



# Year 9 Options Information

## 2019-21 Cohort

You will shortly be asked to choose which option subjects you wish to study in Year 10 and 11. This is an important choice which you need to think about carefully and discuss with your parents and teachers. This options booklet has been produced to guide your choices by providing information about each course.

What to consider when making your choices:

- Don't choose a subject just because your mates are doing it
- Listen to advice from your teachers, parents and older students who are currently studying the subject to see what they have to say - but it is **your** choice
- Think about subjects you could do well in, enjoy or are interested in

### Are you considering university?

To keep options open, your A level choices should include at least two of the facilitating subjects from: Biology, Chemistry, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Foreign Languages and Physics. To be able to study these at A level, you will need to have studied them at GCSE first. Almost all A level courses require GCSE passes in English and Mathematics.



### **Key Dates:**

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January - Year 9 Parents' Evening  
 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March - Deadline for handing in options form



### 2019-21 Curriculum

Compulsory curriculum:	+ EBacc Hums option:	+ THREE options from the following:
English Language English Literature Mathematics Combined Science OR Triple Science	Geography OR History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art</li> <li>• Business</li> <li>• Computer Science</li> <li>• Design &amp; Technology:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Textiles</li> <li>◦ Graphics</li> <li>◦ RM</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Food, Preparation &amp; Nutrition</li> <li>• French</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)</li> <li>• Media Studies</li> <li>• Music (BTEC &amp; GCSE)</li> <li>• Philosophical Thinking</li> <li>• Photography</li> <li>• PE (BTEC &amp; GCSE)</li> <li>• Sociology</li> <li>• Spanish</li> </ul>

## Y9 Options Form 2019

Name:

Tutor:

<b>Future Career/Aspiration</b>
<i>This information will help us provide the best options for you.</i>
What careers/jobs are you interested in doing when you leave school?
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure
<b>Do you want to go to University?</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Sure

<b>All students will follow the Compulsory Core below:</b>
GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Combined Science OR Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)* <i>*The Science pathway for each pupil to be determined by the Science department</i>

<b>All students must study ONE of the EBacc Humanities subjects below:</b>	
	Geography
	History

<b>THREE remaining option slots:</b>			
Choose a <b>minimum of five subjects</b> from the list below, ranking them 1-5 (1 being your most favoured option). <i>This will allow for at least two 'reserve' options if we are unable to fulfil your top three choices.</i>			
	GCSE Art		GCSE History
	GCSE Business		Creative iMedia ( <i>Cambridge National</i> )
	GCSE Computer Science		GCSE Media Studies
	GCSE Design & Technology		Music ( <i>BTEC &amp; GCSE</i> )*
	<i>Graphics</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>RM</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Textiles</i> <input type="checkbox"/>		GCSE Philosophical Thinking
	<i>Tick one DT pathway box above</i>		GCSE Photography
	GCSE Drama		PE ( <i>BTEC &amp; GCSE</i> )*
	GCSE Food, Preparation & Nutrition		GCSE Sociology
	GCSE French		GCSE Spanish
	GCSE Geography		

We will endeavour to fulfil your choices but cannot guarantee that all combinations will be possible.

**PLEASE HAND COMPLETED FORMS TO STUDENT SERVICES BY FRIDAY 1st MARCH 2019**

\* The PE and Music departments will decide upon the most appropriate pathway (GCSE or BTEC) for each pupil opting for these subjects.

## English GCSE (OCR)

English is compulsory at Key Stage 4 and all students work towards both **GCSE English Language** and **English Literature**. Classes are organised with consideration given to target grades and prior attainment. Throughout the course, the flexibility to move students between classes is maintained. There are no tiers of entry for GCSE English specifications. All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11. There is no Controlled Assessment.

### GCSE English Language:

<u>Name of examination</u>	<u>Content of examination</u>
<u>Communicating information and ideas (01)</u>  80 marks 2 hour written exam (end of year 11) 50% of total GCSE	<u>Section A - Reading</u> Read and answer questions on non-fiction texts: one 19 <sup>th</sup> century non-fiction text and one 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century non-fiction text. <u>Section B - Writing</u> Write one piece of non-fiction writing (letter, speech, newspaper article, discussion essay etc).
<u>Exploring effects and impact (01) (fiction)</u>  80 marks 2 hour written exam (end of year 11) 50% of total GCSE	<u>Section A - Reading</u> Read and answer questions on literary prose texts: both texts are 20 <sup>th</sup> or 21 <sup>st</sup> century literary prose (one may be literary non-fiction). <u>Section B - Writing</u> Write one piece of original creative writing. This may be in the form of a story, narrative, diary entry, autobiography etc.

