study Drama?

GCSE Drama is a highly practical course through which you will develop your skills to analyse and to make great theatre. Current Drama students will tell you that the course is engaging, stimulating (both practically and intellectually) and also great fun! You opt to work as either an actor or designer - or a combination of the two - which offers you plenty of choice. Employers and universities know that Drama students are collaborative, confident and creative problem solvers. The range of careers former Drama students have moved onto is greatly varied - inside and out of the creative industries!

What will I study?

You will be taught a variety of acting skills and styles and you will learn about elements of design including lighting, sound, set and costume. You then specialise in the areas you wish to be assessed on in two practical projects. This equips you for the written exam in which you analyse a play seen on a theatre trip and suggest creative ideas for staging an extract from a set text.

Key Skills needed

A combination of teamworking and independent learning skills are development. You will develop skills of creativity, problem solving, empathy and presentational abilities. Drama students nurture their natural confidence and excel to the point of offering insight and innovation in their ideas, written and practical work.

Where next?

A Level Drama is offered in Years 12-13. Universities and drama schools offer degrees in Drama and other related courses. A recent DCMS statistic showed 3.3 million people are working in the creative industries in the UK.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : AQA

GCSE

Course Code : 8261

60% Performances & coursework

40% Written examination

Why Study English Language?

English is at the heart of everything we do – it underpins all subjects and all learning. English Language is the study of how we communicate through reading and writing. When used appropriately and effectively, spoken and written words can be incredibly powerful and influential. Examining how a writer uses and manipulates language to present their perspectives together with learning to apply words accurately and meaningfully for different contexts will fully equip you for life and work.

What will I study?

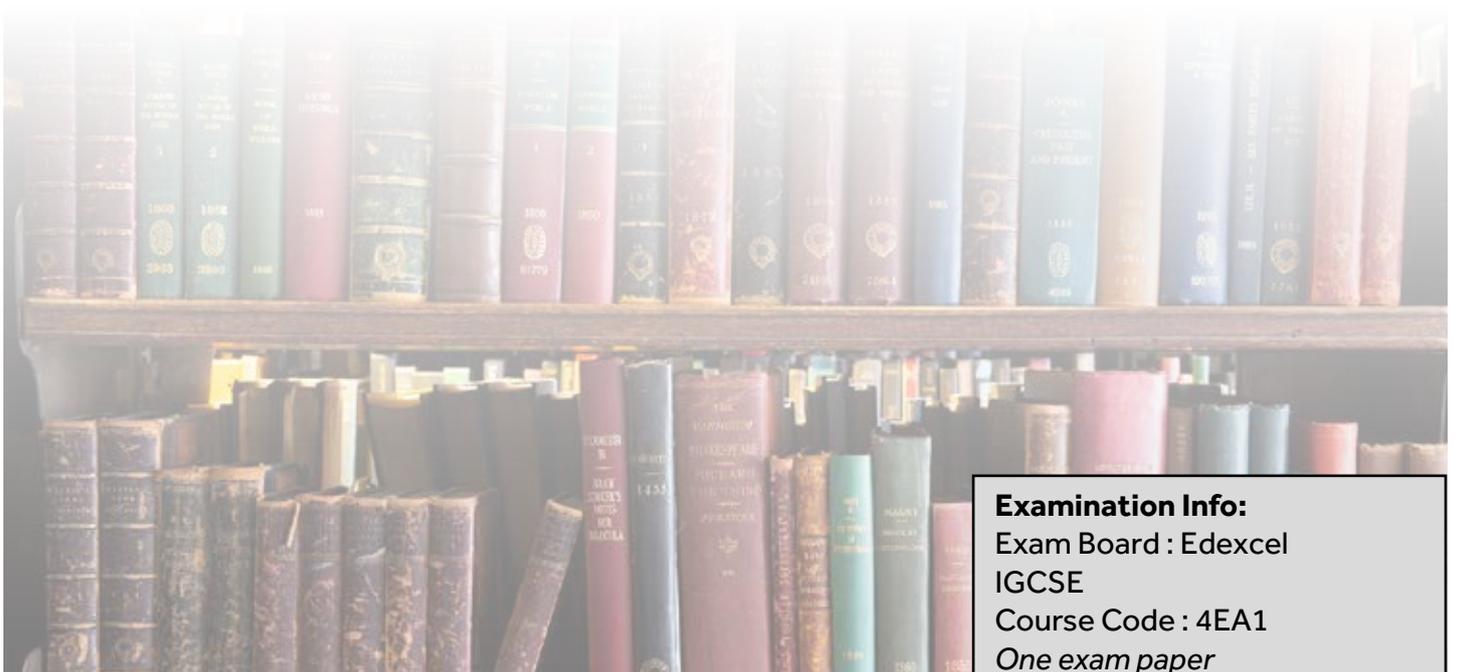
You will read, and analyse, a selection of non-fiction to interpret and deduce the writers' explicit and implicit viewpoints; write imaginatively and appropriately for different audiences and purposes; learn to adapt rhetorical devices, tone and form to write effectively and coherently; broaden your use of vocabulary; use subject terminology and, use varied and accurate punctuation for particular effects.

