

**FOR PITT**

**Key Stage 4  
2018**

**OPTIONS**

At Fort Pitt you complete your Key Stage 3 course in two years rather than the traditional three, then in Year 9 you start your Key Stage 4 GCSE course, which will be completed in three years.

In KS4 you will study a core of subjects which will enable you to develop your learning capacity alongside a selection of option choices which will prepare you for advanced study post 16.

**The Fort Pitt Core** includes GCSE courses in the following subjects:

- ✓ English Language
- ✓ English Literature
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Biology
- ✓ Chemistry
- ✓ Physics

You will also study:

- ✓ Personal Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE), which will include Careers, Citizenship, Work Related Learning (WRL) and Enterprise Education
- ✓ Religious and Ethical Studies.
- ✓ Physical Education (PE) to help you stay fit and healthy

All of your GCSE courses will be examined at the end of year 11. Taking your GCSE subjects over 3 years will maximise the opportunity to reach the highest grades, therefore extending your choices for A level subjects in Years 12 and 13 and beyond.

## **A Level and Beyond**

All Grammar schools require excellent grades for students to continue on to chosen A-Level Subjects in the Sixth Form. The grade requirements for A-Level options have not been set yet but students should be aiming for grade 7 and above to ensure access to all subjects on offer.

## **Options**

In addition to the Fort Pitt Core you will study four further GCSEs in optional subjects. You will choose your six favourite subjects and put them in order of preference. We will allocate you four out of your six. Please note we **cannot** guarantee that all students will get their first four choices and students will need to be flexible.

Options include:

Business Studies	Geography	History
Fine Art	Graphic Design	Textiles
Food Technology	Drama	Music
Sports Science	French	German
Latin	Spanish	Sociology
Computing	Psychology	Film Studies
Philosophy and Ethics		

Please note that subjects will only run if numbers opting for the courses are sufficiently high.

## The English Baccalaureate

For this students should achieve good GCSEs in:

English

Maths

Sciences

Modern Foreign Language

Humanities (currently History or Geography)

- ✓ The Government is aiming for 100% of students nationally to complete the EBac. Although not compulsory at Fort Pitt it is strongly recommended.
- ✓ You may wish to consider this when making your choices.
- ✓ Some universities pay particular attention to the 'facilitating subjects' at A level; it is appropriate to begin to think about this when you are making your choices. (See FAQs)

## Decisions

In PSHEE this term you have been working on your decision-making skills to help you approach your choices in a sensible way. Most importantly you should discuss your ideas and reasons with your family and subject teachers.

You may like to consider:

- ✓ descriptions of the subjects in this booklet
- ✓ what you like and dislike about subjects and the reasons for your feelings
- ✓ your strengths and weaknesses in subjects and in the way you learn – for example you may prefer subjects with less or more emphasis on on-going assessment and coursework

Do try not to be influenced by your friends' choices.

At this stage it is not important to have a final career choice or degree option in mind. You need to keep a broad base of sensible options. Some universities expect A levels in 'facilitating subjects' so it is important to try and keep at least two, possibly three of these as part of your GCSE choices.

If you do have a particular career in mind, however, do some research on essential qualifications (see FAQ)

## **GCSE Options Fair Thursday 25 January**

To help guide you in choosing options, there will be an Options Fair on 25 January. You will have an opportunity to visit optional subject stalls and talk directly to subject staff about the courses on offer.

### **Timescale**

You will be given a choices sheet to complete, please return it to Mrs Brown in the PACE office by:

**Friday 23 February**

### **After 23 February**

- ✓ We will allocate four option subjects for you
- ✓ You will be consulted, if there are any problems with the choices you have made, if courses are full or if they will not run
- ✓ Please note we cannot guarantee that you will get your first choice in all subjects selected.
- ✓ It is not unusual for students to get 3 out of the first 4 choices.
- ✓ In a very small number of cases students may only get 2 out of the first 4 choices. If this is the case, we will discuss this with you and your family.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 GCSE courses in all subjects include:

- ✓ class work which helps to prepare you for the final examination
- ✓ home learning to reinforce or extend your work in class

Some subjects include:

- ✓ controlled assessments which are completed under supervision. These contribute towards the final grade

You need to be organised and focussed and work with your teachers in order to be successful in producing coursework and learning for your examinations.

We aim to create an environment where you are able to do your best and achieve excellent results, both in GCSEs and, later in A levels.

### **Target Grades**

In year 9 you will be re-issued with GCSE Target grades

Target grades:

- ✓ Are based on your performance at Key Stage 2.
- ✓ Are also based on your performance throughout the Keystage 3 course.
- ✓ Are challenging and aspirational, to ensure you reach your full potential at the end of Year 11
- ✓ Will provide a measure against which your progress in each GCSE course can be assessed

You will be able to discuss your progress in relation to your target grades

- ✓ when looking at your Progress Reviews
- ✓ at the Parents' Consultation Evenings
- ✓ when receiving your Profiles
- ✓ with your Tutor and subject teachers informally

You should consider the results of your Year 9 and 10 examinations and assessments in the light of these target grades. In Year 11 you may review your target grades for each GCSE subject following the "mock" examinations.

