



Archbishop Temple
Church of England High School

GCSE
OPTIONS
2024

A message from the Headteacher

January 2024

Dear Year 9 pupil,

Making your option choices will be the first time you have been given any real say in what you study. This can be quite exciting, but it can also be a little daunting. This booklet is designed to help you make an informed decision about the best options for your study in the next two years. It includes details of the compulsory subjects which you will be taking, as well as all the subjects where you have a choice.

There will be core subjects that you will have to continue studying, but you will also be asked to choose **FOUR** option subjects, which should be subjects you enjoy and find interesting. Within those option subjects you will have one guided choice and three free choices.

At Archbishop Temple Church of England High School we think it's very important to support you making these decisions, so you will be invited to an Options & Careers Evening on Thursday 1st February with your parent/carer where teachers from all subject areas will be available to talk through the GCSE courses they teach.

You will hear this many times in the next few weeks, but please bear in mind:-
Good reasons for choosing a subject are:

- I enjoy this subject;
- I'm good at this subject and therefore likely to do well;
- the career I'm interested in values this subject.

Bad reasons are:

- it's the same subject my friend is doing;
- I like the teacher I've got this year;
- a member of my family says I ought to (even though I don't like the subject).

As with any important decision in life the better informed you are, the better the final decision will be, so please take the time to read this information, and don't hesitate to talk things through with your parent/carer, your teachers by email and other pupils in Years 10 and 11. However, at the end of the day, the decision is yours, and yours alone.

I wish you every success in this important step into your future.



Ivan Catlow
Headteacher

Compulsory GCSE Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Science
- Core PE

GCSE English Language – Eduqas exam board

"English Language is used worldwide to communicate effectively. It plays a vital role in developing your skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, which are essential in real life situations."

Jess, Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

All pupils study aspects of English Language and Literature during Years 10 and 11. Pupils will be entered for two qualifications: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature with Eduqas.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English Language encourages learners to demonstrate the skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, precisely and appropriately, express themselves creatively and imaginatively, and use language to participate effectively in society and employment.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is fully linear with 100% examination assessment at the end of Year 11.

Pupils will complete two examinations:

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing (1 hour and 45 minutes)
40% of qualification

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional / Persuasive Writing (2 hours) 60% of qualification

For more information contact:
Mr S Stringfellow



GCSE **English Literature** – Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

English Literature involves thoughtful study and analysis of novels and plays. Pupils will also study one Shakespeare play and a range of poetry from the literary canon.

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

The study of English Literature provides not only a rewarding challenge and opportunity to read for pleasure, but also the foundation of a critical and cultural awareness that will remain with pupils for life. It is our goal to instil the critical ability to recognise and thoughtfully comment on the literary uses of language, which in turn allows pupils to fully explore the human and philosophical dimensions of great literary works.

The true importance of this course is the fact that it encompasses many disciplines – history, psychology, sociology, linguistics and politics, to name a few – and seeks to cultivate general skills that will enhance pupils' ability to write, communicate, research, and ultimately, think.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is fully linear with 100% examination assessment at the end of Year 11.

Pupils will complete two examinations:

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry (2 hours) 40% of qualification

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose or Drama, 19th Century Prose, and Unseen Poetry (2 hours and 30 minutes) 60% of qualification

For more information contact:

Mr S Stringfellow

"English Literature really helps to develop both your analytical skills and emotional intelligence. There is a constant presence of 'big questions' that look deep into how we, as people, think and behave. During your GCSE course you will have the opportunity to respond to these 'big questions' in a personal and perceptive way, whilst also demonstrating your appreciation of classic literary texts. No other subject gives you that freedom and opportunity."
Rowan, Year 11 pupil



GCSE Mathematics – Edexcel exam board

"The maths course is hard but it gives you a sense of achievement when you finally understand it. When faced with extremely hard questions, hard work and determination can help you be successful and with practice, you can overcome your fear of tricky questions."
Liam, Year 11 pupil

"Maths is very logical, therefore if you put the hard work and effort in, you will achieve the grade you want."
Libby, Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

All pupils study mathematics in Years 10 and 11. They follow a two-year course, which leads to the GCSE award. The course is delivered in a linear fashion and is split into two tiers; Foundation and Higher, with the majority of pupils here studying at the Higher level.

All pupils study four areas of mathematics; Number, Algebra, Shape Space and Measure, and Data Handling. This allows pupils to see how concepts are applied and develop a deepening of their understanding of the role of Mathematics in day-to-day living.