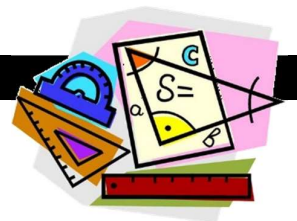
### GCSE English Literature: all examinations are closed text.

<u>Name of examination</u>	<u>Content of examination</u>
<u>Exploring modern and literary heritage texts</u>  80 marks 2 hour written exam (end of year 11) 50% of total GCSE	<u>Section A - Modern prose or drama</u> <i>J B Priestley, An Inspector Calls</i> 1. Students will be asked to compare the studied text to an unseen modern, same genre extract. 2. A general question on the set text. <u>Section B - 19<sup>th</sup> Century Prose</u> <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> 3. Students answer one question from a choice of two
<u>Exploring poetry and Shakespeare</u>  80 marks 2 hour written exam (end of year 11) 50% of total GCSE	<u>Section A - Poetry (Conflict)</u> One cluster of thematically linked poetry from the <i>OCR Poetry Anthology</i> . 1. Students will be asked to compare one of the studied poems to a thematically linked unseen poem. 2. A general question on a poem of the student's choice <u>Section B - Shakespeare</u> <i>A Merchant of Venice</i> 3. Students answer one question from a choice of two

**Students are responsible for the purchase of their own texts.** A letter regarding the purchase of texts will be sent out in the summer term of Year 9.



## Mathematics GCSE (Edexcel)



Mathematics is a creative and highly interconnected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment.

A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

### Assessment:

As you are probably aware the government has replaced the grading system with a new 9-1 grading system where 9 is the top grade. The diagram opposite shows how the new grading system compares to the previous A\*-G system.

The examination sat will be dependent upon the student's individual pathway. Some students will follow the Foundation Course which offers grades 1-5 and others will follow the Higher Course which offers grades 4-9. The course is examined by three 90 minute papers, one non-calculator and two calculator which are sat at the end of the course in the May and June of Year 11.

MATHEMATICS



### Further Study Opportunities:

Mathematics is a core GCSE subject and forms a basis for further study at all levels. Almost all college courses will require minimum grades in Mathematics qualification and students who do not achieve a grade 5 in their GCSE will have to continue to study mathematics in order to have their college place funded by the Government.

Students can study A-level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. A-level Mathematics is currently the most popular A-level choice due to the large number of Degree courses which list it as essential or desirable for entry onto the course.



During *GCSE Geography* you will study a range of key concepts and case studies across three key elements of the syllabus. The first element investigates 'OUR NATURAL WORLD', this will allow students to gain an appreciation of the natural world around them including tectonic and weather hazards, climate change, the UK's distinctive landscapes and the global ecosystems which support life on the planet. The second element is around 'PEOPLE AND OUR SOCIETY' which enables students to study why more than half of the world's population live in urban areas, the dynamic nature of development, the UK in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and human reliance on key resources for survival and economic gain. Finally the last element is 'GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATION' which looks at Geographical Skills and includes a Decision Making Exercise.

A key feature of the new *GCSE* specifications, is the fact that geographical fieldwork skills are embedded throughout ensuring learners become both adaptable and resilient no matter what their future pathway. As part of all *GCSE Geography* courses, students **must** attend a **minimum of two separate days of fieldwork**. Normally each day would cost in the region of £30.

Throughout this course you will be learning from current case studies, which apply to each theme, in advanced, emerging and low-income developing countries. It is hoped that this will encourage you to actively engage in the process of *Geography* and to develop as an effective independent learner, who is critical and reflective. At the end of the course you will be formally examined. This exam will be based around the topics studied in class. Another component is a decision making exam where you will investigate one issue in order to apply your own ideas to a real life situation.

### **Assessment:**

Exam: Our Natural World	1 Hour 15 Minutes	35% (of final grade)
Exam: People and Society	1 Hour 15 Minutes	35% (of final grade)
Exam: Geographical Exploration	1 Hour 30 Minutes	30% (of final grade)

For further information please speak to Mrs Graham or Miss Bell.

