

25th March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Mini-options - Year 8

We have undertaken a thorough review of our curriculum in the light of significant changes to GCSEs and their content over the last two years.

We already teach English language and literature, mathematics and science GCSE content from the start of year 9, and due to the increasing knowledge demands we have decided to introduce a mini-options process at the end of year 8 for the subjects of history, geography and French.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but we have done so to make sure that teaching time is increased for these important subjects. This will improve chances of success and will ensure that both students and teachers have time to explore important GCSE content and concepts in depth.

The remainder of options subjects will still be made at the end of year 9. Many schools have moved their entire options process to the end of year 8 but we still believe that we can deliver a broad and balanced Key Stage 3 over three years whilst introducing GCSE content in key subjects early. During assemblies this week, we are explaining this to all year 8 students.

They will be asked to make a choice of two subjects out of history, geography and French and then they will continue with these subjects into year 9. At the end of year 9, as part of the Options process, they will decide which of these they would like to continue into Key Stage 4. Unfortunately, pupils will not be able to choose one of these three subjects at GCSE if they chose not to study it in year 9, as they will have missed the content which has been covered during that year.

Options information is being sent home with this letter so that you may discuss this important choice with your child. Please indicate the choices on the reply slip and return to your child's Progress Tutor by Friday 5th April.

If you need any more information at this stage, please contact Mrs Nevinson (Progress Leader KS3), or Mr Chapman (Assistant Headteacher, Curriculum) with any queries.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's education.

Yours sincerely



Nicola Hall
Headteacher



Overview

Languages are part of the cultural richness of our society and the world in which we live and work.

Pupils learn to appreciate different countries, cultures, communities and people. By making comparisons, they gain insight into their own culture and society.

The ability to understand and communicate in another language is a lifelong skill for education, employment and leisure in this country and throughout the world.

What does the course involve?

- The language course builds upon work already begun in Key Stage 3. We will practise all 4 skills in order to prepare for the final exams at the end of year 11.

Students will learn how to:

- Communicate effectively in French in writing and speaking.
- Develop independence, adaptability, cultural awareness and resilience.
- Develop problem solving skills .
- **GCSE topics are:**
- Personal Information
- Media and Free time
- Food and healthy living
- Home and Local Area
- School, Education and Career Plans

Method of Assessment

The exam is a combination of:

Writing: 25%

Speaking: 25%

Listening: 25%

Reading: 25%

- All exams are externally marked and no dictionaries are allowed.

Awarding Body: Eduqas

Pathways:

Sixth form and A-level, University Degree

Careers: A modern language provides skills that are highly in demand with recruiters in a wide range of industries, all around the world. Examples of careers where a language is in high demand are teaching, journalism, travel and tourism services, publishing, banking, the Armed Forces and marketing.



Overview

The course is divided into three main themes:

1. Living with the physical environment

In this section study will focus on the challenge of natural hazards including volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms. Weather and climate change is also a focus, followed by physical landscapes of the UK including glacial environments and rivers. Finally, the living world which includes ecosystems such as tropical rainforests and hot deserts.

2. Challenges in the human environment

This section covers population, urban growth, the changing economic world and global development. Resource management including the global distribution of food, water and energy and in particular detail the demand for water resources globally are also a focus.

3. Geographical applications and skills

This section involves the undertaking two different fieldwork tasks that will be assessed in the final examinations at the end of Year 11. Pre-released material is received 12 weeks prior to the examination which will be studied in lesson time.

Method of Assessment

Paper 1: Physical Geography. 1hr 30 and worth 88 marks making up 35% of the total GCSE grade.

Paper 2: Human Geography. 1hr 30 and also worth 88 marks, and 35% of the GCSE grade.

Paper 3: Fieldwork & Skills. 1hr 15, worth 76 marks and makes up 30% of the total GCSE grade.

Awarding Body: AQA

Pathways: A-level Geography, BTEC Travel and Tourism.

Careers: Environment consultant, pollution analyst, surveyor, town planner, teacher, health education campaigner, GIS specialist, surveyor, cartographer, risk assessor, travel writer/journalist, armed forces.



Overview

Choosing to study History will help students to understand the world we live in, the events of the past and will help to explain the problems and opportunities of the world today. The course covers a variety of History ranging from Medieval Medicine to the Cold War. Many transferable skills are developed and refined through the study of History.

- History teaches you to research and interpret. Research is the skill of locating and gathering information and historical evidence, from many different places. This evidence can be found in a variety of forms, including documents, visual material, physical artefacts, oral and digital sources.
- History teaches you to think and problem solve. History requires a great deal of detective work, careful thought and problem-solving. As historians locate information and evidence, they begin to build up an understanding and a 'picture' of the people, event or society being studied.
- History teaches you to communicate historians and history students must be effective communicators. They must develop and refine techniques to share their findings and conclusions.

Method of Assessment

The History course requires students to cover 5 different sections which will be examined over three GCSE papers.

Paper 1 covers Medicine is a 1 hour 15 minute exam. The paper is worth 30% of the course. The paper includes a site study of medicine on the Western front and Medicine from 1250 to the present

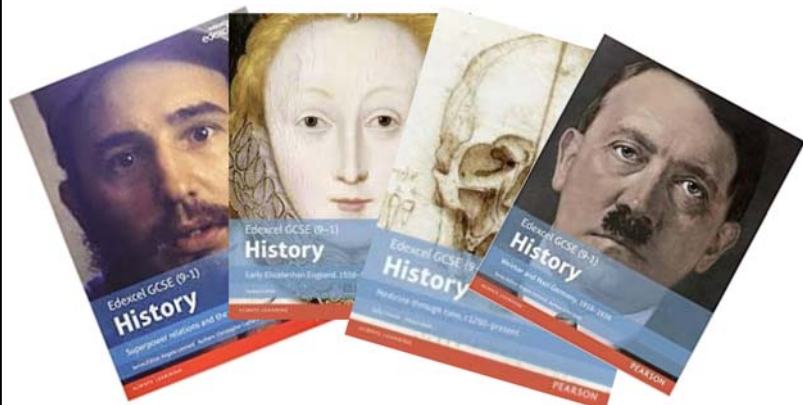
Paper 2 covers the Cold War and Elizabeth I and is a 1 hour 45 minute exam which is worth 40% of the course.

Paper 3 covers Germany from 1918 to 1939 and is a 1 hour 20 minute exam which is worth 30% of the course.

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Pathways: Sixth form A level study leading into full time study for a degree at university

Careers: Heritage manager, historic buildings inspector, conservation officer, museum education officer, museum or gallery curator, museum or gallery exhibitions officer, secondary school teacher, lawyer



CENTRAL LANCASTER HIGH SCHOOL

Re: Mini-options - Year 8

Name of Pupil: _____

Form group: _____

Please indicate which **two** subjects your child would like to study from year 9.

	Please tick two subjects
History	
Geography	
French	

Please return to your child's form tutor by **Friday 5th April 2019**. Although we aim to avoid a 'first come, first served' approach, if replies are returned late then pupils may have to be allocated to subjects.

Signed: _____

Print name: _____

Date: _____