WHY STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics encourages learners to develop problem-solving skills. It provides a suitable basis for progression to further study or go directly into employment, as the course allows pupils to see the relevance of the subject within the wider world. In an increasingly technological world, mathematics underpins a wide range of careers. Pupils develop analytical and decision-making skills, which are skills valued in the world of business and finance.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The examination at the end of Year 11 consists of a non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. Pupils enter either Higher tier (grades 9-5) or Foundation tier (grades 5-1). Pupils are expected to apply mathematics rather than simply demonstrate a mechanical process. It is vitally important that pupils are aware that they will need to recall and use skills that they have been taught lower down the school. We expect pupils to have already secured basic knowledge and thus apply this to a host of new concepts / topics. There is no controlled assessment, however, there is regular assessment to ensure pupils are on track and progressing towards their target.

For more information contact: **Mr S O'Leary**

GCSE Religious Studies – AQA exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

When your child commences the study of GCSE RE, they will be embarking upon a GCSE course which has been chosen to reflect our status as a Church school that welcomes pupils of other faiths. The course will examine core beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam as well as social issues from the perspective of religious belief and practice. For example, when considering the issue of crime and punishment, pupils will consider what responses are made by society as well religious responses. Considerations such as the difference between sin and crime and when a crime is not a sin, or a sin is not a crime are also investigated. This approach, using teachings from Christianity and Islam, ensures that GCSE RE is exciting, informative and engages young people's minds.

"GCSE RE helps us to widen our understanding of different religions and beliefs leading to a diverse and deeper understanding of others' faith, as well as our own. It also helps us to shine God's light through faith, nurture and service".

Connor and Dion,
Year 10 pupils

WHY STUDY RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

The course provides pupils with an excellent opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of key religious issues that will impact upon their adult lives. It is a good foundation for the post 16 study of religious studies, philosophy and/or sociology and also lays a good foundation for those wishing to pursue careers that involve working with others.

"RE helps students develop their understanding of beliefs and values of different religions. It allows students to express their opinions through different learning experiences and across a range of topics. There are many discussions in RE, as well as opportunities to develop your writing skills."

Shyah, Year 10 pupil

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed through two written examinations each worth 50% of the overall assessment.

For more information contact: **Miss R Hall**



GCSE Science – AQA exam board

"Science is a great subject at GCSE as it teaches you a variety of interesting topics, mostly built off knowledge from KS3. All that you learn will develop your understanding of the world around you, opening up loads more opportunities when looking for jobs later in life. With a mixture of cool practicals and written work, science is a brilliant subject to learn."

Anna, Year 11 pupil

"Choosing triple science is a good option to take because it builds on what you've learnt in KS3 science. It's also really interesting and useful for the future because colleges and employers value it highly. With lots of cool experiments and investigations, it's a really fun subject"

Eryk, Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Combined Science (Double Award) is offered to pupils who have achieved well in previous tests but who would struggle with Triple Award content. It is taught separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics, but with less content than Triple Award, so receives two GCSE qualifications in Science. This is the course the majority of pupils in the UK follow.

Separate Sciences are an option subject and pupils are invited to apply by the Science Department based on their suitability for the course using assessments and teacher professional judgement. This course is taught separately as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This results in three separate graded GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

WHY STUDY SCIENCE?

The Science Department is committed to preparing pupils for a rapidly changing world. We seek to enhance scientific thinking such as hypothesising, observing and evaluation, as well as delivering an essential body of core knowledge. Pupils will find the practical work engaging where they will develop many 'hands on' skills along with the more obvious qualities of teamwork and communication.

Scientists are in huge demand in the real world, as we need people who have an understanding of what goes on around them; Doctors, Vets, Engineers & Astronomers to name a few.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Whether pupils are studying Separate Sciences or Double Award Science, each separate exam consists of examinations in each of the Science disciplines i.e. Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Pupils are also expected to complete a defined list of required practicals within each discipline and this will then be assessed through the final examination. All examinations will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

For more information contact: **Mr R McGee**

List A GCSE Subjects

Pupils to take at least one subject from the following:

- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- History
- Spanish
- Triple Science

GCSE **Computer Science** – OCR exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Computer Science will allow pupils to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the KS3 curriculum.