Key Skills needed

Enthusiasm, curiosity and a proactive approach to how and why writers use language and structure to convey their opinions. English is a discursive subject and more will be gained from having a willingness to engage in discussions about writers' choices.

Where next?

In Year 12, you have the option of studying A Level English Language which is a highly regarded subject as the skills acquired are sought after by various sectors such as marketing, education, journalism and public relations to name just a few.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel

IGCSE

Course Code : 4EA1

One exam paper

Two written coursework essays

Why Study English Literature?

English Literature is the study of how writers use language and structure for a particular purpose in prose, poetry and drama. Your analytical skills are honed such that you will be able to show an ability to handle complex concepts, find patterns and interpret writers' messages all within a historical context. You will be encouraged to think creatively and deeply about society and develop your own interpretations about human behaviour and social influences. The ability to read and interpret in greater depth and appreciation is an essential skill for life and work.

What will I study?

You will read a wide variety of poetry, a novel and two plays to develop your analysis of form, structure and language all while using literary terminology. In addition, you will explore and analyse a writer's use of plot, setting, characterisation and themes. The study of the historical contexts will enable you to discover the social and cultural influences upon the writers' choices.

Key Skills needed

A sincere interest in learning about how texts are constructed to impart meaning. Literature enables the reader to visit places, meet different people, feel joy and suffering and teaches us what makes us human. Thus, a willingness to think carefully and thoughtfully about the text is vital.

Where next?

In Year 12, you have the option of studying A Level English Literature which is a highly regarded subject. Literature teaches us how to live, it mirrors society and explores the human psyche – the study of it can lead to countless career possibilities such as within the law, media, education, government and the health sector.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel

IGCSE

Course Code : 4ET1

One exam paper

Two written coursework essays

Why Study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills and a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and working characteristics of ingredients. Weekly practical sessions build on the foundation culinary skills learnt at KS3 and enhances them. By the end of the 2-year course students will have acquired many techniques and become confident and independent in making even the most technical of dishes such as choux and puff pastry. You will learn essential life skills as well as producing amazing dishes for your friends and family.

What will I study?

The five main theory topic areas are: Nutrition and Health, Food Science, Food Safety, Food Choice and Provenance.

Key Skills needed

Enjoy food and making dishes. Creativity, risk taking, organisation, independence, initiative and be hands on. The weekly practicals will require you to be organised with ingredients.

Where next?

The food industry is a dynamic industry with a demand for quality and variety ever increasing. A background in food studies can lead to many careers in food product development, sports nutrition, dietetics, education, science, chef and TV.



Examination Info:
Exam Board : AQA
GCSE
Course Code : 8585
50% 1 Written paper
50% NEA

Why Study French?

The study of any foreign language in today's world is an invaluable skill, and increasingly so given the global nature of society. In Britain today there is an increasing shortage of modern linguists and as such prospective employees who include a modern language in their skills set are very much sought after. As languages are predominantly a communication skill the ability to converse in another language, indeed to have the confidence to speak in another language, will provide students with the important skills of communication in any given field.

What will I study?

You will: Develop positive attitudes towards modern foreign language learning.

