

# KEY STAGE 4

## CURRICULUM

### HANDBOOK 2026



Ealing Fields  
C of E  
High School

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# Key Contacts

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# Key Dates

Thursday 5th February	Year 9 into 10 GCSE Information Evening
Thursday 13th February—9th March	Microsoft Forms options survey
Thursday 26th February	Year 9 Parents' evening
Monday 2nd – Friday 6th March	Q3 assessment week
Wednesday 22nd April	Meet the Tutor—confirm GCSE options forms
Monday 15th June—Friday 19th June	Q4 assessment week
Tuesday 14th July	Meet the Tutor Day—confirmation of GCSE courses



Year 9 is an important stage in your school career as you look forward to and start to think about your future. It is the first time that the whole year group will have made decisions about their own individual pathways and it is important to reflect on this seriously. You have already started GCSE level work in a number of subjects. From September the courses which you study and the grades which you get will influence and potentially even dictate your further choices post 16 in a Sixth Form, at college, in training or in the work place. It is therefore essential to get these choices right.

Our curriculum is designed to ensure breadth, balance and a good education for everyone. It is also designed to have a core of subjects, which allow students to achieve highly academically, develop as learners and therefore maximise their chances of future success. Students who take a very reliable academic core of subjects and do well at them will be able to diversify at post 16. However all students are different, start with different aptitudes and are motivated by different interests and the choice must ultimately work for the individual. Fundamental to this is the choice of a pathway which is appropriate to you and your abilities and interests.

Choosing options involves maturity. This process represents an early introduction to adult life as you learn to make choices, and be aware of the responsibility and commitment that this entails. We hope that by each student spending a proper amount of time at this stage, on knowing themselves and their current attainment, understanding the subjects and the work-ethic required for GCSE, the choices made will be good ones.

Our Key Stage 4 curriculum, has a full and challenging range of subjects. Students are strongly encouraged to take a modern foreign language, unless their ability level makes it inappropriate for them to do so. We have been aware for some time that sixth forms, colleges, employers and universities have been using a good pass at GCSE in Languages and Humanities (now grade 5 or above) as a discriminating factor in the award of places. We have very consciously built up our curriculum model to promote the English Baccalaureate and we are glad that our offer positions students well in relation to this. However, our hope is that there is flexibility too for the highly artistic, creative and practical students to extend themselves also.

Please feel free to speak to us about our approach to the options process or any aspect of the curriculum model at Ealing Fields or to your child's tutor, Dr Edwards or Ms Edwards about individual issues relating to your child.

Best Wishes,

Ms Edwards  
Assistant Headteacher

Dr Edwards  
Head of Year 9

# The GCSE Grading System

GCSE exams test all of the material studied over 2 or 3 years. Successful students will be able to remember information and express it concisely and accurately under the pressure of time. Students will need to be able to apply the principles or ideas which they have learnt within one context to an unfamiliar context. They will need to be confident of the skills they have learnt in order not to be put off by questions which seem less familiar.

**GCSEs are graded using number grades (9, 8, 7, 6,...).**

We use these grades as students progress through the school from Years 7-11.

Some brief detail:

- GCSE letter grades A\*-G have been replaced by a number scale from 9 to 1
- 9 is the highest grade. 1 is the lowest.
- An approximate conversion in **Year 11** will be:

Grade 9	Grade 8	Grade 7	Grade 6	Grade 5	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 2	Grade 1
GCSE grades A* and A			GCSE grades B and C			GCSE grades D, E, F and G		

- As students move up through the school, we would expect their grades to increase. So, for example, a student may achieve a Grade 6- in Year 9, then a Grade 6+ in Year 10, and then a Grade 7 in Year 11.
- It is important to note that National Curriculum **levels** used previously (eg. ...,4A, 5C, 5B, 5A,...) and new GCSE number **grades** (eg. ..., 5+, 6-, 6, 6+, 7-,...) are not an equivalent. The standard of work required for a Level 6A, for example, is not the same as that required for a Grade 6+.
- Note that BTEC courses and Cambridge Nationals courses are graded as Level 2 Distinction\*, Distinction, Merit and Pass, or Level 1 Distinction, Merit and Pass. A Level 2 pass is equivalent to a GCSE grade 4.

Although the grading system is relatively new, we know enough about how it will compare to older style letter grades to be confident that we can use it to inform our students about their progress through the school.

## Progression from Year 9

Students enter Year 7 with results in national Key Stage 2 exams in English and Mathematics which are sat at the end of Year 6. We know the amount of progress that would generally be expected if your child works well from this starting point and as they move up through the school towards GCSE.