Examples of some of the areas to be studied include;

- Computer Systems - covering how hackers attack computers and how they can be protected, discovering how computers work and the impact that they have on the real world.
- Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – experiencing programming and making new software, solving logical problems.

WHY STUDY COMPUTER SCIENCE?

The GCSE Computer Science course is designed to remain highly relevant in the dynamic and ever-evolving realm of IT and computer science. It offers numerous collaborative opportunities, fostering creativity, innovation, and excitement. Students engage in problem-solving challenges, exploring avenues to effect positive change in the world through the application of computer science.

In the future, virtually every profession will incorporate a computing component, making a foundation in computer science essential for pursuing diverse careers such as in film, finance, healthcare (NHS), journalism, manufacturing, music, or security. Whether conceiving the next groundbreaking app, collaborating with climate scientists, or devising ways to enhance medicine, the possibilities for students are limitless.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are two exam components to GCSE Computer Science, each worth 50%.

1. Component 1: Computer Systems
2. Component 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

For more information contact: **Mrs H McLean**

“Computer Science allows me to learn new advancing technology. I hope to work as a special effects editor, I believe Computer Science is important as in the future most jobs and careers will be based around tech which will open more opportunities.”
Ellie, Year 11 pupil

“I believe that computer science is fun to learn about as you learn all about the different parts of computer hardware. Programming is fun, and you can take problems into your own hands and find solutions to overcome them.”
Harry, Year 11 pupil



GCSE **French** – Edexcel exam board

"I love studying French at GCSE because I love learning about how another language works and knowing French will give me the freedom to travel and work abroad in the future."

Wiktorcia, Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Pupils opting for French will have the opportunity to build upon the language skills they have already learnt in KS3.

The six themes we will cover are My personal world; Lifestyle and wellbeing; My neighbourhood; Media and technology; Studying and my future and Travel and tourism.

The work pupils do in French also compliments other subjects on the curriculum such as English Language, Geography and Citizenship.

WHY STUDY FRENCH?

The interest in taking up a language later on in life has also increased dramatically over recent years with many people now moving to France to live and work. These language learners will confirm that younger people have fewer barriers to learning a language in comparison, which makes learning French relatively easier at an earlier stage.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The GCSE course will be assessed by four formal exams at the end of Year 11 in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each of these will be worth 25% of the overall GCSE grade. Part of the Listening and Reading exams will be in English and the other part will be entirely in French. Pupils will also be expected to be competent in translation into both languages. There will be no coursework or controlled assessment.

For more information contact: **Mrs L Jimenez**



GCSE **Geography** – AQA exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The course covers a huge breadth of topics to inspire every Geographer. From tectonics to global biomes, to economic growth and the design of mega-cities, plus a field visit to Iceland as an amazing opportunity to experience the raw power of the planet. Fieldwork takes place on two occasions in Year 10 and 11.

The skills element covers fieldwork and an issues evaluation, that allows pupils to be creative and implement problem solving skills in a real-life situation.

WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?

Geography is the key to understanding our place in the World. It is a diverse and fascinating subject that is relevant to our everyday lives, that develops useful skills in the workplace. It inspires us to make a difference in the World and to look for creative solutions in the face of change. In understanding human interactions with the planet at a variety of levels, geographers are open-minded team-players that can make balanced and informed decisions; key for any future career!

Topics are current and ever changing; case studies give you a clear understanding of the challenges affecting us and most importantly how we respond to these changes as a global community. Geography is practical, yet an academic qualification that allows you to learn new skills. Emphasis on applied understanding of theory means that your opinions and judgements are key to being awarded the highest grade. It is a well-respected qualification for colleges and universities, and employers in engineering, law, town planning, emergency services, international businesses, the Civil Service and the Armed Forces.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

3 external examinations: Paper 1: Physical Geography (Natural Hazards, Living World, Physical Landscapes of the UK); Paper 2: Human Geography (Urban issues, Economic World, Resource Management), Paper 3: Skills and Geographical Applications.