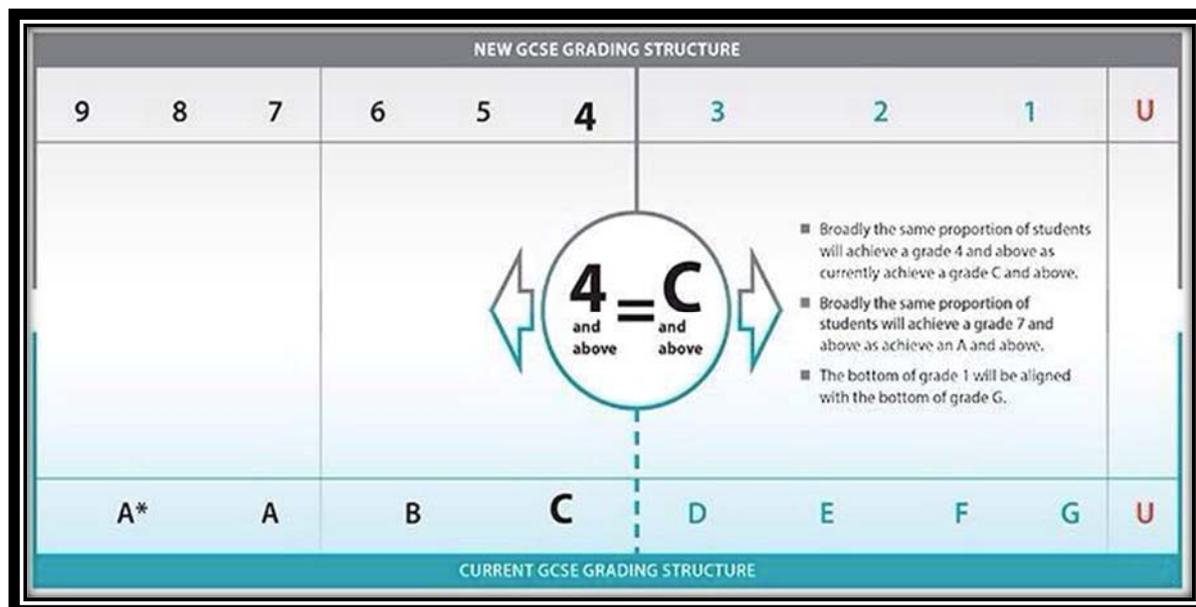
Throughout your GCSE courses you will have regular feedback from teachers, both verbally and through the marking of work. In order to achieve the results of which you are truly capable, you should aim to take note of, and act upon the advice given during these formal and informal discussions.

During Years 9, 10 and 11 you will be encouraged to become more involved in your own self-assessment and, through discussion and negotiation, you will also be encouraged to identify your own strengths and weaknesses in order to plan your future learning needs.

Do make the most of your opportunities in KS4 and beyond, not just your learning within the classroom, but outside through additional roles and responsibilities, extra-curricular clubs, enrichment and extension activities and other interests.

## The New GCSE 1 to 9 Grades

The A\* to G grading has been replaced with the new 1 to 9 grading. You will be familiar with these you have already been assessed on this scale. The diagram below gives you an idea of how the new system relates to the old GCSE grading system.



It is expected by 2019 that Grade 5 will be the minimum expectation for GCSE Maths and English.

Grade 9 represents the highest achieving students nationally whilst a grade 7 equates approximately to an A grade.

	Year 7 Term 1	Year 7 Term 2	Year 7 Term 3	Year 8 Term 1	Year 8 Term 2	Year 8 Term 3	Year 9 Term 1	Year 9 Term 2	Year 9 Term 3	Year 10 Term 1	Year 10 Term 2	Year 10 Term 3	Year 11 Term 1	Year 11 Term 2	Year 11 Term 3	KS4 Exams
9c																9c
8a																8a
8b																8b
8c																8c
7a																7a
7b																7b
7c																7c
6a																6a
6b																6b
6c																6c
5a																5a
5b																5b
5c																5c
4a																4a
4b																4b
4c																4c
3a																3a
3b																3b
3c																3c
2a																2a
2b																2b
2c																2c
1a																1a
1b																1b
1c																1c

### GCSE Flight Path

The table shows the potential GCSE outcomes based on current performance.