Link to Specification on the Internet:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/207307-specification-accredited-gcse-geography-b-j384.pdf>



GCSE History involves you studying FOUR main aspects of History.

Firstly there is an enquiry in depth which focuses on the rise of totalitarianism and its impact on GERMANY in the period 1890-1945.

The enquiry requires the investigation of developments and conditions in Weimar Germany as a basis for explaining Hitler's rise to power. It also enables you to look at the impact the Nazi regime had on Germany during this period and the reactions of various individuals and groups of people. It enables you to immerse yourself in one small period of time and investigate it in great detail.

The second unit, is a wider world depth study, which enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals and the ideologies they represented. It focuses on the causes and events of the COLD WAR and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the tensions which arose during the Cold War. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

There is also the opportunity to investigate a development study across the whole of time. This is based around MEDICINE and enables you to gain an overview of the main changes and trends in medicine and public health in Britain from the medieval era to the present day. The unit involves looking at three interrelated themes: Disease and Infection, Surgery and Anatomy and Public Health.

Finally, you will study ELIZABETHAN England from 1568-1603, looking in depth at this specified period. The study will focus on major events of the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and the arising contemporary and historical controversies.

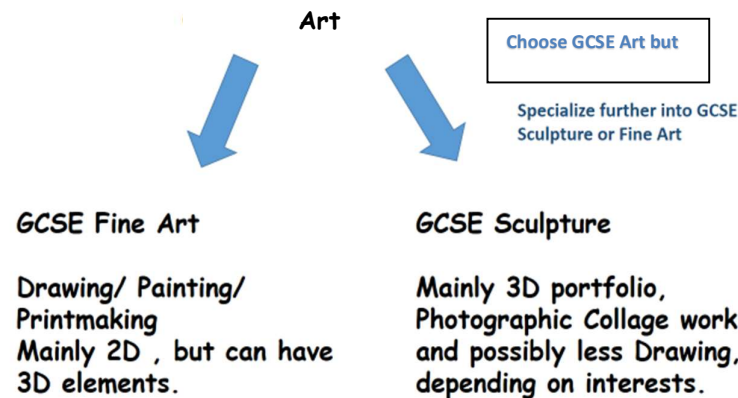
### Assessment:

Exam: Understanding the Modern World	1hr 45 minute exam	50% (of final grade)
Exam: Shaping the Nation	1hr 45 min exam	50% (of final grade)

For further information please speak to Mr Duke, Miss Fowler, Mr Young or Mr Thomas.

Link to Specification on the Internet:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>



## Why choose art?

- You are *resilient*.
- You enjoy being creative.
- You like to explore ideas in images.
- You like to explore different types of processes and materials.
- You like to challenge yourself and to explore an idea/theme.
- You want a career in the creative industry.
- You want to be an architect, involved in computer game design, fashion designer, graphic designer, car designer, animator, painter, sculptor, film maker etc.

## Do I have to be good at drawing?

Drawing is important, but a love of creativity means you can explore different types of 'drawing,' for example stencil making- like Urban Art/graffiti art. Also Doodling is drawing, the new criteria means that there is an element of drawing- but we can be creative in our response to this. You could enjoy sculpture, collage and photography, and explore this in your work, and ideas.

## What will I study?

The Theme that we will explore is 'Identity.' This theme can encapsulate many different and broad ideas, allowing students to explore something more personal. Students will be introduced to a range of materials and encouraged to explore new ways of working.

Work will be developed in various ways using:

- **Printmaking**
- **Stencil making**
- **Painting**
- **Drawing**
- **Sculpture**
- **Photoshop**
- **Collage**
- **Photography skills to do with artists who work in Fine Art also.**



You can respond to the theme in anyway. If your work becomes sculptural, you could be entered for a GCSE in sculpture. You will visit an exhibition to support and provide inspiration for your ideas.

### **Assessment:**

Controlled assessment is worth 60% (all classroom work assessed.)

You will sit a 10 hour exam (Students have 8 weeks to plan this, with their teacher's help).

This will take place in terms 3 or 4 of year 11. The exam is worth 40% of the final grade.

### **What will I learn if I do GCSE Art?**

#### **You will learn:**

- To think independently.
- How to respond to artists' work.
- To experiment with ideas.
- About careers in art.
- To make connections with the world around you and think laterally.
- Skills/Techniques.
- Annotate artwork.