Develop their ability to listen to and understand the spoken French language in a range of contexts and a variety of styles. · Read and respond to different types of written language. · Communicate in writing. · Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures. · Develop effective language learning and communication skills. · Communicate in speech for different purposes. · Acquire a suitable foundation for further study of the target language or another language.

Key Skills needed

- Intercultural understanding.
- Develop the ability to listen to, read and understand the French language in a range of contexts and a variety of styles.
- Communicate using writing and speaking skills.
- Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures.

Where next?

It is worth noting that languages can be combined with a multitude of other disciplines and language students fare extremely well in the job market. France has a world reputation for engineering and the study of French and Physics at A level can lead to exciting career opportunities. French remains the international language of diplomacy.

Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel

IGCSE

Course Code : 4FR1

25% Paper 1 Listening

50% Paper 2 Reading & Writing

25% Paper 3 Speaking

Why Study Geography?

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It's hands on, relevant, and fun. Whatever your passion for the world – fascination with landscapes or concerns about sustainability – geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.

Geography is the science of earth: learning about plate tectonics to climate change to plant and animal adaptations. Geography is humanitarian: understanding of people and how they interact with each other. Geography is practical: with hands on experiences of equipment and visiting places.

What will I study?

Students will learn about Human, Physical and Environmental geographies on a global scale. Students will learn about practical skills and data handling skills. Students will go on local field trips.

Key Skills needed

Students will be taught in a similar way to KS3, just with more topics and greater world geography knowledge. More time is spent on looking at world data & locations. Students need to be keen to learn about the world.

Where next?

Geography is a key subject in life and many employers value it as a subject, but also the skills it allows students to develop into real life situations. Many students take it at A-level and Geography related degrees and apprenticeships.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Cambridge
IGCSE
Course Code : 0976 BY
3 Written Papers

Why Study German?

In today's globalised world a qualification in any foreign language is a huge asset. Currently, less than 4,000 students take an IGCSE/GCSE in German, making it one of the most unique subjects to study. German is the most spoken language in Europe, with over 100 million speakers. German is infamous for long words and a complicated case system, but is also incredibly logical and accessible through the vocabulary similarities with the English language. Careerwise, Germany has one of the largest export markets in the world.

The ability to trade with German companies in their own language is hugely beneficial.

What will I study?

Students will study the topic areas of:

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health

Students will also look at wider cultural identity, traditions and life in Germany in the 21st Century.

Key Skills needed

- Intercultural understanding
- Develop the ability to listen to, read and understand the German language in a range of contexts and a variety of styles
- Communicate using writing and speaking skills
- Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures.

Where next?

We offer the opportunity to continue studies at A level. German Exchange trip to Nuremberg currently runs for Year 9 and 10 students studying German – a chance for students to practise their language skills in an authentic environment.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel

IGCSE

Course Code : 4GN1

20% Paper 1 Listening

50% Paper 2 Reading and Writing

25% Paper 3 Speaking

Why Study History?

Studying GCSE History fosters critical thinking by examining past events, their causes, and their impact on today's world. It cultivates analytical skills, encourages perspective-taking, and nurtures an understanding of economic, societal, political, and cultural developments. History provides insights into human behaviour, teaches lessons from the past, and enables a deeper comprehension of contemporary issues. Additionally, it enhances research skills, refines communication skills, and instils a sense of empathy and tolerance by exploring diverse viewpoints. Ultimately, GCSE History empowers individuals to comprehend the complexities of the world, equipping them to reach informed judgements about significant events in the past.

What will I study?

There are four topics studied at GCSE:

1. America 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality
2. Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939
3. Britain: Health and the people, c1000 to the present day
4. Elizabethan England: c1568-1603

Key Skills needed

The GCSE course builds on the skills and approaches that are developed in Years 7-9. Studying GCSE History involves critical skills including examining and evaluating historical sources and interpretations. It teaches you how to analyse a source's reliability and to interpret various viewpoints, deepening your understanding of the past.

Where next?