Entry tier	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10	Yr 11	equivalence
Advanced +	6-	6+	7	8-	8+	A*
Advanced	5+	6	7-	7+	8	A*/A
	5-	5+	6	7-	7+	A
	4	5-	5+	6	7-	A
Higher	3+	4	5-	5+	6	B
	3-	3+	4	5-	5+	B
	2-	2+	3	4-	4+	C
Core	1+	2-	2+	3	4-	C/D
	1	2-	2	3-	3+	D
Nurture	1-	1+	2	2+	3	D/E
	1-	1	1+	2-	2	E/F

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum

## The Core Key Stage 4 Curriculum

At Ealing Fields all students follow a core curriculum. This means studying a minimum of 6 GCSEs in the following areas:

- ◆ English Language and English Literature
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Double Award Science (unless they are doing Triple Science)\*
- ◆ Religious Education

This broad and balanced core curriculum offer must be the starting point for all students as it provides the best opportunity for transition onto post 16 courses within the Trust or at another college or school.

In **DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE**, students study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Exams are sat at the end of the course and a “combined Science” double grade is awarded (eg. 7/7 or 5/4).

**\*TRIPLE SCIENCE:** Students in the upper sets will have the opportunity to take a 3rd option in Science leading to 3 separate GCSEs at the end of Year 11 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course positions students well for top university Science places.

## The GCSE Options Pathways

We have designed a series of pathways that will provide all students with an appropriate offer in Year 10 and Year 11.

Very careful consideration has been given to each individual’s level of achievement in Year 9 to assist you in making choices that will provide the best chance of success at KS4. Heads of the GCSE subjects have also provided minimum entry requirements to make sure that you do not select GCSE subjects that are not appropriate for you based on your Year 9 achievement.

# Sixth Form Progression

Below are a list of the A Level subjects on offer in the Sixth form at Trust schools. They are grouped to show which subjects would need to have been studied at GCSE to be able to access them.

Entrance to the sixth form at Trust Schools will require 8 passes (including Maths and English Language), which need to be at a grade 5 or better. Individual subject entrance requirements are on the following page.

## **A Level courses requiring GCSE Maths and/or English:**

- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Economics
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- Maths and Further maths
- Politics
- Psychology
- RE
- Science Courses
- Sociology

## **A Level courses linked to studying other Core or EBAC subjects (Science, Humanities, Languages and RE):**

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- RE
- Physics
- Spanish

## **A Level courses linked to studying an Expressive Arts subject at GCSE:**

- Art
- Graphics
- Music
- Music Technology

## **Other A Level Expressive Arts courses (not necessarily studied at GCSE):**

- Photography

In addition to A level subjects, Ada Lovelace offer 3 T level qualifications:

T Levels are new 2-year courses taken after GCSEs and designed to give 16-18 year olds a head start towards a career. They are an alternative to A levels, other post-16 courses or an apprenticeship. Each T Level includes an in-depth **industry placement that lasts at least 45 days**. One T Level takes 2 years of full-time study and is **equivalent to three A levels**. Students will get one of four grades, ranging from a distinction\* to a pass.

**These courses require 6 or more GCSE passes at grade 5 including Maths and English plus the additional qualifications**

Digital Production, Design and Development—Grade 6 in Computer Science or an interest in programming skills.

Laboratory Science—Grade 6/6/ or above in dual Science or two 6s in triple Science

Accounting—Grade 6 in Maths

# Entry Requirements for Sixth Form Courses

To help you to make sensible GCSE option choices, you should consider how these may influence your future choices. This table shows the current entry requirements for A Level courses at the Twyford Sixth Form. These entry requirements are reviewed annually.

<b>ART</b>	Grade 6 in Art.
<b>BIOLOGY</b>	Grade 77 in Double Science <b>or</b> grade 776 in Triple Science <b>with</b> a 7 in Biology. Grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.
<b>BUSINESS STUDIES</b>	6 in English (Literature or Language) and a 5 in Mathematics.
<b>CHEMISTRY</b>	Grade 77 in Double Science <b>or</b> grade 776 in Triple Science <b>with</b> a 7 in Chemistry. Grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.
<b>COMPUTER SCIENCE</b>	Grade 7 in Computing, or grade 7 in Mathematics <b>and</b> either grade 76 in Double Science <b>or</b> grade 666 in Triple Science.
<b>ECONOMICS</b>	76 in Mathematics and English (Literature or Language) the 7 can be in either Mathematics or an English.
<b>ENGLISH LITERATURE</b>	76 in English Language & English Literature ( the 7 can be in either language or literature)
<b>FILM STUDIES</b>	6 in English (Literature or Language).
<b>FRENCH</b>	7 in French.
<b>FURTHER MATHS</b>	9 in GCSE Mathematics.
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>	7 in Geography and 6 in English (Literature or Language).
<b>GERMAN</b>	7 in German.
<b>GRAPHICS</b>	6 in Art or Graphic Design.
<b>HISTORY</b>	7 in History and 6 in English (Literature or Language).
<b>MATHS</b>	7 in Mathematics.
<b>MUSIC</b>	6 in Music, Practical grade 5 and Theory grade 5.
<b>MUSIC TECHNOLOGY</b>	5 in Music and Keyboard grade 2 (or equivalent standard).
<b>PHOTOGRAPHY</b>	No further specific requirements.
<b>PHYSICS</b>	Grade 77 in Double Science <b>or</b> grade 776 in Triple Science <b>and</b> a 7 in Physics. Grade 6 in Mathematics is also required.
<b>POLITICS</b>	6 IN English (Literature or Language) and 6 in Mathematics
<b>PSYCHOLOGY</b>	6 in English (Literature or Language) and 6 in Mathematics.
<b>RELIGIOUS STUDIES</b>	6 in R.E. and 6 in English (Literature or Language).
<b>SOCIOLOGY</b>	6 in English (Literature or Language) and 6 in another humanity (including RE, where you need a 6 or B).
<b>SPANISH</b>	7 in Spanish.