## **Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ**

### **Are any GCSE subjects a specific requirement for entry to University courses?**

*Yes E Bac recommended.*

*English, Mathematics and sometimes Science are commonly specified subjects. Knowledge of a subject may be needed for entry onto an A Level course that is required for further study at University, e.g. to study Spanish at University would require Spanish at A Level. Universities also recommend completing the E Bac course.*

### **Are any A level subjects a specific requirement for entry to University courses?**

*Some of the best universities (Russell Group) have made it clear that they have a preference for the more traditional or ‘facilitating’ subjects. These are English Literature, Mathematics, Sciences, History, Geography and Modern Foreign Languages. These subjects offer the greatest flexibility in the university admissions process and are broadly in line with the selection of subjects suggested for the ‘E Bac’.*

*Please see the following link for more information:*

*<http://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/>*

### **Do I need to study a subject for GCSE to be able to go on to A level?**

*For some subjects, such as languages, you need the requisite skills achieved at GCSE before embarking on the A Level course. However, students often study a subject at AS level, without having studied it for GCSE – this is the case here with ‘new’ subjects, such as Economics and Film Studies. Ask the subject teacher, if you are not sure.*

### **Is it possible for me to take more subjects than will fit into the option system?**

*No. The timetable does not permit any more subjects to be fitted in. The timetable structure is based on the options chosen, staffing availability and budget restrictions.*

### **Are there any GCSE subjects that are preferred for entry to University degree courses, e.g. Law?**

*Universities generally like to see a range of subjects at GCSE. If you have any particular questions please see Mrs Doran and use the UCAS website for more information <https://www.ucas.com/>*

### **Can I request a specific teacher to deliver lessons in my chosen subjects?**

*No. The timetabling process does not allow an individual to express preference for a particular teacher. Choices should be made for subject, not teacher.*

### **If there are insufficient students for a subject to run, when will I be informed?**

*In the event of this happening, we will select another of your 6 choices and we will discuss this with you.*

**What do I do if I wish to change my options after submitting my form?**

*If you go through the process properly, there will be no need for a change. In exceptional circumstances, you should bring a letter from your parents. The later you request a change, the less likely it is we can do it.*

**Can I change my options once I have started on my courses in Year 9?**

*No. The timetable is prepared this year in preparation for the next academic year and is based upon the take-up of each course and staffing availability.*

**What happens if I don't get the choices I want?**

*Mr Reader and Mrs Brown will review all of the options once completed. Where there are issues Mr Reader will contact you (the student) to discuss. Parents will not automatically be contacted in this process.*

## GCSE Courses 2017

As you may be aware GCSE courses have recently been reformed and some are still in the development process.

<b>The Fort Pitt Core</b>	Page
Personal Social, Health and Economic Education	9
Careers Education and Guidance	10
English and English Literature	11
Mathematics	12
Biology	13
Chemistry	14
Physics	15
<b>GCSE Options</b>	
Computer Science	16
Fine Art	17
Graphic Design	18
Textiles	19
Food Technology	20
Music	21
Sports Science (PE)	22
Business	23
Film Studies	24
Geography	26
Philosophy and Ethics	27
History	28
Latin	29
Spanish	30
French	31
German	32
Psychology	33
Sociology	35
Drama	36

## **PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION**

The Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) programme involves three modules in Key Stage 4 covering Citizenship, Relationship and Sex Education, and Drugs. It enables you to focus on personal development through a variety of interesting topics that will help to:

- reflect on your personal achievements and strengths
- recognise your own worth
- make the most of your abilities
- develop your confidence
- develop your sense of respect and responsibility
- develop and recognise the importance of good relationships within family and friendship groups
- recognise and respect the difference and diversity of other backgrounds and cultures
- understand how to develop choices towards a healthier, safer lifestyle (also being informed of drug, relationship and sex education)
- consider issues that will enable you to become an informed citizen
- be aware of the range of opportunities in education, training and employment

Through knowledge, discussions and projects such as 'The Be Real Game' we will encourage the growth of self-esteem and decision making, based on rational judgement, as well as encouraging active involvement in school and community life.

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

Today's world is full of exciting and diverse career opportunities. At Fort Pitt Grammar School, we want students to feel confident and prepared to take each step in their educational journey with the aim of them achieving their ultimate career goal.

Careers education is provided for students through our PSHEE programme and other areas of the curriculum. Students learn how to forward plan to enable them to achieve their aspirations - there is a focus on developing the skills needed in the world of work throughout Key Stage 4. Students are introduced to a range of online platforms to assist in their career development, such as the National Careers Service, Kudos and UCAS Progress. Students are also well supported in developing a detailed understanding of what is required for their next steps in joining the Sixth Form and beyond.

Careers Information, Advice and Guidance will be provided in a number of different ways. We recognise that students may have different pathways they wish to follow. Many will wish to go to university, including Oxbridge and Russell Group, while others may prefer a degree or higher level apprenticeship route. We aim to provide a programme of visiting speakers for each possible pathway so students will gain an understanding of what skills and experiences are needed to ensure they are successful in their applications. We also introduce students to university life by planning visits to our local universities. Through the website Future First, we are able to invite alumni to talk to students about their journeys since leaving Fort Pitt Grammar School. Their talks are often inspirational and are always from a wide range of career fields.