### **Art Pack/Trips:**

Below is a list of possible costs associated with your child taking this GCSE option:

As in the majority of other schools, students are asked for a studio contribution to support their day to day use of materials, this allows us to support their creativity and appropriate techniques without limitations. The Studio Fee will cover printing and materials costs. Lino, collage work, clay, etching materials- we strive for the best outcomes for our students.

£20.00

The school can provide materials a lot cheaper than local retailers in a pack. This will give students ownership and control of the materials they use, so there is less waste. At the end of the course, students will also be allowed to take their work home through this scheme.

Drawing Pack - Sketching Pencil Set, Fine line Drawing Pen, Rubber, Sharpener, A3 Sketchbook, A3 folder, plus printing to high quality printer. OR £20.00

Painting Pack and Drawing Pack- Size 2 Brush, Size 6 Brush, Paint Palette, Watercolour Set, Acrylic Paint Set, Sponge, Sketching Pencil Set, Fine line Drawing Pen, Rubber, Sharpener, A3 Sketchbook, A3 folder. £30.00

Art trip to Galleries - To support and inspire Tate Modern/ Tate Britain £20.00

We hold an annual art show in June/ July, this is a great opportunity for friends and family to view the student's work.

# Fine Art and Sculpture GCSE





You might have an interest in learning how businesses are set up and what it takes to survive and/or you might want to start your own business one day. Business GCSE offers you the opportunity to develop skills ready for the workplace. You will be introduced to the world of small businesses, then move onto skills to help business expand; you will discover how businesses promote themselves, how the economy affects decision making and study how they manage both their finance and their workforce. Throughout the course you will be looking at what makes someone a successful entrepreneur.

The course is divided into two main themes:

<b>Theme 1 – Investigating Small Business</b> In Year 10 we will cover enterprise, spotting a business opportunity, putting an idea into practice, how to make a business effective and external influences on business.	<b>Theme 2 – Building the Business</b> In Year 11 we will look at growing a business, Marketing, Operations, Finance and Human Resources and revisit some of the topics from Theme 1.
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There will be opportunities for practical activities, teamwork and life skills development (CV's, bills, banking & payslips etc.) which help embed learning once we finish a topic throughout the year as well as educate students for the real financial world.

You will develop effective decision making skills and will be required to apply the business theory to real business situations. You need to be good at communicating, explaining your ideas as the exam questions will ask you for your opinion in various business scenarios, so developing the confidence to do this and using the theory learnt to support your own judgement is something you will develop on the course.

**Assessment:**

This course is assessed 100% by examination with 2 written exams for 1 hour and 30 minutes each. The first exam covers Theme 1 content and the second exam covers content for Theme 2. Both exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

**Further Study Opportunities:**

This course provides excellent preparation for further study in the field of Business at sixth-form/college or beyond.

See Miss Balebela or Mr Nightingale for more information or go online:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>



If you like designing and creating things on the computer, then Creative iMedia is the course for you!

By taking this option you will be studying for a Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate from OCR. You will gain a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction+ on successful completion of the course.

### Assessment:

There are **four** units (see below.) Three of the units are assessed through **controlled assessment**. One unit has a **written exam**, which is sat in January of Year 10, but may be re-taken if necessary. All the 4 units are worth 25% of the overall grade each.

#### **R081: Pre-production skills (Exam 25% of overall grade)**

This is a compulsory unit, based on all aspects of planning projects from Mood boards to Gantt Charts. It will also develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process. For the assessment of this unit, the students will be entered for an exam in January of Year 10, which may be retaken if needed in June.

#### **R082: Creating digital graphics. (Controlled Assessment 25% of overall grade)**

This is also a compulsory unit, in which Photoshop is used to edit photographs and images to suit given situations. For the assessment of this unit, students will complete a 10 hour controlled assessment which is marked by the teaching staff and externally moderated. This moderation can take place in June of Year 10 or November of Year 11.

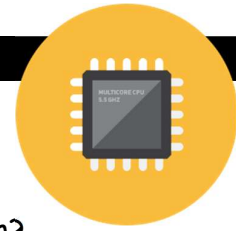
In order to gain your certificate, you also need to complete **two additional Controlled Assessment units (worth 25% each)** covering topics such as web design, digital sound production and game design (exact units to be confirmed.)