For more information contact: **Mrs S Thompson**

"I really enjoy Geography because I get to learn about the world around me"

Ivan, Year 10 pupil

"I chose geography because it inspires me to make a difference as we learn about the drastic changes to the climate and its possible impacts on us"

Sasha, Year 10 pupil



Field visit to Iceland
Kerio Volcanic Crater

GCSE History – AQA exam board

"I'm glad I picked history as a GCSE option, because it's one of the most interesting subjects. It is unlike any other subject and you get to learn something new every lesson!"
Liv, Year 10 Pupil

"I am glad I picked history as a GCSE option as it has meant I have developed a better understanding of past events and how they have impacted how we live today in society. It is a lot different to history in KS3 than my GCSEs history course in that we go deeper into the reasoning and causes".
Jessica, Year 10 pupil

"I am very happy with my selection of history as I learn why the world is as it is today and I get to learn about how it was before I was born. Also I really enjoy history lessons as I feel as though I am always involved in them and that it is very interesting to learn about."
Addison, Year 10 Pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The curriculum builds on the skills and knowledge of KS3 and we engage pupils in active lessons. Pupils enjoy collaborative learning as well as developing independence in their studies. At Key Stage 4, the History Department offers a GCSE course which has two main sections: understanding the modern world and shaping the nation, within this we will cover topics ranging from the Magna Carta to Nazi Germany. All pupils taking History will be offered an opportunity to take part in a variety of field trips, including the chance to go to Berlin and a three day visit to Krakow and Auschwitz Concentration Camp.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is about the most interesting thing in the world; real people. Studying History can inform the present and prepare you for the future, and if you want to understand the events and trends of today, you have to research yesterday. As one of the most popular option choices in school, History is a highly respected academic subject which has a record of very high achievement at Archbishop Temple Church of England High School. Apart from being interesting, History is very useful as employers value the skills you learn.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Two exams at the end of Year 11 account for 100% of the final mark.

Paper 1 covers Hitler's Germany and the causes of World War One and Two (50%).

Paper 2 covers a thematic study of how power has changed over time in Britain and Elizabethan England (50%).

For more information contact: **Miss V Walsh**



GCSE **Spanish** – Edexcel exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

Pupils opting for Spanish will have the opportunity to build upon the language skills they have already learnt in KS3.

The six themes we will cover are My personal world; Lifestyle and wellbeing; My neighbourhood; Media and technology; Studying and my future and Travel and tourism.

The work pupils do in Spanish also compliments other subjects on the curriculum such as English Language, Geography and PSHE.

WHY STUDY SPANISH?

With 329 million native speakers, Spanish ranks as the world's No. 2 language in terms of how many people speak it as their first language, making Spanish slightly ahead of English (328 million).

Over the last few years the uptake of Spanish GCSE has increased dramatically at Archbishop Temple Church of England High School. This, we hope, is due both to the excellent results students have achieved with us and the increased enjoyment/involvement in MFL lessons, especially at KS4.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The GCSE course will be assessed by four formal exams at the end of Year 11 in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each of these will be worth 25% of the overall GCSE grade. Part of the Listening and Reading exams will be in English and the other part will be entirely in Spanish. Pupils will also be expected to be competent in translation into both languages. There will be no coursework or controlled assessment.

For more information contact: **Mrs L Jimenez**

"I really want to travel and work abroad in the future which is why I definitely wanted to study Spanish. The lessons are fun and interactive and you learn something new each time"

Jack, Year 11 pupil

List B GCSE and Vocational (Level 2) Subjects

Pupils can take up to three subjects from the following:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Music
- PE GCSE
- Sports Studies
- Technology – GCSE
 - Technology Resistant Materials
 - Technology Graphic Products
 - Technology Fashion & Textile Design

GCSE Art and Design – AQA exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

You will begin the course with short, workshop style lessons that recap skills, techniques, processes and the handling of materials learnt at Key Stage 3 but with more complexity and challenge to secure this knowledge. You will then complete a sustained investigation (sketchbook project) inspired by a starting point (theme). Starting points are your initial source of inspiration and can differ each year. Previous starting points have included Food, Fantastic and Strange, Under the Sea and Portraiture. This portfolio of work is 60% of your overall GCSE grade. The exam board determines the starting point of your second sustained topic via the non-examination assessment, which is issued in January of Year 11 running through to Easter. You will select one of the starting points issued by the exam board and will create a body of work inspired by this in the process of working towards and developing a final personal response artwork(s). This body of work is 40% of your overall GCSE grade.

"Art allows me to be creative and my own artist. It is the best way to be expressive both with colour and texture. Art puts things into perspective. Lessons are fun and enjoyable. Truly a good subject."

Year 11 pupil

"Art enables you to explore a variety of styles and artists and to create a portfolio that can be shown to future employers. For me it has opened many doors and enabled me to push many boundaries."