There will be opportunities for you to talk individually about your career pathway through interviews and meetings with your Achievement Co-ordinator and other members of staff. Mrs Sharpe, KS5 Achievement Co-ordinator, is a highly qualified Careers Advisor and can provide you with impartial careers advice at any time throughout your educational journey at Fort Pitt Grammar School.

The school provides additional opportunities for developing work skills through schemes such as Mini-enterprise in Year 10 and National Citizenship Service in Years 11 and 12.

## ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

During Year 9 students begin the GCSE English Literature and Language courses that they will be examined on in Year 11.

Students will study a range of texts for their Literature examination:

A Shakespeare play: *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* or *The Tempest*

AQA Poetry Anthology (fifteen poems) – *Power and Conflict*

A 'modern' text – either *Animal Farm* or *An Inspector Calls*

A 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel – 'Great Expectations' 'Frankenstein' 'Pride and Prejudice' 'Jane Eyre', 'A Christmas Carol'

and a range of poetry to prepare for the *Unseen Poetry* aspect of the Literature examination.

Students will need to:

- Engage meaningfully with all texts in order to assimilate quotations for closed book examinations.
- Analyse the text in detail and interpret the different writers' messages.
- Complete a range of tasks for their study of English Language, including study of non-fiction texts, where they will display understanding of the texts and analyse the language used in detail.
- Write in various styles and for different purposes, such as writing an article where they present a specific argument or writing a descriptive story.
- Engage in a range of discussion and complete presentations to the class.

**Examination Board:** AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

English Literature:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel 40%

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry 60%

NO coursework

## MATHEMATICS

GCSE Mathematics opens the door to many higher education courses and careers, such as: education, engineering, psychology, architecture and of course, accountancy.

Mathematics develops your mental ability to solve problems in all aspects of life and we hope to make your learning experience as productive and enjoyable as possible.

Much of the work you have studied at Key Stage 3 is revisited and developed at GCSE but you will also study new areas of the subject that should interest and motivate you.

The topics are divided into these areas:

Number	Algebra	Ratio, proportion and rates of change
Geometry and Measures	Probability	Statistics

During the course you will be expected to:

- ✓ Use a variety of mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- ✓ Use logic and reason to solve problems
- ✓ Solve functional maths problems
- ✓ Learn and apply relevant formulae and methods to problems
- ✓ Understand and interpret statistics
- ✓ Apply the mathematics you learn to real life situations

Assessment consists of 3 equally weighted examinations papers:

Paper 1	1 hour 30 minutes	Non Calculator (33%)
Paper 2	1 hour 30 minutes	Calculator (33%)
Paper 3	1 hour 30 minutes	Calculator (33%)

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

## **BIOLOGY**

The Edexcel 9-1 Biology GCSE is studied over three years, three hours per fortnight.

### **Topics studied:**

- Key concepts in Biology
- Cells and control
- Genetics
- Natural selection and genetic modification
- Health, disease and medicines
- Plant structure and function
- Animal coordination and control
- Exchange and transport in animals
- Ecosystems and material cycles

### **Practicals**

Students must complete eight mandatory Core Practical, in addition to other practical work completed throughout the course.

### **Careers**

Well-qualified biologists are highly sought after in the workplace, in the UK and abroad. Possible career paths include: doctor, dentist, veterinary surgeon, nurse, veterinary nurse, marine biologist, biochemist, pathologist, research scientist, teacher, lecturer, conservationist and ecologist.

### **Edexcel**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>

Paper 1 – 1 hr 45 mins 50%

Paper 2 – 1 hr 45 mins 50%

## **CHEMISTRY**

The Edexcel 9-1 Chemistry GCSE is studied over three years.

### **Topics studied:**

- 1 Atomic structure and bonding
- 2 States of matter and mixtures
- 3 Chemical changes
- 4 Extracting metals and equilibria
- 5 Alloys and quantitative chemistry
- 6 Groups in the periodic table
- 7 Rates of reaction and energy changes
- 8 Fuels and Earth science
- 9 Tests for ions
- 10 Hydrocarbons and hydroxyls

### **Practicals**

Chemistry is a practical subject and as such involves a lot of experimentation. In addition, students must complete eight mandatory Core Practical's during the course.

### **Careers**

Chemistry is a preferred subject for the degree level study of more courses than any other subject. Chemistry is essential or highly recommended for the following careers: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Food Science, Forensics and Biochemistry. In fact, there are chemists working in every field imaginable – from military logistics to accountancy in the City.

### **Edexcel**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>

Paper 1 – 1 hr 45 mins 50%

Paper 2 – 1 hr 45 mins 50%

## PHYSICS

The Edexcel 9-1 Physics GCSE is studied over three years.