### Further Study Opportunities:

There are no direct A Level options that follow on from this course. However, students may be able to use the ICT & creative media skills they acquire to assist with their other post-16 studies. Students considering Apprenticeships will be able to show employers and trainers the level of their ICT competence using a recognised qualification, especially in the areas covered by the units studied.

See Mr Beecher for more information or go online:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/115888-specification.pdf>



Have you ever wondered how computers work?

Have you wanted to create your own applications and learn how to program?

Computer science is all about problem solving, analysing and designing solutions and then evaluating them. It also counts as a science towards the English Baccalaureate.

### **You will learn about:**

- Programming - you'll be taught at least one programming language, and will use it practically and creatively
- Algorithms - and why they are at the heart of how computers work
- Data - how it is handled and stored and what it can be used for
- Hardware - how computers and networks are made up and how they communicate
- Basic concepts of software engineering - the product development lifecycle, prototyping and application testing
- Legal, Ethical and Environmental Impacts of computers

### **Students who hope to achieve well on this course should:**

- Have a very good understanding of mathematics
- Enjoy a challenge and problem solving
- Be willing to undergo additional programming practice in their own time

### **Assessment:**

Examination (2 papers - worth 50% each); in order to receive certification, the exam board requires pupils to complete a 20-hour programming project, although this does not contribute towards their final grade.

### **Further Study Opportunities:**

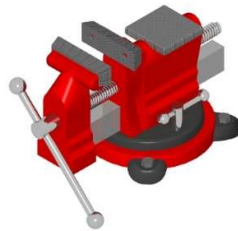
- A-level Computing
- Vocational IT qualifications
- Industry-standard IT qualifications
- Degree courses in Computing, Engineering and Science.

See Mr Ward or Mr Nightingale for more information or go online:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/computing/specifications/AQA-8520-SP-2016.PDF>



Even though the GCSE is titled "Design & Technology", you can still opt to focus on either **Graphic Products**, **Resistant Materials** or **Textiles**.



The new GCSE course is assessed on a 9-1 scale. The course is assessed through a controlled assessment project and an exam at the end of the two-year course. The theme of the controlled assessment course will be set by the exam board at the end of Year 10.

The written exam will be based on theory related to the following topics and will last 2 hours:

- **Core technical principles**
- **Specialist technical principles** (*All GCSE D&T students will develop a knowledge of Graphics, Textiles and RM materials and processes but you will also develop a more in-depth knowledge related to the specialism that you've chosen.*)
- **Designing and making principles**

### Key areas for learning:

- New and emerging technologies (theory)
- Energy, materials, systems and devices (theory)
- Materials and their working properties (theory/practical)
- Design and making principles (theory/practical)

### Why choose this course?

- If you have a passion for designing and making
- If you enjoy problem solving
- If you are eager to learn about new materials and technologies used in the world of design

### Career Links:

Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Packaging Designer, Model Maker, Printer, Advertising/Marketing, Exhibition Designer, Stage Set Designer, Product Designer, Product Manufacturer, Engineer, Furniture Designer, Model Maker, Jewellery Designer, Textiles Designer, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer, Fashion Buyer, Fashion Forecaster, Fashion Journalism, Make-up Artist, Costume Designer, Fashion Merchandising, Stylist and much more...!



The Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will help you to master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. This is an exciting and creative course which will allow you to demonstrate your practical skills and make connections between theory and practice.

Key areas for learning:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

**Assessment:**

Food preparation & nutrition written exam: (50%)

- 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks)

Non-exam assessment tasks:

**Task 1: Food investigation** (30 marks)

*Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.*

- Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) based on a theme set by AQA
- Photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

**Task 2: Food preparation assessment** (70 marks)

*Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.*

*Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within 3 hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.*

- Written or electronic portfolio (20 A4 pages)
- Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

**Course cost:** Students are expected to cook every week, the cost of this course can be up to £10 per week.

**Career Links:** Food scientist; Food technologist; sports nutrition; dietician; teacher; Chef; Restaurant manager; Hospitality and Catering careers; military chef; airline chef; food promotion; catering manager; events manager and many more career opportunities.