# Glossary

<b>AQA</b>	Academic Qualifications Alliance exam board <a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>
<b>BTEC</b>	Vocational qualifications (provided by the Business and Technician Education Council) assessed through more coursework and less examined units compared to GCSE courses
<b>Cambridge Nationals</b>	Vocational qualifications (provided by OCR) assessed through more coursework and less examined units compared to GCSE courses
<b>EDEXCEL</b>	Educational Excellence exam board (a Pearson company) - <a href="http://www.edexcel.com">www.edexcel.com</a>
<b>FSMQ</b>	Free Standing Maths Qualification - between GCSE and A Level standard
<b>GCSE</b>	General Certificate of Secondary Education
<b>KS4</b>	Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11)
<b>KS5</b>	Key Stage 5 (the Sixth Form—Years 12 and 13)
<b>OCR</b>	Oxford Cambridge & RSA Exam Board <a href="http://www.ocr.org.uk">www.ocr.org.uk</a>
<b>RSL</b>	Rockschool Ltd - exam board providing music courses such as the Music Technology course offered at Twyford— <a href="http://www.rslawards.com">www.rslawards.com</a>
<b>Tier</b>	Level of entry for some GCSEs (typically Foundation and Higher tiers)

# Key Stage 4

## CORE SUBJECTS

## COURSE GUIDES

# English Language

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## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

All pupils take English Language at Key Stage 4. The examination board is AQA.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

English Language GCSE assesses **reading** and **writing** skills.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are **two** examination papers, each worth 50 % and externally assessed at the end of the course (Year 11). They each last 1 hour 45 minutes and both examination papers will cover reading and writing skills.

- Paper 1 has questions to assess your reading of a fiction 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century unseen extract. Another question asks you to write creatively and has a picture stimulus.
- Paper 2 has questions to assess your reading of non-fiction texts, one 19<sup>th</sup> century and one 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> century. Another question asks you to write with a point of view. There are NO TIERS and all students will sit the same papers.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE CONTROLLED COURSEWORK & HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS?

There is NO COURSEWORK of any kind.

Homework will be set to extend and consolidate the skills that are developed in the classroom.

## 5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

In English Language, the following skills are important:

- Reading skills are to interpret information and ideas from different texts; to analyse how writers use language using relevant subject terminology; to compare two or more texts; to evaluate texts critically and support this with evidence.
- Writing skills are to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively for different purposes and audiences; to organise information and ideas; to use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures; to use accurate spelling and punctuation (which is worth 20% of the marks overall.)

## 6. SPEAKING AND LISTENING.

One task, a presentation, is assessed and is awarded separately.

**Head of Department:** Ms E Jayakrishna [ejayakrishna@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:ejayakrishna@ealingfields.org.uk)

GCSE Exam Board:  
AQA

# English Literature

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

All pupils take English Literature at Key Stage 4. The examination board is AQA.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

English Literature GCSE assesses how you can **write effectively** about your **reading and understanding** of literature. This means having the skill to explain, argue, analyse and evaluate—to discuss and maintain a point of view:

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two examination papers, externally assessed at the end of the course (Yr. 11), the first worth 40% is 1 hour 45 minutes and the second worth 60% is 2 hours 15 minutes. They are *closed book examinations* (meaning = NO TEXTS ALLOWED).

- Paper 1 has a question on Macbeth, which is based on an extract but students will have to link this to the rest of the play. Then it has a question on a 19th century fiction text, A Christmas Carol, which has the same format.
- Paper 2 has questions on 'An Inspector Calls' (this does not have an extract), then there are questions on poetry: the first set of questions are on prepared poetry with one poem printed to be compared with one other poem of your choice remembered from an anthology. The second set of questions are on two unseen poems.

## 4. WHAT WILL BE THE CONTROLLED COURSEWORK & HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS?

There is NO COURSEWORK of any kind.

Homework will be set to extend and consolidate the skills that are developed in the classroom. Pupils will be set tasks using questions from GCSE papers.

## 5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

In English Literature, the following skills are important:

To understand and respond to texts, maintaining a critical style and using evidence.

To analyse the techniques used by a writer, using relevant subject terminology.

To understand the contexts in which texts were written.

To use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Students who enjoy reading, analysing and comparing texts excel. English Literature GCSE also enables pupils to develop their analytical and essay writing skills. It provides an excellent foundation for all essay based subjects at A level.