With a GCSE or an A Level in History, a student not only gains subject-specific knowledge but also acquires transferable skills in critical thinking, research, analysis and evaluation. History is a highly regarded academic subject, recommended as a 'core' subject by Cambridge to help keep your options open and is one of the 'facilitating subjects' recommended by the Russell Group.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : AQA

GCSE

Course Code : 8145RC

2 Written Papers

Why Study Latin?

Do you like Latin lessons? Latin is a subject that challenges you to think, to analyse, to write and to be organised and logical. Very few people nationally study Latin so you'll stand out to universities and employers. At the same time, you're also reading some of the greatest literature ever written while learning about some of the most influential men and women in history. Why did so many people hate Julius Caesar? How weird were Roman marriage rituals?

What will I study?

The language element is a continuation of what you'll have done at KS3. The stories get more like real Latin and often contain Roman mythology. In literature, you'll study Roman writers and examine ancient sources on a set theme. Some poems are funny, some are sad, some are rude - they're all great.

Key Skills needed

For language, you'll be translating Latin and answering comprehension questions. In literature, you'll say what we can learn from writers and other sources. You'll develop your analytical and writing skills.

Where next?

The sky's your limit. "Doing Latin opens lots of doors and doesn't close any", Julius Caesar 46BC. Latin A Level's like GCSE but with gorier and more grown-up literature. Ex-students who are now doctors and lawyers often say how useful Latin is to them.

Examination Info:

Exam Board : Eduqas

GCSE

Course Code :

90 mins Language exam

75 mins Literature and Sources

60 min Literature Narrative

Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics threads itself through every aspect of your life - from the apps on your phone to the music coming out of it, from the money in your account to the way you spend it. There is no hiding from Mathematics. So equip yourself not only to live in the modern world but to shape it. We will help you become a problem solver and a logical thinker. You gain confidence in handling breaking down multistage problems. You will learn how to apply your skills outside the classroom.

What will I study?

You will learn how to apply Mathematical techniques to a variety of problems, to reason logically and make deductions and conclusions following calculations. You will study concepts in; Number, Algebra, Ratio & Proportion, Geometry & Measure and Statistics & Probability. Students in the top sets have the opportunity to study Additional Further Mathematics.

Key Skills needed

An inquiring mind, a thirst for knowledge and a can do attitude when faced with a challenge. We recommend a Casio Classwiz calculator.

Where next?

In Year 12 you have the option of taking A Level mathematics or Further Mathematics. Mathematics is central to so many fields of study at University or in the wider world of work. High quality Mathematicians are in high demand.



Examination Info:
Exam Board : Edexcel
IGCSE
Course Code : 4MA1
2 Written Papers

Why Study Music?

Music is everywhere – from film, TV, social media through to gigs and concerts, you are surrounded by music. It is engaging and wide-ranging – you will learn a wide variety of skills, both practical and cognitive, and learn about a wide variety of musical styles. Not only that but studies show that musicians perform a whole grade better than their peers across all their academic subjects: music can actually make you smarter!

What will I study?

You will look at a variety of different styles of music and learn some of the techniques used to write them. You will also study composition, working on how to develop ideas, how to create musical structures, how to write for different instruments. Finally, you will work on performance, both solo and ensemble. All these skills feed into each other enabling you to develop into a well-rounded musician.

Key Skills needed

A good level of practical ability: we recommend students are working towards Grade 4 or higher on an instrument or voice at the beginning of Year 10. A solid understanding of music theory: at least grade 3 or equivalent at the beginning of Year 10.

Where next?

A Level music further develops skills GCSE skills and A-level music is considered to be highly desirable by universities as it demonstrates a high level of cognitive and practical ability. Musicians are also exceptional at developing their own skills in non-musical fields.

Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel

GCSE

Course Code : 1MU0

Coursework

(composition & performance)

Written exam

Why Study PRE?

No subject better touches on life in 21st Century Britain than RS. It provides a grounding in the beliefs and systems that continue to be integral to human society worldwide, but the study of Ethics through the subject is invaluable in understanding important and relevant issues in modern life. From a consideration of conflict, crime and other important subjects, to a grounding in key beliefs and practices, the subject provides an opportunity to reflect upon topics that matter to everyone's lives. Also develop your for evaluation, debate and analysis skills to be developed to a truly scholarly level.