The Drama GCSE course is a two year exploration of the functions of drama and the techniques used in the discipline. In Year 10, students will study a play set by the examination board. The focus for the student is interpreting the play from the perspective of the performer, director, and designer. Key skills will be taught alongside this to allow the students to explore the set play using dramaturgical language and ideas. Students will complete a devised drama project which will explore a theme through performance; a written or verbal portfolio will consolidate the learning in this part of the course.

In Year 11, students will prepare for their two contrasting performance pieces this will be externally assessed.

Finally, students have a summer written exam which will test their knowledge and understanding of the set play and a professionally performed play which the students have watched and critiqued.

Homework is set in Drama GCSE especially around critical periods such as Portfolio completion in Component One, and exam revision for Component Three.

### **Component One: Devising (40% of qualification)**

Students explore stimuli in a group, developing ideas, rehearsing and refining these to create a devised piece of theatre for an assessed performance. The stimuli are a free choice for centres. Students record the creation and development process of this group performance in a portfolio and evaluate their contribution to the process and the performance.

#### **Assessment**

Participation in group-devised performance as a performer or designer.  
Individual portfolio.

### **Component Two: Performance from text (20% of qualification)**

Students explore two extracts from one play text, this text must be from a contrasting time period to their Component 3 set text. It must also be by a different playwright and a different genre. They create a performance from the text, rehearsing and refining their performance/ design realisations for an assessed performance. Performance in/design realisation for two key extracts from a performance text.

#### **Assessment**

Each of the extract performances is assessed independently.  
Students participate as a designer/performer and may submit a monologue, duologue or group piece for each extract.

### **Component Three: Theatre Makers in Practice (40% of qualification)**

Students practically explore a chosen set text. This can come from either List A (pre-1954) or List B (post-2000).

Students are audience members for a live performance. They make and refine notes on the performance. They practice responding to questions for both sections in examination conditions.

#### **Assessment**

Written examination: Section A - Bringing texts to life; Section B - Live theatre.

#### **Students Contribution:**

The cost of the Theatre visit to see *A Curious Incident* in London's West End including workshop and transport was £50.00.



#### **Further Study Opportunities:**

Students who complete the two year GCSE course would be at the point where they would be able to continue with either A Level or Level 3 qualification in Drama at an FE College of their choice. They could then go on either to Degree study or move directly into a job in the Arts. The skill set that students learn and utilise from this course can be applied to many of the 1.68 million jobs in the UK that the Government identified as Creative. Providing 71.4 Billion in revenue. Jobs could include: Performing, Stage Management, Sound /Lighting/technical designer, Producing, Directing, Community Outreach, Drama Therapy. Creative problem solving, team building and many others.

### **Media GCSE**

'The Media' refers to the different channels we use to communicate information in the everyday world, and includes television, print (magazines and newspapers), film, radio, advertising, popular music and the internet.



You have been studying Media products from a very young age. The moment you sat down in front of a TV programme or watched a film you were being influenced by the Media. Think about it, do you see boys playing with Barbie dolls in Advertisements, or girls playing with cars in Hot Wheels Advertisements?

Media Studies is a combination of theory and analysis, and 'learn by doing'. You will compare your own experiences with what the 'professionals' go through by completing practical work, such as designing the cover of a magazine, storyboarding a film trailer, or producing a music video.

### **Assessment:**

Assessment for this course is made up of 30% Non-exam assessment (NEA) where students will need to create a media project in response to a set brief, and the remaining 70% of the qualification will be two written exams consisting of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.

Paper 1 - 1 hour and 30 mins                      84 marks      35% of GCSE  
(Questions will focus on three areas of the theoretical framework: industries, audiences and representation.)

Paper 2 - 1 hour and 30 mins                      84 marks      35% of GCSE  
(Questions will focus on media language and contexts of the media.)

Non-Exam assessment: media project              72 marks      30% of GCSE  
(Application of knowledge and understanding and practical skills will be assessed.)

For more information please speak to Mr Beecher or Mr Evans.

## **Modern Foreign Languages (AQA)**



### ***Why choose a GCSE in Modern Foreign Languages?***

In opting to study a language you will be able to communicate more confidently and accurately with native speakers and learn more about the lifestyles and cultures of many vibrant and influential countries.

Foreign language skills are widely recognised as being essential for many jobs in global businesses such as computing and finance, and a language GCSE has the added recognition of being an EBacc subject. Employers are increasingly looking for those who can communicate effectively in a foreign language, not only for their linguistic capabilities, but also because language learners are recognised as having a wealth of transferable skills, resilience, and logic.