**Head of Department:** Ms E Jayakrishna      ejayakrishna@ealingfields.org.uk

GCSE Exam Board:  
AQA

# Mathematics

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## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

Mathematics is a Core subject, studied by all students.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Mathematics GCSE is a 3 year course and builds on the topics studied in Year 9. Topics come from the areas of number, algebra, shape and space, data handling & probability and ratio & proportion. You will learn how to be more mathematical in the way you work, and how to solve a wider range of real life problems, which Maths can be applied to. Mathematics is essential at all levels - from learning how to tackle everyday situations in the shops all the way up to using it as an essential part of the sciences, finance and engineering.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All **GCSE Mathematics** exams will be sat at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework for GCSE Mathematics. There are 3 examinations, all 1½ hours in length. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper, Paper 2 and 3 are calculator papers.. There are two tiers of entry: **Foundation and Higher**. Foundation covers grades 1-5, and Higher covers grades 4-9. Your tier of entry will be decided before each exam based on your performance in internal school assessments throughout the year.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE CONTROLLED COURSEWORK & HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS?

There is no coursework requirement for any of the Maths qualifications at this level. Lesson prep tasks will be set after each lesson, and you will receive regular assessed homework tasks, practice exercises completed in your books and online homework from Hegarty Maths. To be successful at Maths requires regular practice - and your lesson prep and homework is an *essential* part of this.

## 5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

A good Mathematician is able to think logically. They can use the techniques they know accurately, they know which techniques to use when they are given a problem to solve. They can also communicate clearly - using the correct mathematical words and symbols, as well as interpreting and checking the answers they find.

**Head of Department:** Mr L Moores                      [lmoores@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:lmoores@ealingfields.org.uk)

GCSE Exam Board:  
AQA

# Science

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

The majority of students will study combined GCSE 9-1 Science (Double Award), starting in Year 9 and examined at the end of Year 11. Exams in Biology, Chemistry and Physics lead to a double award GCSE in Combined Science with two GCSEs.

At the beginning of Year 10, a group of very able science students will move onto the separate science pathway (Triple Award). They will study GCSE 9-1 Science, as well as some additional content. They will then complete three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

In Year 9 – All students study three modules of biology: Key concepts in biology, cells and control and exchange and transport in animals; three modules of chemistry: Atomic structure, separating techniques and the atmosphere; and three modules in physics: Energy, waves and forces.

In Year 10 - All students study three modules of biology: Genetics; Natural selection and evolution; Coordination and control; Plant structure; three modules of chemistry: Bonding and calculating masses; Acids and electrolysis; Metals and Rates of Reaction and three modules in physics: Forces, electricity and magnetism.

In Year 11 - All students study two modules of biology: Health and disease; Ecosystems, as well as revision and synoptic application of biology; one module of chemistry: Physical chemistry as well as revision and synoptic application of chemistry; and one module in physics: Radioactivity as well as revision and synoptic application of physics.

Separate Science (biology, chemistry and physics GCSE) will cover the same modules but each module will include additional content in Years 10 and 11. Chemistry and Physics will include small separate modules. All three sciences have the same amount of content covered.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There will be quarterly assessments in Year 9, 10 and 11.

During the summer term of Year 11, students will complete their final exams. Double Award (combined) Science students will sit two 60 mark, 70 minute papers in each specialism (biology, chemistry and physics). Students receive two GCSE grades in Science overall. Triple Award (separate) Science students will sit two 100 mark, 105 minute papers in each specialism (biology, chemistry and physics). Students receive three GCSE grades overall.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE CONTROLLED COURSEWORK & HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS?

In Year 9 students will complete 1-2 past paper style homework tasks per module. Past paper style questions will be set as homework fortnightly throughout Year 10 and 11. A range of Prep tasks will be set each week. There is no coursework aspect of GCSE 9-1 Science.

## 5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

Science requires students to be organised, as there is a high volume of content to remember. Students must be able to investigate questions using planning skills, and draw conclusions from data using their analytical skills.

**Head of Science:** Ms S Gallagher [sgallagher@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:sgallagher@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:**  
Edexcel

**Entry Requirement:**  
For Triple Science as an additional GCSE you need to get a 6 in Maths and Science.

# Religious Education

GCSE Exam Board: AQA

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

RE is a core subject, studied by all students, which prepares them very effectively with academic skills which will be valuable in their next stage of education or training.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Students will learn the beliefs, teachings and practices of Islam and Christianity and apply these to a range of ethical and moral issues.
- Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of the religions they are studying.
- Students will develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject.
- Students will be provided with opportunities to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

During the course of Year 10 & 11, there are four quarterly assessments, based upon the GCSE assessment criteria. These internal assessments are designed to prepare each student for their external examinations in the summer of Year 11.

The GCSE summer exam consists of two papers—paper 1 is on religious beliefs & practices while paper 2 is on the ethical themes. Both papers are 1hr and 45 mins long and consist of a range of different of shorter recall questions to longer essays, requiring students to identify, describe, explain and evaluate a range of beliefs and ideas.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE CONTROLLED COURSEWORK & HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS?

*There is no controlled coursework.*

### **Homework/Prep Tasks**

Homework and Prep tasks are an important part of the course. They allow students to build upon their knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in the lesson as well as providing opportunities for own research. Students are encouraged to watch news broadcasts and study daily papers to widen their awareness. Being aware of current affairs is vital for RE as it links in to all of the topics studied.