Year 11 pupil

WHY STUDY ART AND DESIGN?

GCSE Art and Design provides an immersive environment for students to express themselves creatively and harness their interest in fine art. Students are taught a comprehensive artistic curriculum to equip them with a thorough knowledge and skills of using different media, materials, techniques and processes. The Art and Design course aims to extend and develop students artistic and creative abilities in a wide range of media including acrylic, watercolour, printing, drawing, and sculpture; students will research, explore and develop work based on different starting points; develop skills of analysis; research different artists' work linked to your own projects; encourage expression and development of ideas in the production of final pieces.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Portfolio

60% of GCSE

A portfolio of work that includes a sustained project evidencing an investigative journey from initial engagement of a theme to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further supporting work.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

40% of GCSE

A sustained project in which students respond to a starting point set by the exam board.

For more information contact: **Ms H Murphy**

"Studying Business is great because you get the opportunity to learn things that are relevant to the society that we live in. I often learn about something in class and then go home and see something related to it on the news. Everything I learn in Business Studies is relevant for the world of work."
Caitlin, Year 11 Pupil

"I didn't know if Business Studies was the right choice for me, however, I have learnt a lot! I have really enjoyed the guest speakers because it is a real business, bringing to life everything we learn. I'm so glad I chose it now!"
Olivia, Year 10 Pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This course will help you take your first steps towards many different careers. You will learn essential business skills, investigate the current business environment, project management, marketing/branding, financial awareness, human resource planning as well as many aspects of law.

This course includes studying units of work in the following areas.

1. Business Activity
2. Marketing
3. People
4. Operations
5. Finance
6. Influences on Business

WHY STUDY BUSINESS STUDIES?

If you would like the opportunity to learn about the business world, a plethora of career opportunities and what it takes to become successful then this is the course for you. This course provides a structured learning framework where we provide an insight into running your own business, working in other businesses and investments. It provides foundations for careers in accountancy, business, retail, law and many more. The course is a stepping stone for apprenticeships, A Levels and higher level business courses at college. We experience fantastic visitors to enhance the curriculum and some wonderful trip opportunities! Pupils achieve highly in this course and the dynamic lessons inspire pupils.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

There are two 90 minute exams at the end of year 11.

For more information contact:
Mrs L Dudaniec



GCSE **Drama** – Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

You will be able to work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas. Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills.

Your written skills, both analytical and creative, as well as your ability to self-reflect, will be developed through a range of tasks. Studying Drama will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language.

As an essential part of the GCSE, pupils will be given the opportunity to watch and review live theatre. Pupils will be asked to offer a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of such visits - transport, theatre tickets, and any workshop fees.

WHY STUDY DRAMA?

The Drama GCSE is recognised by employers, colleges and universities as an important academic qualification that also gives pupils the opportunity to learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these to new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation, communication and time management skills.

The course allows for a creative outlet whilst also gaining valuable understanding of theatre from text to stage. This is an exciting opportunity for all those with an interest in the Arts.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

60% of your final GCSE grade is assessed throughout the course with pupils participating in practical performances throughout Year 11 and creating reflective and analytical written work based on these performances.

The final 40% is then assessed through the written examination consisting of two components:

Section A: Set Text - a series of directing, acting and design questions based on the set text that you will have studied.

Section B: Live Theatre Review – analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

For more information contact: **Miss A Donnelly**

"Drama GCSE is an amazing opportunity to express yourself and develop confidence. It is a pleasure to be involved in such a great department and my experience with performing arts is that it's great for everyone! If you are choosing Drama as an option, you will be welcomed with open arms, encouraged with writing tasks, and have the opportunity to create wonderful pieces of dramatic art."

Ruby, Year 10 pupil

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition - AQA exam board

"It's an interesting subject and has helped me learn how nutrition is beneficial for different people and lifestyles. I have enjoyed planning and cooking a range of different food using lots of different cooking techniques. Food and Nutrition offers a good balance between theory and coursework. It challenges you to develop skills and knowledge that can be used for life."

Martine,
Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills, sensory evaluation, nutritional values of food and food science.

In Year 10 you will learn about how you can apply nutrition through practical work; preparing and cooking food, recipe testing and evaluation, heat transfer, functional and chemical properties of food, food spoilage and safety, sustainability, food processing and production. In Year 11 you will undertake a 10 hour food science project which is worth 15% of the GCSE and a 20 hour practical study which is worth 35% of the GCSE.