***By opting for a GCSE in Modern Foreign Languages, you will:***

- develop the ability to understand and use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication
- confidently apply the language both imaginatively and creatively
- have a greater insight into the culture and civilisation of different countries and communities
- build a solid foundation of the skills, language and attitude required for further study, work and leisure



***Assessment:***

You will take four exams which assess the four key skills areas. Each assessment is worth 25%. You will study the following themes on which the assessments are based. Theme 1: Identity and culture. Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest. Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

***The four exams are taken at the end of Y11 and are as follows:***

- Listening. Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- Speaking. Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes
- Reading. Understanding and responding to different types of written language
- Writing. Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

We are currently offering **French** and **Spanish** for students in Key Stage 4:



**French GCSE:**

From your previous hard work in Key Stage 3, you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar needed for GCSE. You will build on this knowledge during the GCSE course.



**Spanish GCSE:**

You will build on the knowledge gained during KS3 taster lessons, and be able to apply your understanding of French grammar and syntax to a new language. Don't be put off if you haven't studied much Spanish before - you will be amazed at how quickly you pick it up!

Further information about French and Spanish GCSEs can be found on the AQA website

If you have any questions about the MFL GCSE course requirements and structure, please see your Languages teacher or speak to Miss Crowder, curriculum leader for MFL.

## Music GCSE (AQA)



During this course you will learn how to improve your performing skills and, through your work in composing, you will gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product. You will also learn how to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years.

You will analyse 2 set works; Haydn Symphony 101 and The Beatles. For both analysis topics you will need to read musical notation and use high level subject specific terminology.

To be successful in this course you need to be dedicated to your studies and you must be able to offer at least one instrument or voice at a minimum of grade 2 standard. You should enjoy learning about all types of music (including classical, popular and world music), performing and creating music in your own time and be learning an instrument or having singing lessons.

The course has a lot of music theory as well as practical so be prepared for musical analysis as well as composing and performing!

### Assessment:

<b>Composition</b> - There are 2 compositions: 1. Composition to a set brief 2. Free composition	(30% of the course)
<b>Performing (Solo and Ensemble)</b> One solo and one ensemble completed and marked to exam standard throughout the course.	(30% of the course)
<b>Listening and Appraising Music</b> —1 hour 30 minute music exam	(40% of the course)

### BTEC and GCSE Pathways:

The department offers both GCSE and BTEC pathways in Music. The head of department will determine the most appropriate pathway for pupils opting to study Music. More information about the BTEC option is available from Mrs Henry.

### Further Study Opportunities:

To take A Level Music you will need to take GCSE Music or have a high standard of external qualifications e.g. a minimum of Grade 4 Piano.

For further information or if you have any questions please see Mrs Henry or Miss Willis.



There are TWO main components to this course. Firstly, you will consider different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. This course is designed to make you aware of what the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, and that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse. You will study two religions, Christianity and Buddhism. In both religions, you will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Buddhism and their basis in Christian and Buddhist sources of wisdom and authority.

The second component will be a study of FOUR of the themes below:

Theme A: Relationships and families.

Theme B: Religion and life.

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Throughout these themes, you will consider different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and their impact and influence in the modern world. You will become aware of different perspectives on the issues studied, within and/or between religions, as well as non-religious views.

**Assessment:**

Exam: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices	1hr 45 minute exam	50% (of final grade)
Exam: Thematic studies	1hr 45 min exam	50% (of final grade)

For more information please see Mrs Nightingale.

Link to Specification (Code 8062):

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-8062-SP-2016.PDF>



### **Why Choose Photography?**

You enjoy taking photographs. You want to learn more technical aspects of taking photographs. You want to understand how to take a good photograph. You want to understand how artists and designers use photography.

Because of the digital element, photoshop will need to be used throughout the course, so it is important that you enjoy using photoshop.

You enjoy exploring photography to create artworks that could be very experimental and innovative, could be collage based or have links to sculpture.

### **Requirements:**

Students will need to be committed and organised to do this course. A course requirement is that all students have a digital camera, with all the leads and recharging equipment. A point and shoot camera or the camera on a smart phone is adequate, but preferably students will have a Digital SLR camera.