## 5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

Students should be able to make their own reasoned decisions of religious and moral issues, empathise with people whose views are different to their own and communicate their own religious and moral views.

**Head of Department:**

Ms K Alyas

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# Spanish

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

All students on the Advanced/Higher pathway will study Spanish. In addition, students with the highest level of success will be:

- Students who have enjoyed the study of Spanish Language and Culture.
- Students who want to learn a skill highly valued by employers, which will give them the edge in the job market.
- Students who want to develop their communication skills and be able to use these when travelling to Spanish speaking countries.
- Students who enjoy the challenge of learning grammar and applying the rules to their own work.
- Students who love travelling and discovering new places.
- Students who wish to experience a real sense of achievement.
- Students who want to see their University applications stand out.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

We will be studying the Edexcel specification. There are six broad themes to the new GCSE course, as follows:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Grammar will be taught as a central part to all these topics, and students will be preparing all four skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing) simultaneously.

Grammar will be taught as a central part to all these topics, and students will be preparing all four skills (listening, reading, speaking, writing) simultaneously.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The GCSE Spanish specification is a linear course, with no controlled assessment or coursework. There will be four final exams: listening, reading, speaking, writing, each weighted at 25%. All papers will be set and marked by EDEXCEL, and graded 1-9 overall.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS?

Lesson prep is set every lesson and assessed homework once per half-term. This may take the shape of oral questions, written paragraphs, translation, listening or reading tasks. In addition to this, vocabulary assignments on Quizlet are set in the last lesson of every week. The pupils then have a written vocabulary test in the first lesson of the following week.

Students are expected to complete any unfinished work in their own time and also catch up on missed work, including prep tasks. Pupils also have to attend vocab resits during lunchtime if they do not pass their weekly vocabulary tests, in order to keep them on track with their learning.

## 5. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND

A positive attitude, resilience, curiosity, an open mind and an interest in Spanish culture and language.

**Head of Department:** Mrs A Jones

[amjones@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:amjones@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:**  
**EDEXCEL**

**Entry Requirement:**  
**At least Grade 4- in Year**  
**9 Spanish**

Key Stage 4

**OPTIONS**

**COURSE GUIDES**

# Art

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

Art is suitable to study for anyone who is passionate about demonstrating their creative skills. Pupils who choose to study art need to have strong art skills; particularly in drawing, and should be achieving at least a grade 4 for Fine Art.

Art is a time consuming subject and is 100% coursework– it is therefore suitable for pupils who are hardworking and well organised. You will have deadlines throughout the course with access to classroom space in school to work.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Art provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental. Art is about the expression of visual and written communication.

Art helps students become versatile thinkers – creative yet analytical, organised yet able to take imaginative leaps. As well as learning about the application of media, students will also be taught Art History as written analysis plays a significant role at GCSE level.

***Fine Art:*** Students will require confident drawing skills from the now. You will explore various techniques including mixed media, drawing, photography, digital media, printmaking, painting and 3D media. The Assessment Objectives require you to show consistently exceptional evidence of Recording, Developing and Exploring Ideas, Experimenting and Refining and Presenting of multiple outcomes

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Your work will be assessed continually using the GCSE assessment criteria. 60% of your final mark will be based upon your Component 1 portfolio and the other 40% will be based upon your Component 2 portfolio. This is all the work you will complete in Year 10 and 11.

The Unit 2 themes are set by the AQA exam board. Students work independently on a project of their choice within a set theme. This is guided by the teaching staff and leads to a sustained piece of work completed over 10 hours (2 school days). You will receive one to one individual tutorials within lessons to help guide you in creating a body of work that shows your journey through the projects.

## 4. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?

By working on projects that combine a number of varied steps students learn to be thorough and to think and plan effectively. Successful students will also learn patience and perseverance. Multi-stage projects, deadlines which cover several weeks of work at a time, and open ended outcomes all encourage students to act independently and take responsibility for their own progress. Many employers want to recruit people who are lateral thinkers and creative problem-solvers - natural qualities of artists and designers.

## 5. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

Miss Pennells—Head of Art

[rpennells@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:rpennells@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:  
AQA**

**Entry Requirement:**

**Fine Art  
At least Grade 4 in  
Year 9 Art. Students  
who do not achieve a  
Grade 4 will have to  
make a personal appli-  
cation to the Head of  
Art.**

# Computer Science

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

The Computer Science GCSE enables students to work with real-world, practical programming techniques that give them a good understanding of what makes technology work. You should have a real passion for programming outside the classroom and the thought of independently researching, trialling and testing programming code should excite you! If you enjoy computing, mathematics and like solving logic problems, then this could be something you will enjoy.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Fundamentals of cyber security
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
8. Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1—Computational thinking and programming skills. A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills. The duration of this examination is 2 hours. Paper 1 will contribute 50% of the overall GCSE grade.

Paper 2— Computing concepts. A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions. The duration of this examination is 1 hr 45 mins. Paper 2 will contribute 50% of the overall GCSE grade.