WHY STUDY FOOD TECHNOLOGY?

This is an excellent GCSE if you love food and cooking. You will be able to build on existing skills learnt in KS3. You will also learn new complex skills, make new dishes, try different ingredients and evaluate how to improve. You will also have to cook against the clock as well as learn about the science of ingredients and the nutritional content of foods.

You will develop your practical skills with recipes that will stretch and challenge you as well as help you gain valuable planning and organisational skills. This course can lead to progression towards future courses, both academic and vocational.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment consists of two components, a single tier exam worth 50% of the final grade (1.45 hours) and a 2-part controlled assessment worth 50% of the final grade.



For more information contact: **Mrs E Bridge**

GCSE **Music** – Edexcel exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The course aims to develop pupils' skills in three main areas: (1) Listening and Appraising (2) Composing (3) Performing. Entry to the exam is not tiered.

WHY STUDY MUSIC?

This course is offered at GCSE level and is recognised by employers, colleges and universities as an important academic qualification.

Candidates who sing or play an instrument are strongly advised to opt for this subject; they have an advantage since the course is weighted heavily towards practical music making.

It could be an exciting and rewarding option for any pupil with an interest in music, although pupils need to be self-motivated.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The final grade is made up of three areas: Listening (40%) including study of set works; Composing (30%) and Performing (30%).

For more information contact: **Miss J Sherwood**

"Music is a great subject for developing multiple skills, both practical and academic, as well as being a very enjoyable option overall."

Benjamin,
Year 11 pupil

"It is a great stepping stone to other music courses at college. It gives you the opportunity to develop your solo performance and ensemble skills, as well as your general musicianship."

Isaac, Year 11 pupil

GCSE Physical Education – OCR exam board

"I've always enjoyed participating in sport and PE. Taking GCSE PE has allowed me to further improve my knowledge and has made me explore my sports in greater detail."

Emma,
Year 11 pupil

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

In GCSE Physical Education (PE) you will study applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences and health, fitness and well-being. The theory content will be assessed in two written examinations which in total contribute to 60% of the overall GCSE grade.

WHY STUDY PHYSICAL EDUCATION?

This GCSE PE specification is designed to enable pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of sport as a whole. Sport is a huge business and the course gives a great foundation to follow a future path in higher & further education eventually leading to a career in sport. If students are participating to a high level outside of school it allows them to be rewarded for their dedication to sport. The course has been designed to lead into future careers such as physiotherapy, sports science, professional performer/coach or a fitness/diet instructor to name a few.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is 30% practical and 70% theory based. With the practical weighting of this subject you will need to be highly competent in 3 sports (a team sport, an individual sport, and another team/individual sport). You will need to play for school teams as a minimum in the sports you offer, and will be committed to attending clubs outside of school. During Years 10 & 11 you will complete several practical controlled assessments and will complete an analysis of performance, which will include various fitness testing. Collectively, the practical and non-examined assessment (analysing and assessing performance) contribute to 40% of your final mark. At the end of Year 11 you will sit two external written exams, totalling 2 hours, which are worth 60% of your final mark.

For more information contact: **Mr D Taberner**



Cambridge Nationals **Sport Studies** – OCR exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies will focus on three main areas, contemporary issues in sport, performance and leadership in sports and outdoor adventurous activities. These areas of study will be completed in the classroom for theory lessons and practically using the sport facilities.

"Taking Sport Studies has given me a lot of opportunities to develop leadership skills with younger students and improve my knowledge of sport."

Jamie, Year 11 Pupil

WHY STUDY SPORT STUDIES?

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies take a more sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/Physical Education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as barriers to participation, national governing bodies and hosting events and sports values. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The course is assessed by two centre assessed tasks and one written exam paper. All three assessments are given an overall grade from Pass L1 to Distinction*.

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Studies will focus on three main areas:
R184 Contemporary issues in sport. Written exam at the end of the 2 years' worth 70 marks.

R185 Performance and leadership in sports activities. Coursework based assignment worth 60 marks.

R187 increasing awareness of outdoor adventurous activities. Coursework based assignment worth 40 marks.

The qualifications are recognised by Ofqual, DfE and by 16-19 providers as progression to A Level, further education or onto an apprenticeship.