### Topics studied:

1	Key Concepts	9	Forces and their Effects
2	Motion and Forces	10	Electricity (Current)
3	Conservation of Energy	11	Electrostatics
4	Waves	12	Magnetism
5	Electromagnetic Spectrum	13	Electromagnetic Induction
6	Radioactivity	14	The Particle Model
7	Astronomy	15	Forces and Matter
8	Work and Energy		

### Practicals

Students will also complete eight Core Practical's as part of the GCSE Physics course.

### The Benefit of GCSE Physics

The new Edexcel specification exposes students to all the fundamental premises of Physics and enhances their appreciation for the wide-ranging contemporary issues in the field. The course enables students to sharpen their numeracy skills in solving real-life problems. They will also learn to explain everyday phenomena by writing about the Physics principles they have mastered. Physics is a precise and well-grounded Science; nevertheless, Einstein said that imagination is more important than knowledge. This ethos is well reflected in topics such as Astronomy (Topic 7) and The Particle Model (Topic 14); the intention being that students boost their Scientific imagination.

### Careers

Physics plays a significant role in Engineering, Aeronautical Design, Astronomy, Medicine (especially in medical scanning, radiotherapy and the development of prosthetics), Electricity, Computers (this includes both the development of hardware and software), Information Technology and Telecommunications. A thorough grasp of GCSE Physics would be vital in careers associated with any of the areas above. In addition to this, GCSE Physics would be beneficial in Mathematical and Economic careers.

### Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>

Paper 1 – 1 hr 45 mins 50%

Paper 2 – 1 hr 45 mins 50%

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

This GCSE combines theoretical and practical programming studies focussing on the ability to understand how computer systems work. Also to demonstrate your understanding and application of computational thinking, algorithms and programming.

You will:

- ✓ explore opportunities to analyse, design, implement, test and evaluate ICT applications
- ✓ develop and consolidate your knowledge, skills and understanding in computer systems
- ✓ continue to develop your programming skills in order to enhance your work in your project
- ✓ increase your awareness of the ways in which computing applications are developed
- ✓ have opportunities to visit Mercedes Benz World, National Museum of Computing, National Space Centre and others

### **Assessment is by:**

Two 1 hour 30 minutes written examination papers (40% each of the overall grade). These are to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of Computer Systems (paper 1) and Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (paper 2).

One Programming project (20% of overall grade) - in which you prove your ability to analyse, design, develop, test and evaluate a programming application (Python).

**Examination Board:** OCR

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

## FINE ART

**Fine Art GCSE** is for students who enjoy the process of making artwork. It is important to enjoy being creative and working with your hands and provides an exciting opportunity to follow a practical course which identifies your individual artistic strengths and gives you the framework in which to develop.

During the course you will:

- ✓ have the opportunity to **try a broad range of activities** from building giant sculptures out of recycled materials to putting together a piece of artwork which represents a portrait of yourself
- ✓ visit **galleries and exhibitions**
- ✓ analyse works by other artists to help inform your own ideas.

It is vital that you speak with the relevant member of the Art department to ensure that you are matched to the best Art option for your skills.

GCSE Fine Art focuses on developing the traditional skills of drawing and painting and exploring more experimental art activities in both two and three dimensions.

### Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

#### **Unit 1 Controlled Assessment** 80 Marks – 60%

Includes 2 or more guided projects

Topics set by teacher

#### **Unit 2 Externally Set Task** 80 Marks – 40%

Topic chosen from selection on examination paper

Preparation period of about six weeks

10 hour focussed study under examination conditions to produce final outcome

## GRAPHIC DESIGN

GCSE Graphic Design is all about visual communication and learning how to convey a message, idea or identity through imagery. **This course will provide you with an insight into working methods used in the commercial world of art by illustrators, designers, photographers and typographers.**

Alongside developing the traditional skills of drawing, painting and print-making, there will be opportunities for mixed media work and model-making as well using photography and Photoshop.

You will explore the role of visual design as a means of communication and the important role played by artists and designers in the business world.

During the course you will:

- ✓ Analyse the work of professional artists and designers to inform your own ideas
- ✓ Explore a wide range of techniques and working methods, to enable you to find and develop your own personal strengths and areas of interest

You will need commitment and enthusiasm and must enjoy the practical process of creating artwork. It is vital that you speak with the relevant member of the Art department to ensure that you are matched to the best Art option for your skills.

**Examination Board: AQA**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

**Unit 1: Controlled Assessment** 80 Marks - 60%

Work from at least two projects showing a range of different approaches and skills, which is presented in a portfolio.

**Unit 2: Externally Set Task** 80 Marks - 40%

Topic chosen from a selection. Preparation period of about six weeks with 10 hour focussed study under examination conditions.