### **Course:**

#### Project 1 (controlled assessment)

Project theme: Exploring the idea of the portrait and identity.

#### Project 2 (controlled assessment)

Project theme: Inside/outside. You will explore the surroundings, could be local or other, to illustrate a personal response or emotion about how you relate to the world around you.

#### Project 3

This has an externally set starting point given to us by the exam board. This final project is essentially the exam itself. We will be given the starting points in January 2019 and we will use the remaining time on the course to prepare the relevant ideas and models ready for the final 10hr exam that will take place in term 3 or 4, during year 11.

### **Cost:**

As in the majority of other schools, photography students are requested to either contribute to the costs of their projects and practical work or supply suitable materials for their work.

These are:

- A contribution of £25.00 to the cost of printing and paper, as this course requires a high volume of experimentation, and therefore a high level of printing to explore their intentions and provide evidence of their work towards their final pieces.  
This will also gain access to a high quality Photography printer for their final pieces
- Approx £20-30 for a field trip, which is of great value to their environmental project (see Project 2). It is vital in generating beautiful images, with their teacher on hand, and a great foundation for their experimentation skills in Photography.

- Some students may wish to purchase a black paged A3 sketch book from places like Hobby Craft, this gives a more professional presentation of their project. (Approx £15). One for coursework and one for exam.
- We will try to source cheaper alternatives if we are able through school, in a photography pack- Sketchbook, folder, pritt sticks (Approx £20)



## Physical Education GCSE (AQA)



This course is in addition to Core PE and will appeal to you if you:

- Have a keen interest in sport and always look forward to your PE lessons.
- Take part in sport outside of class time.
- Want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through practical involvement.
- Want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise.
- Have a keen interest in the body systems and how they operate.
- Want to improve your own performance in a range of sports.
- Are considering a sports-related career or an A Level Physical Education course.

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. You will be required to perform at a high level in both team and individual games. You will also need to be prepared to work hard in a classroom as the course has a high percentage of marks dedicated to the two final exams.

Through a variety of classroom based as well as practical sessions, you will:

- Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities.
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance.
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity.
- Develop an in depth working knowledge of performance in sport.



**Assessment:**

The GCSE course is assessed over two units:

**Unit 1** is externally assessed through two written examination papers, which are each worth 30% of your final grade.

**Unit 2** is assessed in two sections:

You will be assessed in three different sports, each contributing 10% to your final grade.

The 30% of your final grade will come from a combination of individual and team sports.

Analysis of performance is also part of the specification and will also contribute 10% towards your final grade.

The sports in which you can be assessed in are:

Team Sports	Individual Sports
Badminton (Doubles)	Athletics
Basketball	Badminton (Singles)
Camogie	Boxing
Cricket	Canoeing/Kayaking (Slalom)
Dance (Group)	Canoeing/Kayaking (Sprint)
Football	Cycling (Track)
Gaelic Football	Cycling (Road)
Handball	Dance (Solo)
Hockey	Diving (Platform)
Hurling	Golf
Lacrosse	Gymnastics (Floor and Apparatus)
Netball	Equestrian
Rowing	Rock Climbing
Rugby League	Sculling
Rugby Union	Skiing
Squash (Doubles)	Snowboarding
Table Tennis (Doubles)	Squash (Singles)
Tennis (Doubles)	Swimming
Volleyball	Table Tennis (Singles)
	Tennis (Singles)
	Trampolining

**BTEC and GCSE Pathways:**

The department offers both GCSE and BTEC pathways in PE. Pupils interested in studying PE should opt for the subject on their option form. The PE department will then assess each individual student and recommend which of the two examination courses on offer we feel would most suit their needs.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Roper.

The main topics you will study at GCSE are: The sociology of families, education, crime and deviance, social stratification and relevant areas of social theory and methodology. Sociology is an exciting course where you will develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society. Sociology is relevant and interesting and will encourage you to take a questioning approach to evidence and issues, and develop your critical and evaluative skills.

### Assessment:

- Sociology is 100% examination, therefore you will need to be able to manage your time effectively. You will be expected to work hard in lessons, complete independent work and develop the ability to write detailed, critically balanced answers to questions. You will learn about different sociological perspectives and theories and you will be expected to be able to apply this to different social issues. You need to be analytical and to be able to take on other points of views.

For further information please speak to Mrs Jackson or Mr Evans.