



CORE SUBJECTS



GCSE Religious Education

RE is at the heart of the curriculum at St Mary's, providing a foundation for your child's future. Many skills are gained through RE, challenging your child to apply their knowledge; remember key facts; apply their beliefs to everyday life situations and have the ability to evaluate contrasting views. RE addresses fundamental human questions and allows discourse to occur. In providing these opportunities in RE, your child will have the ability to think deeply about complex issues, and inspire them to live out the Gospel values both in and out of school.

Extra Curricular activities

The RE department works closely with Chaplaincy, developing the spiritual growth of your child. Each year your child will be given the opportunity to develop their beliefs through a number of extra curricular activities.

Year 10: Retreat to Castlerigg

Year 11: Various opportunities to lead and support Worship both in and out of school.

Charity: Thinking of others is at the heart of our faith. Each year group supports a different charity, with many events taking place throughout the year.

Facilities:

RE is taught in 2 designated rooms, along with 2 other classrooms belonging to non specialists. All pupils have the opportunity to use IT facilities throughout the year; through bookable IT suites.

Assessment

Pupils are regularly tested throughout the year. Each pupil is given a target level which they can track after each assessment. Pupils are expected to act upon teacher comments to improve work, so as to show continual progress.

Schemes of Work

Year 9

In the late spring/ early summer term pupils begin the first unit of their AQA Paper 1 course Creation (See KS4)

Key Stage 4: All Pupil's study a full GCSE in RE which consists of:

- AQA Specification B Paper 1 – Roman Catholic Christianity (Year 10)
- AQA Specification B Paper 2 – Perspectives on Faith (Year 11)
- Pupils will sit two 1hour 45 minute examinations for each Unit at the end of Year 11. Both are worth 50% of their final GCSE grade in RE.
- Pupils in Year 10 will sit a 'mock' examination in the summer term of Year 10.
- Pupils in Year 11 will sit a 'mock' examination in January of Year 11.

There are no tiered papers in RE and every pupil has full access to the whole range of number grades 9-1.



What's assessed; Paper 1 – Catholic Christianity (50%)

1. Creation
2. Incarnation
3. Triune God, Mission and Prayer
4. Redemption
5. Church and Kingdom of God
6. Eschatology, Life, Death and Eternity

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45mins
- 96 marks
- 50% of GCSE

What's assessed; Paper 2 – Perspectives of Faith (50%)

Judaism; key beliefs and practices

Themes (2 out of 3 themes are studied)

- **Religion, Relationships and Families**
- **Religion Peace and Conflict**
- **Human Rights and Social Justice**

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45mins
 - 96 marks
 - 50% of GCSE
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GCSE English

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Syllabus: WJEC - 100% Examination in 2017 and onwards

Examinations:

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of qualification.

Section A (20%) – Reading - One extract (about 60-100 lines) of literature from the twentieth century.

Section B (20%) – Prose writing - One creative task drawn from a selection of four titles.

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing.

Written examination: 2 hours - 60% of qualification

Section A (30%) – Reading - Two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality nonfiction writing from the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries.

Section B (30%) – Writing - Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Syllabus: WJEC - 100% examination from 2017

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours, 40% of qualification

Section A (20%) Shakespeare - One extract question and one essay question based on the reading of a Shakespeare text from a prescribed list.

Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to the present day - Two questions based on poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, one of which involves comparison.

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry.

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes, 60% of qualification.

Section A (20%) 19th Century Prose/Drama - One source based question on a post-1914 text from a prescribed list

Section B (20%) 19th Century Prose - One source based question on a 19th century prose text from a prescribed list.



Section C (20%) Unseen Poetry - Two questions based on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.

Progression through English

English is now graded 9-1 (9 being the highest).

English provides a solid foundation for ALL career opportunities.

Specific career opportunities exist in journalism, law, publishing, teaching, TV, cinema and theatre.



GCSE Mathematics

Overview

This is a core subject and all students follow the Linear Edexcel (9-1) course. Good maths qualifications will allow a wider choice of exciting careers. Without maths qualifications, many jobs and college courses will be unavailable to students.