## TEXTILES

This course is for students who enjoy working with their hands, making things in and from fabrics of all descriptions. There will be opportunities to explore making your own textiles through dying, printing, weaving, knitting, hand felting and batik, and then developing these into wall hangings, sculptural textiles and fashion accessories using a variety of contemporary and traditional techniques.

You will:

- ✓ gain experience of contemporary textile artists' **techniques and processes**, including both traditional and new technologies
- ✓ learn to have a critical eye when **talking and writing** about how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed in images and your own work
- ✓ begin to consider elements related to social, historical and cultural issues which will be useful in other subjects you study and in **future employment**.

Additional experiences include **Photoshop, photography and visits to exhibitions**. It is vital that you speak with the relevant member of the Art department to ensure that you are matched to the best Art option for your skills.

### **Controlled Assessment - 80 Marks - 60%**

At least two sketchbooks in a portfolio of work which demonstrates development of textile skills and techniques. There are no limitations on the scale of work produced.

### **Examination Board: AQA**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

### **Externally Set Task - 80 Marks – 40%**

Topic chosen from a selection. Preparation period of about six weeks with a 10 hour focussed study under examination conditions.

## **FOOD TECHNOLOGY**

Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting course for students who enjoy food preparation, cooking and learning about nutrition.

The syllabus focusses on practical cooking skills, nutrition and food preparation.

### **Aims**

The aim of the course is to teach about food in its widest sense and to help students learn and develop a range of skills:

The course is designed to help you understand:

- How food can be prepared to make a range of products
- How food choices can affect health, well-being and the environment
- How to be an informed consumer of food
- The working properties of food

During the course you will plan, prepare and cook a wide range of dishes to build on, and further develop, the skills learned in KS3.

### **Future Opportunities**

The food industry is a major employer and offers a wide range of career opportunities. The study of Food Preparation and Nutrition will be a good grounding for such a career as well as being a very useful practical life skill.

### **Examination Board: AQA**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585>

Coursework: 50% of the final GCSE grade made up of a food investigation task (15%) and a food preparation task (35%)

Written Examination: A 2 hour written exam which represents 50% of your final grade

## MUSIC

You need to be open-minded, enjoy a range of musical styles, be able to play an instrument and/or sing, and be able to read music confidently. Year 9 begins with a foundation course in Performing, Composing and Listening Analysis to help you start the GCSE course confidently and successfully.

**Performing:** One solo performance and one ensemble performance under examination conditions. You will also take part in many group performances to develop your skills.

**Composing:** You will compose pieces individually and in groups. You then choose your best two individual pieces as coursework; one to a Brief set by the Exam board and one free composition.

### Areas of Study and Set Works for the Listening Examination:

#### Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820

- J S Bach: 3<sup>rd</sup> movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- L van Beethoven: 1<sup>st</sup> movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

#### Vocal Music

- H Purcell: Music for a While
- Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')

#### Music for Stage and Screen

- S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of 'Wicked')
- J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to 'Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope')

#### Fusions

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

**Examination Board:** Pearson/Edexcel - Assessment:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

Coursework: Composing 30%

Examination: Performing 30%    Listening    40%

## **GCSE SPORTS SCIENCE (PE)**

Do you play for a school team or participate in a sport outside of school? Do you have a high level of fitness? Therefore GCSE Sports Science could be the right option for you.

The GCSE Sports Science overview is as follows:

- Practical component: 40%
- Written examination: 60%

### **Practical Content**

GCSE Sports Science is an exciting opportunity for you to cover practical sports in detail, developing skills and tactics and participating with other able sportswomen in your year. A variety of sports and skills are covered within the three years and you will get many opportunities to take part in new sports.

Practical performance is assessed in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).

Students will then undertake an analysis and evaluation of a sporting performance and will be required to highlight specific improvement areas of the stated activity. Both this analysis and evaluation combined with the practical assessment will equate to 40% of your overall GCSE Sports Science grade.

### **Theoretical Content**

There are a number of theoretical courses that you will study over the duration of the course and they are:

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Physical Training
- Sports Psychology
- Health, Fitness and Well-Being
- Movement
- Analysis
- Use of Data
- Socio-Cultural Influences

You will then be assessed on this theoretical content through two written examination papers that are both 1 hour 15 minutes long. Each paper is marked out of 78 and each paper combined, equates to 60% of your overall GCSE Grade (each paper worth 30% of your final grade).

This theoretical basis provides a good foundation for those students who may want to go on to study Sports Science at A level and University or possibly with a view to pursuing a career in the ever expanding Sport and Leisure industry. Sport Science is a dynamic and diverse course which students with a real passion and ability for the subject will enjoy.

### **Examination Board: AQA**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

***Please note, GCSE lessons are in addition to core PE which is compulsory through to the end of Year 11.***

## BUSINESS

“Life is the sum of all your [choices](#)” Albert Camus  
“so choose carefully” Mrs Commons

Are you good at

- ✓ communicating and explaining your ideas?
- ✓ learning new things?
- ✓ creative thinking and decision making?

then Business could be for you.