What will I study?

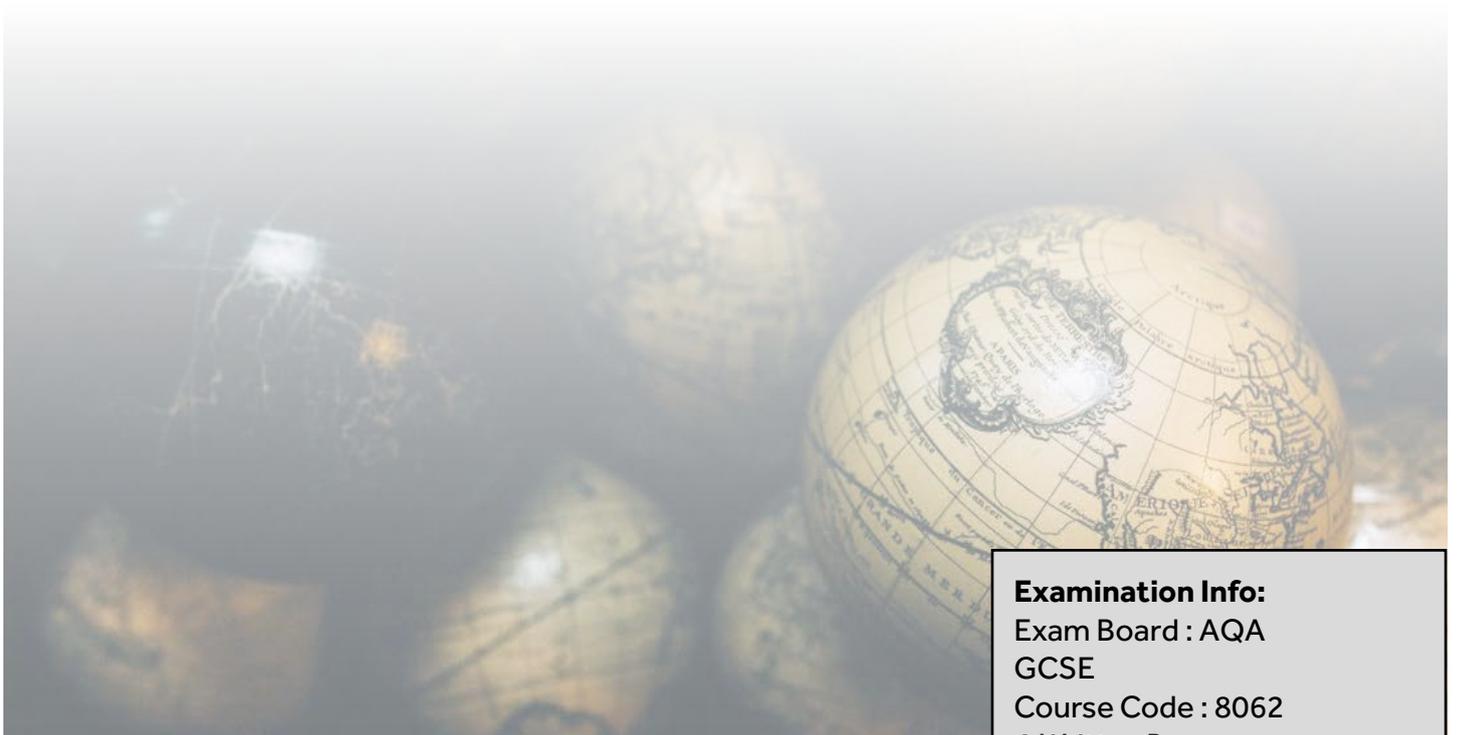
You will study the key beliefs and practices of Christianity and Buddhism in Component 1. In Component 2 there are a variety of ethical topics and different views around them. These are: relationships and families, life, including issues such as the environment and euthanasia, peace and conflict, crime and punishment.

Key Skills needed

The ability to consider issues and evaluate and analyse their key considerations. Argument and justification skills are vital, as well as the ability to apply knowledge to concepts and issues.

Where next?