For more information contact: **Mr D Taberner or Miss A Lewis**

GCSE Technology - Resistant Materials - Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

This exciting 'new' GCSE both modernises and incorporates the content and assessment procedures represented in the previous individual titles. Pupils learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

The new GCSE places greater emphasis on understanding and applying an iterative design process. Pupils will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. The emphasis in Resistant Materials will be on wood, metal and plastic to create products.

WHY STUDY GCSE TECHNOLOGY?

GCSE Technology will prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

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

Pupils who choose GCSE Technology can go on to study in many areas of visual communication design including Architecture, Graphic Design, Advertising, Web Design, Packaging Design, CAD/CAM or Engineering and other technical careers with employers such as BAE Systems.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

Assessment consists of two components; a single tier written exam worth 50% of the total marks and 50% for a design & make task (folder work and product).

For more information contact: **Mr G Taylor**

"Resistant Materials has helped me grow my skills, knowledge and potential. My ambition in the future is to work in the design industry. This subject has helped me engage and develop my drawing and problem solving abilities that I believe employers will want."
David,
Year 11 pupil



GCSE Technology - Graphic Products - Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The emphasis in Graphic Products will be on board (card) based materials, branding and their uses for packaging, displays and the impact on the environment. Pupils will build upon all their Product Design knowledge from KS3 and learn how to apply it for a specific brief.

GCSE Technology places greater emphasis on understanding and applying an iterative design process alongside knowledge of modern and Smart materials and mechanisms etc. Pupils will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. Pupils are required to use various types of board to create a product, focusing on branding and the use of computer aided design and manufacture.

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For more information contact: **Mr G Taylor**

"Graphics Technology is a challenging, but rewarding subject that lets you unleash your creative side."

Elvin, Year 11 pupil



GCSE Technology - Fashion and Textiles – Eduqas exam board

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The specification enables learners to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise, in order to:

- develop an appreciation of the importance of creativity and innovation to good design practice;
- actively engage in the processes of design and technology to develop as effective and independent learners;
- understand the key principles of designing and making;
- use their knowledge, skills and understanding to make design decisions in order to make a quality prototype;
- analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to meet needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on quality of life;
- critically analyse links between the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge;
- understand the underlying technical principles within design and technology within FASHION AND TEXTILES, with emphasis on emerging technologies, materials and practices.

"I enjoy textiles because it allows me to develop my creativity and express independent thoughts; I have also gained skills which are invaluable in other subjects."
Keira, Year 11 pupil

WHY STUDY TEXTILES?

Do you have an interest in fashion, follow the latest trends in magazines or have an interest in interior design? Would you like to know how the fashion industry works or how to make your own clothes or soft furnishings? Then this could be the course for you.

HOW IS THE COURSE ASSESSED?

The subject content for GCSE Design and Technology will be assessed in the written examination and non-exam assessment (NEA).

Design and Technology in the 21st Century Design and make task

Written examination: 50% of qualification (2 hours) NEA: 50% of qualification (approximately 35 hours)

For more information contact: **Miss C Barker**

GCSE **Options** 2024 – Complete the form on Firefly

Your GCSE Curriculum will be made up of the following compulsory subjects:-

- **English Language/Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Religious Education**
- **Science**
- **Core PE**

In addition you can choose **FOUR** Option Subjects. We will do our best to accommodate these choices but you are asked to also choose **TWO** reserve choices.

Option Subjects

You choose **AT LEAST ONE** subject from list A*

- **Computer Science**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Spanish**
- **Triple Science**

You choose the remaining subjects from list B*. Please only choose one Technology subject.

- **Art and Design**
- **Business Studies**
- **Drama**
- **Food Preparation & Nutrition**
- **Music**
- **PE – GCSE**
- **Sport Studies**
- **Technology – GCSE**
 - Technology Resistant Materials
 - Technology Graphic Products
 - Technology Fashion & Textile Design

My FOUR option choices are:

List A Choice

1.

List A or B Choice

2.

List A or B Choice

3.

List A or B Choice

4.

My TWO reserve choices are:

List A

1.

List B

2.

This form should be completed on Firefly by 2.50pm on Friday 15th March 2024

Please indicate on the **Firefly** form if you participate in any extra-curricular activities or study any subjects/languages out of school.

*The school reserves the right to withdraw an option subject if an insufficient number of pupils opt for it. You will be guaranteed 3 of your 4 options, reserves may need to be taken. Please ensure that you state two reserve choices on the **FireFly** form.