You will learn about business through your own research and investigation. You must be interested in making discoveries about the world around you, for example, would you like to know how Snapchat started and grew into a household name? Would you like to understand why Woolworths failed? Or did it...

We make extensive use of technology in lessons to aid our learning. For example we make advertisements, newscasts and design social media campaigns.

You will be asked to come up with your own business ideas and make a plan to turn your idea into profitable enterprise. You will also learn about broader concepts like ethics, the environment, the economy and workers' rights. Not everything you need to learn can come from the textbook, so we use a variety of websites and the VLE to keep your learning more relevant and up-to-date.

**Visits:** Previous visits have included Thorpe Park, Westfield Shopping Centre and Bowling in Chatham.

### **Final Assessment:**

The GCSE consists of two 90 minute external examination papers. These papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Most of these questions will be based on information given to you in the examination papers.

**Examination Board:** [Edexcel](#)

To find out more visit Mrs Commons or Mrs Hawkins in rooms W5, W6 and W7. Or speak to Lauren Portnall or Jessica Day – Business Prefects, alternatively ask the Year 9 and 10 GCSE classes.

## FILM STUDIES

### Why should I study Film Studies?

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and a major art form of the last hundred years. Film Studies is therefore the ideal course for those who enjoy and appreciate the power and influence of films. The films you will study will introduce you to a broad range of films from around the world, as well as giving you a historical perspective on film. For example, you will learn about the development of Hollywood, how genres change, how the contexts in which films are produced affect films, and how elements such as cinematography and editing change and develop. You will also explore contemporary independent American film, as well as films produced outside the US, such as in Europe. Furthermore, production work is a significant part of this course; you will have the opportunity to create high quality film too.

This course will provide you with exciting opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding of film alongside your own passion and enthusiasm. You will work collaboratively with others, but also have opportunities to be independent, active students of film whilst being fully supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

You will take from this course highly developed abilities to express ideas fluently about a diverse range of films, appreciating how film works both as a powerful medium of representation and as an aesthetic medium. You will also learn how films generate meanings and responses, and the different ways in which spectators respond to films.

### What will the course involve?

Three components:

- Two written examinations, each 1 ½ hours in length = 70% of qualification
- One non-exam assessment (NEA): film production = 30% of qualification

#### Component 1: Key Developments in US Film

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

35% of qualification

**Section A:** US film comparative study e.g. *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*

**Section B:** Key developments in film and film technology

**Section C:** US Independent film e.g. *Little Miss Sunshine*

#### Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

35% of qualification

**Section A:** Global English language film e.g. *Slumdog Millionaire*

**Section B:** Global non-English language film e.g. *Spirited away*

**Section C:** contemporary UK film e.g. *Skyfall*

#### Component 3: Production

Non-exam assessment

30% of qualification

- One genre-based film extract (2 minutes to 2 ½ minutes)
- One evaluative analysis of the production (750-850 words)

### **How might this course complement others?**

This course will complement most other subjects, particularly English, History and Drama. The creative side of this course would also be advantageous to subjects such as Art and Music.

### **How will this subject be useful in the future?**

Studying Film at GCSE will provide invaluable knowledge and experience prior to undertaking Film Studies at A level. The ability to discuss, analyse and to present your interpretation in written and creative form is a useful life skill and complements many career paths.

Exam board WJEC

<http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies/film-studies-gcse/>

## **GEOGRAPHY**

Geography is one of the most diverse subjects on the curriculum, it takes in aspects of Arts, Science, Sociology, Economics, Politics, History and many more. Geography is having increasingly more impact on our lives and environment nowadays, knowing what to expect and having the skills to cope with it will put you at an advantage in the workplace and future society. If you choose to study Geography you will examine:

### **Paper 1: Living with the physical environment 35% (1½ hr exam)**

**Section A – The challenges of natural hazards-** Tectonic hazards, Tropical storms, Extreme weather in the UK.

**Section B – Physical landscapes of the UK-** Coastal & river landscapes in the UK.

**Section C – The living world-** Ecosystems, Tropical rainforests & hot deserts.

### **Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment 35% (1½ hr exam)**

**Section A – Urban issues and challenges-** World population growth, urban growth in Nigeria and in the UK & features of sustainable urban living.

**Section B – The changing economic world-** Global variation in economic wealth and quality of life, reducing the development gap, social and cultural changes due to economic development, economy and employment in the UK.

**Section C – The challenge of resource management.** - Uneven distribution of energy resources, changing demand and provision of resources in the UK and sustainability of energy sources.

### **Paper 3: Geographical applications- 30% (1½ hr exam)**

**Section A – Issue evaluation-** Problem solving and decision making

**Section B – Fieldwork** – 2 geographical enquiries, 1 investigating changes in the River Darent as it flows downstream and the other investigating the success of the regeneration schemes in Margate.