What you will study

The course reflects the requirements of the National Curriculum which is split into 'Number and Algebra', 'Ratio/Proportion/Rates of Change', 'Geometry and Measures' and 'Statistics and Probability'. There is now a much greater emphasis on solving non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

How you will be assessed

Students will sit three papers at the end of Year 11. One paper is non-calculator and the other two are both calculator papers. Each paper is given equal weighting and are one and a half hours in length. There are two tiers of entry. The Higher tier is for Grades 5-9 and the Foundation tier is for Grades 1-5. The decision regarding tier of entry will be determined at the end of Year 9 and will be based on results to date. However the level of Mathematics taught to a student will be monitored, with their results, throughout Years 10 and 11.

Equipment

The department expects all students to have all their mathematical equipment with them for all of the mathematics lessons. This includes a scientific calculator. We would welcome support from parents in ensuring that equipment is complete and in good condition.

Progression through Mathematics

Many courses and jobs specify GCSE Grade 5 in Maths as a minimum entry requirement and even where this is not the case you will very often have to pass a maths skills test.

If students are thinking of going to university to study any subject, they may be required to get at least a Grade 5 in Maths.

To study this subject at A-Level you will need a minimum of Grade 6 at GCSE.

Mathematics is a part of most jobs but for some it is central to that career route for example:

- Accountancy
- Banking
- Engineering
- Science

Any questions? Please don't hesitate to discuss the matter with your child's class teacher on Parents' Evening on the Wednesday 4th March.



GCSE Science

The National Curriculum dictates that **all** students must undertake a balanced course of study of all three science disciplines; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This may consist of either....

Route A – Combined Science – AQA Trilogy (x2 GCSE science qualifications)

2/3 of all students complete this programme of study, providing them with an excellent foundation in science for further educational choices such as apprenticeships and academic study including A-levels. This route does not limit further life choices regarding scientific careers or university choices.

- GCSE grades 9-9, 9-8 though to 2-1 or 1-1 are awarded.

Route B – Separate Sciences AQA Biology, Chemistry and Physics (x3 GCSE science qualifications)

1/3 of pupils currently complete this programme of study, providing them with the very best academically based scientific education currently available at GCSE.

This course is ultimately designed for students who have a very keen interest in science and aspire to completing further scientific qualifications such as A-levels and a BSc university degree. It is an ideal choice for pupils aiming to enter any scientific based career.

GCSE Biology

This GCSE will be studied over a two year period, years 10 and 11, and examined through 2 terminal examinations in the summer of the final year.

GCSE grade 9 to 1 will be awarded.

GCSE Chemistry

This GCSE will be studied over a two year period, years 10 and 11, and examined through 2 terminal examinations in the summer of the final year.

GCSE grade 9 to 1 will be awarded.

GCSE Physics

This GCSE will be studied over a two year period, years 10 and 11, and examined through 2 terminal examinations in the summer of the final year.

GCSE grade 9 to 1 will be awarded.

Separate Science Entry requirements

A **minimum end of KS3 level 7** (although the attainment of this level does not guarantee selection) is required to be eligible for this programme of study. This is due to the extra academic demands required to fully understand the more in-depth curriculum content of each scientific discipline. The final end of year



student level will be calculated using the marks from a combination of internal examinations, conducted throughout year 9, and possibly one terminal KS3 examination score. This data will then allow a fair and consistent ranking of the students to take place, from which approximately 50 pupils, of those who have opted to be considered for the course, will be selected. The final decision will ultimately be made by the Curriculum Leader for Science.

Pupil performance and attitude throughout KS3, especially year 9 is therefore essential.

- GCSE grades 9 to 1 are awarded
- Three independent GCSE qualifications are completed i.e. Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Progression through Science

GCSE Science is suitable for meeting the entry requirements of most college courses. It is particularly suitable for those who are interested in scientific or technical careers e.g. medicine, midwifery, nursing, engineering, forensics, electrician, laboratory work, physiotherapy, Royal Navy, teaching and auto designers.