In Year 12 and 13, there is the opportunity to study A Level Religious Studies, which is a very popular choice and is one which lends itself well to pursuing study in areas such as Law and Medicine, amongst others.



Examination Info:
Exam Board : AQA
GCSE
Course Code : 8062
2 Written Papers

Why Study Physical Education?

Physical Education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-examined assessment component, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the application of the theory, learn how to improve your performance.

What will I study?

Physical Education is learned through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and other's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people out perform others, both mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and also gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

Key Skills needed

Like any good sports performer - decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking, acting and reacting under pressure.

Where next?

In Year 12, A Level in PE or it can take you much further into Psychology or Sociology. However, this is also an excellent additional qualification for those undertaking the sciences with the intention to move through into medicine or physiotherapy routes.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : OCR

GCSE

Course Code : J587

2 Written Papers

Non-Examination assessment

3 Practical activities

1 Written coursework

Why Study Physics?

GCSE Physics helps students to develop curiosity about the natural world, give them an insight into how science works, and to appreciate its relevance to their everyday lives. The course is designed to develop students ability to think critically about scientific evidence and gain an understanding of the key elements of Physics. As a STEM subject it is highly regarded by higher education institutes and employers.

What will I study?

Students develop a broad knowledge of physics covering force and motion, electricity, waves, energy sources and transfers, solids liquids and gases, electromagnetism, nuclear physics, and astrophysics.

Key Skills needed

Students will develop their ability to think logically through problems. They will develop their practical skills so they can carry out experiments in order to obtain reliable data. Physics develops their ability to present information and interpret data.

Where next?

Physics can lead to many career options in the aerospace, climate science, engineering, renewable energy, robotics and finance sectors. Physics GCSE also covers content and develops skills that are useful for those studying medicine and dentistry.

**Examination Info:**

Exam Board : Edexcel

IGCSE

Course Code : 4PH1

2 Written Papers

Why Study Spanish?

Spanish is the fastest growing language in the world making this qualification a fantastic investment to broaden your horizons and open doors on a global level. Spain and as many as 20 other Spanish speaking countries have thriving sectors in tourism, international business, astronomy, film-making and beyond! A languages GCSE gives you a well respected qualification whilst developing your communication skills, enhancing your memory power and understanding of your own language and opening up a whole world of cinema, literature and music for you to enjoy.

What will I study?

- Home and abroad
- Education and employment
- Personal life and relationships
- The world around us
- Social activities, fitness and health

Students will also look at wider cultural identity, traditions and life in Spanish speaking countries in the 21st Century

Key Skills needed

- Intercultural understanding
- Develop the ability to listen to, read and understand the Spanish language in a range of contexts and a variety of styles
- Communicate using writing and speaking skills
- Understand and apply a range of vocabulary and structures

Where next?

In the future you are likely to find yourself working in an multilingual environment. Languages can be combined with a multitude of other disciplines and having a Spanish GCSE will open many doors. Spain has a world reputation for its progress in renewable energy. As a specialist or being part of sustainability projects, you could be on the leading edge of an industry sharing it's expertise around the world.



Examination Info:

Exam Board : Edexcel

GCSE

Course Code : 4SP1

2 Written Papers

GCSE/IGCSE

9 Subjects

Core Examined

Maths
English Language
English Literature

Core Examined

You must choose 2 of the following

	Biology
	Chemistry
	Physics

Core Non-Examined

Future Leaders
Games
PE
PHSE

Options (4 choices)

You are strongly recommended to take at least 1 language

	French
	German
	Spanish
	Art
	Biology
	Chemistry
	Classical Civilisation
	Computer Science
	Food Preparation and Nutrition
	Design Technology
	Drama
	Geography
	History
	Latin
	Music
	Physical Education (Academic)
	Physics
	Religious Studies

Notes

Subject: _____

PROS	CONS

Subject: _____

PROS	CONS

Subject: _____

PROS	CONS



Subject: _____

PROS	CONS

Subject: _____

PROS	CONS

Subject: _____

PROS	CONS

JANUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

OPTIONS ASSEMBLY

OPTIONS BOOKLETS ISSUED

OPTIONS EVENING

PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

FEBRUARY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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