## 4. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?

A Computer Science GCSE equips learners with skills which are invaluable for future study and going in to the workplace. Logical thinking and thinking outside the box, problem solving, attention to detail and resilience are a few key skills developed during the course. Computer science is a vast field encompassing VR, A.I. , software and systems development, networks, security and bioinformatics.

## 5. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

If you have any questions or are unsure, please speak to Mr Harrison, Head of Computing - mharrison@ealingfields.org.uk

**GCSE Exam Board:**  
**AQA**

**Entry Requirement:**  
Currently studying **Computer Science** (not ICT) in Year 9

Achieve at least a grade 4 in the **Q3 programming assessment**

Achieve at least a grade 5 in the Q4 maths assessment

Achieve at least a 4 in the Q4 assessment

Have a genuine passion for computing, programming, coding and problem solving outside the classroom  
Be independent and committed to the challenges of the course

# Drama

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

The course is suitable for students who are passionate about Drama, performance and theatre. You must enjoy working and collaborating with other students to create engaging and well-rehearsed devised and scripted performance work, and enjoy writing about Drama.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This GCSE explores Drama in both a practical and written format – with 30% of the GCSE being assessed through candidate's devised and scripted performance work. And 70% being assessed through the candidate's written portfolio and written exam.

You will develop your practical and performance skills throughout the two years, learning about the roles and responsibilities of a performer in both your devised and scripted performance work.

You will also learn about the production elements such as lighting, costume, props, sound, staging and set. You will study two play texts and you will learn how the historical, political and cultural context influences a play. For the final written exam, you will answer a series of questions which explore the play '1984' from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. You will watch a live theatre performance and learn how to evaluate and analyse the performers, production elements and director's interpretation.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will be assessed using the following three components:

### Component 1: Devising performance

**Weighting:** 40% of overall GCSE (60 marks)

**Assessment overview:** Students will work in groups to create a devised 8 - 25 minute performance in groups of 2 - 6 based on a chosen stimulus. Students will submit a supporting portfolio document (approx. 2000 words) which details the process of the exploration, development of their piece and an evaluation. This component is completed in Year 10.

### Component 2: Performance from Text

**Weighting:** 20% of the overall GCSE (48 marks)

**Assessment overview:** Students will perform two extracts from the same play text (written before the year 2000). The performances can be in the form of either a monologue, duologue or a group performance. Both performances will be assessed by a visiting external examiner in February/March of Year 11.

### Component 3: 'Theatre makers in practice' written exam (1 hour 45 minutes)

**Weighting:** 40% of the overall GCSE (60 marks)

**Assessment overview:** Students will sit a 1 hour 45minute written exam. Section A is a total of 45 marks. Students will be required to answer a series of unseen questions on how they would perform, direct and design for a particular scene from the play text they have been studying—1984.

Section B is a total of 15 marks, there will be two questions based on a piece of live theatre that students have watched (this has most recently been Witness for the Prosecution). They will be able to take in 500 words of supporting notes about the piece of live theatre they saw for Section B.

## 4. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

Ms C Chatburn— [cchatburn@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:cchatburn@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:**  
Edexcel

**Entry Requirement:**  
Must achieve a grade 4 in Q4 assessment and at least grade 4 in Year 9 English.

Students should be committed to Drama and engage with the Drama wider learning offer.

# Further Maths

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## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

Further Maths will be integrated into the Maths curriculum for students in Maths set 1. All students in set 1 will learn the Further Maths content in preparation for sitting a GCSE in Further Maths at the end of Year 11. This course builds upon the skills and knowledge already gained in Key Stage 3 and prepares students well for studying Maths at A-Level.

*Off-track students may be removed from the course at the discretion of the Head of Department and Head of Year.*

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will have an opportunity to extend the Maths they learn in lessons, beyond the GCSE Maths specification. They will learn methods such as calculus, advanced trigonometry and matrices. The Further Maths GCSE will also build on the high level Algebra that students have been learning in Maths and will prepare students well for A Level Maths.

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will sit external examinations in Year 11. This will consist of 2 papers, one calculator and one non-calculator.

## 4. WHAT WILL IT PREPARE ME FOR?

The GCSE course will prepare students for further academic study, university and a variety of jobs which use the skills that Maths develops, such as logical thinking, problem solving, memorisation and conceptual understanding

## 5. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

Mr L Moores - [lmoores@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:lmoores@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:  
AQA**

**Entry Requirement:  
Top 30 Mathematicians  
who want to study Fur-  
ther Maths**

# Geography

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

Geography is best suited to students who:

- Are intrigued by our planet and how humans interact with it, and with each other
- Enjoy learning about other countries and cultures
- Have a passion for the environment and how to preserve it for future generations
- Are enthusiastic about finding things out and seeking answers to complex questions

It is also important that you are good at English and Maths as many skills learnt in these subjects are required to do well in GCSE Geography.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The course will cover three components, which are assessed over three exams.

Paper 1 – *The Physical Environment*

Paper 2 – *The Human Environment*

Paper 3 – *Geographical investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges*

*As part of the course, you will complete two pieces of fieldwork in order to prepare for Paper 3. We conduct trips to a river and a city in Year 10 to allow you to complete this.*

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Students will sit three exam papers. Paper 1 is 1 hour 45 and Paper 2 and 3 are 1 hour 30.

Paper 1 and 2 are worth 37.7% each and Paper 3 is worth 25% of the overall GCSE.

## 4. WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS SUBJECT AT GCSE AND BEYOND?

Geography combines a wide variety of skills including;

- Good written communication skills
- Data presentation and analysis skills, including the use of ICT
- Research and investigation through fieldwork
- Understanding maps at a range of scales
- Decision making and problem solving based on unseen information
- Current affairs and having an interest in the world around you
- Reading and writing about the world in which you live

## 5. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. Highly valued by sixth forms and universities, it is a subject that draws upon skills from a wide variety of subjects including statistical skills (Maths), data analysis and report writing skills (Science) and essay writing skills (English) amongst several others.

Furthermore, it is a complimentary subject for sciences as a social science, and can also be studied alongside other humanities subjects too. Therefore, geography has the potential to open many doors and present many opportunities in the future to the students who choose to study it.

## 6. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

Head of Geography—Miss Croft

[ecroft@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:ecroft@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:**  
Edexcel (A)

**Entry Requirement:**  
At least a grade 3+ in your Q4 exam to study Geography.

# History

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

History is best suited to students who:

- Are intrigued by the past and want to discover how the world evolved
- Ask questions, look beyond headlines, and express informed opinions
- Enjoy researching and locating and sifting through evidence to find out what is useful and reliable
- Are literary minded and enjoy reading around their subject
- Able to present ideas to the class and engage in debates and discussions.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The GCSE History content comprises the following elements:

- one period study
- one thematic study
- one wider world depth study
- one British depth study including the historic environment.

The units the students will be studying are as follows:

### Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

- Section A: 1C America 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality
- Section B: Conflict and tension between East and West, 1945–1972

### Paper 2: Shaping the nation

- Section A: 2A Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Section B: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. GCSE History students must sit two exams:

### Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)  
50% of GCSE

### Paper 2: Shaping the nation

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 84 marks (including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)  
50% of GCSE

## 4. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?

If you enjoy History, it can lead you to a great future and opens up broad career routes. History provides students with skills of analysis, evaluation, research, writing and enables a deeper understanding of society. These skills are suited to so many careers such as: Law, Medicine, Business, Finance, Marketing, Tourism, Town planning, Politics, Journalism, Research and academia, to name but a few.

## 5. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

The Head of History at Ealing Fields is Mr Coombes (rcoombes@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:  
AQA**

**Entry Requirement:  
At least a grade 3+ in  
your Q4 exam to study  
History.**

# Life and Study/Study Support

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## **1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?**

These courses are open to students who would benefit from additional support with Post-16 Options choices and a range of support to prepare them for a successful life after school. Neither course is a GCSE, so choosing these subjects would reduce the total number studied, letting students focus on doing as well as possible on English, Maths and Science.

## **2. HOW WILL THIS COURSE BE RUN?**

Students will be taught in a small group. They will benefit from specialist teaching, tailored to the needs of this group.

## **3. WHAT WILL I LEARN?**

- How to write applications and succeed in interviews
- Money management, E-safety, people skills
- Study skills and revision techniques
- Post-16 pathway preparation
- First Aid skills

## **4. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?**

There are no formal assessments but there will be time set aside to prepare for the quarterly assessments and the final GCSE examinations.

## **5. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?**

This allows students to learn essential skills to develop independence; confidence and prepare them for life outside school.

## **6. WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO?**

Mr James Salter (Head of Inclusion and SENCO) - [jpsalter@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:jpsalter@ealingfields.org.uk)

# GCSE PE

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

This course is suitable for students who have a passion for the theoretical aspects of sport and have a keen interest in what makes an elite performer. You will be learning interesting topics such as how and why the body moves, the role of technology, debating the use of performance enhancing drugs and analysing performance in sport. If you have a passion for sports and the topics surrounding the subject, as well as playing sport regularly, then this is the course for you.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- Anatomy & physiology
- Sports psychology
- Analysis of elite performance
- Socio-cultural influences in sport
- Living a healthy active lifestyle
- Fitness training & testing.
- Sports techniques

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- 60% Written exam
- 30% Practical assessment (across 3 different sports)
- 10% Written course work

## 4. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?

There are a number of courses which GCSE PE link to: physiotherapy/strength & conditioning/sports psychology/sports coaching/journalism/sports nutrition/sports analysis/health & fitness. As well as preparing them for future study, GCSE PE also allows students to equip themselves with personal and interpersonal skills that will help in many facets of life. These skills will range from learning communication, leadership, teamwork, organisation, roles and responsibilities and positive attitudes etc.

## 5. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

Mr Tootell—Head of PE [mtootell@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:mtootell@ealingfields.org.uk)

Ms I Jennings—2ic Head of Academic PE [ijennings@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:ijennings@ealingfields.org.uk)

**GCSE Exam Board:**  
**AQA**

**Entry Requirement:**  
Requirement that they have previously studied year 9 GCSE PE.

Minimum of a grade 4 in year 9 GCSE PE end of year assessment.

Students who do not achieve a Grade 4, will have to make a personal application to the Head of PE.

Evidence of high-level performance in sport/s outside of lessons

Compulsory attendance to at least 1 school sports club per week inside of school, and be participating in a community club outside of school.

# Music

## 1. WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

If you enjoy Year 9 Music and are doing well, then Music GCSE is for you. If you are committed to Music in and out of the classroom, you are likely to do exceptionally well in Music. Whether you learned your practical Music skills in our Year 7—9 lessons (singing, guitar, percussion, music tech.), or are having instrumental lessons outside the classroom, Music is an option for you to consider. Music GCSE has the opportunity to perform and compose in a range of styles, and does not necessarily require you to play an instrument formally—a willingness to try new things is essential. Students taking Music GCSE are ambassadors to the department and as such are encouraged to further develop their passion and commitment for the subject by attending extra curricular music clubs in school. This course is especially suited to those who are confident singing, playing an instrument or using music technology, but should not be discouraged from asking the Head of Department for more information about their suitability.

## 2. WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- How to perform accurately and with a sense of style. This could be using Music Technology or DJing, if you don't play an instrument formally.
- How to perform as part of an ensemble.
- How to compose music for a range of exciting purposes
- How to analyse the musical elements which make music sound the way it does.
- How to use Music Technology software such as Cubase and Sibelius

## 3. HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- 40% Written exam
- 30% Performance either singing, playing an instrument or via Music Technology (solo and ensemble)
- 30% Composition

## 4. HOW DOES THIS PREPARE ME FOR THE FUTURE?

Music is a rigorous and exciting subject which is well respected by colleges and universities. Students who take Music as a GCSE demonstrate commitment, strong ability to work as a team and analytical skills which are attractive to employers in any field, from Law and Medicine to Management and Finance. Those students who wish to take Music to A Level or Applied Btec courses and beyond can expect to have doors to the following careers open to them: Performer, Composer, Producer, Sound Engineer, Music Critic, Journalist, Teacher, Arts Administrator, Conductor, Foley Artist or working in the Charity Sector and well as competitive graduate programs if studying Music at university.

## 5. WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?

Head of Department— Ms Glanfield [fglanfield@ealingfields.org.uk](mailto:fglanfield@ealingfields.org.uk)

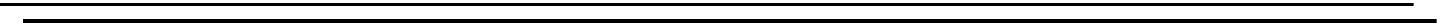
**GCSE Exam Board:**  
**AQA**

**Entry Requirement:**  
Requirement that they have previously studied year 9 GCSE Music

Minimum of 4 in Music Q4

Students who do not achieve a Grade 4, will have to make a personal application to the Head of Music.

Attending one Music club in school per week is strongly encouraged.



**Introduction:**

Selecting GCSE options is an important decision for Year 9 students. Ensuring that students select appropriate and suitable GCSE options can lead to successful progress and progression on a pathway that is most suitable for each individual student. When making their choices students should consider; what subjects they enjoy, what subjects they are good at and which options will be most suited to their Post 16 (*A-Levels, BTECs, Apprenticeships*) and Post 18 (*Degree, Apprenticeship, Employment*) plans. Students will have had the opportunity to engage in different GCSE subjects in their Year 9 elective choices. They will have also explored different pathways and progression routes throughout the pastoral programme and in options evenings.

If you would like to talk about your GCSE options and discuss future pathways in more detail, then please speak to Dr Lawson or your child's tutor.

**Useful Websites:**

**[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)**

This website gives you an overview of different options and Pathways at Post 14, Post 16 and Post 18

**[www.connexions-tw.co.uk](http://www.connexions-tw.co.uk)**

Impartial careers IAG for students between 13-19

**[www.beyond16.co.uk](http://www.beyond16.co.uk)**

Post 16 and Post 18 options specifically for students in West London

**[www.youthemployment.org.uk](http://www.youthemployment.org.uk)**

This website contains simple tests that young people can do to give them some guidance about Careers Choices.

**[www.ucasprogress.com](http://www.ucasprogress.com)**

This website will allow you to explore Post-16 Options including A Levels and vocational courses (Level 2 & 3). Find out what the entry requirements are for Sixth Form and college so that you can start planning ahead.

**[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)**

This site has every degree course in the country listed. You will find information on everything you need to know, from entry requirements to course content. The site also links to all the university websites.

**[www.university.which.co.uk](http://www.university.which.co.uk)**

This is a great new free site which provides comprehensive and high-quality information about degree courses, universities, entry requirements and more.

**<https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>**

The government apprenticeships site will be of interest to you if you might be looking for work after your GCSEs or A levels. This site has comprehensive information on the wide range of apprenticeships on offer, including current vacancies.



Ealing Fields  
High School

Executive Headteacher  
Dame Alice Hudson

Associate Headteacher  
Ms Jo Trewin

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