**Section C – Geographical skills-** Creating and interpreting graphs and maps, statistical analysis and the use of GIS systems (e.g. Google Earth)

This is a very stimulating and exciting course, it will give you the opportunity to find out things you never knew about the world you live in. Many of the skills learnt in geography are very transferable; these will be gained from both fieldwork and analysis of secondary data.

## **AQA**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

## **PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (RELIGIOUS STUDIES)**

This is a varied and interesting subject that covers many of the big questions about life. You will need tolerance and an open mind as you will be challenged to study other people's points of view and develop a thorough understanding of different religious teachings. This is a Full Course GCSE and employers, colleges and universities award the same academic status as any other GCSE.

**What use is Philosophy and Ethics?** It helps you to develop your thinking skills to a higher level and is a particularly useful qualification in our multicultural society. For example, it can be used for careers in Counselling, Journalism, Social Work, Teaching, Medicine, Law, the Police and Army to name but a few. As PLE examines life issues, the knowledge and skills that you gain can be applied to any subject area. You will study philosophical arguments for and against the Existence of God and Evil and Suffering; along with ethical issues such as Genetic Engineering, Religion and Terrorism and the very prominent influence of the Media on every aspect of our lives.

As you progress further in the course, you will study Religious beliefs and practices and moral issues such as Abortion, Euthanasia, The Death Penalty and Forgiveness and reconciliation. All of your studies will include the different religious teachings on these issues, as well as non-religious ideas and viewpoints with your personal views being VERY important! There will also be a research based project which will form the basis of GCSE study in Years 10 and 11.

**Examination Board:** AQA in years 10 and 11 (some elements may be covered in Y9).

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

## HISTORY

When you choose to study History, you will not only be opening a window on the past; but will gain an understanding of how our society today has been formed and how we come to be the people we are.

You will study 5 modules which are used for determining your GCSE exam grade. These are Medicine through Time (1250 to present), The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches, the American West 1835-1895, Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941 and Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588.

For the GCSE examination students studying the History of Medicine look at what changed and when, and how these changes did not always lead to progress.

This course contains a mixture of some of the most fascinating areas of study in History. You will need to have an enquiring mind, be prepared to formulate your opinions and be able to express your ideas well. This subject demands a lot of reading and written work to obtain the best grades.

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

Assessment: 100% - Examination – three written papers

Paper 1 Medicine and the Historic Environment c1250-present

Paper 2 American West: Anglo-Saxon and Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588

Paper 3 Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941

[http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867\\_GCSE2016\\_L12\\_History\\_Web.pdf](http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446925867_GCSE2016_L12_History_Web.pdf)

## LATIN

It is often said that Latin is a dead language. But Latin is alive and well and being used by **you** every day!

### These words are all Latin:

actor alias audio circus curriculum data doctor exit propaganda referendum video

It has been estimated that about 60% of English vocabulary comes directly from Latin

### Why study Latin?

- Latin is still used widely in Medicine and the Law.
- Latin is a very precise language and you will find your English grammar and vocabulary will improve as you study Latin.
- The culture and civilisation of the Romans still surround and inspire us.
- A Latin qualification on your UCAS form will show that you are a logical and methodical thinker who pays good attention to detail and has a sensitive approach to language.

The Cambridge Latin Course is a story-based one, giving us the chance to learn about the Romans as people while we learn their language. A major difference between Latin and MFL is that there is no oral component in the examination. Latin counts as a language towards the English Baccalaureate.

### Examination Board: EDUQAS

#### Component 1: Latin Language

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

50% of qualification

Section A: Comprehension and translation passages from Latin into English

Section B: Translation of simple sentences from English into Latin

#### Component 2: Latin Literature and Sources (Themes): A Day at the Races

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes

30% of qualification

#### Component 3: Roman Civilisation

Written examination: 1 hour

20% of qualification either Entertainment and Leisure or Daily Life in a Roman Town

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/latin/>

## SPANISH

### ¿Hablas Español?

Have you enjoyed Spanish so far? If so, why not set your sights on a GCSE in Spanish and aim for one of the top grades at the same time!

Since the days of the Spanish Empire, Spanish has become one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with 21 countries having it as their official language. These include Spain, and most countries in Central and South America, as well as in many parts of the USA. So if you like travelling, Spanish is a great language to have.



If you're aiming for a top university, having a Spanish GCSE will surely impress! If you want to improve your job prospects, speaking Spanish would certainly help. Spain is one of Europe's leading industrial countries and Spanish is one of the most important languages for business relations with Spain, Latin America, and the USA.

### How will I learn?

The course lasts for three years and uses a variety of interactive resources to help make lessons both fun and informative in order to help you achieve your potential. There is also the opportunity to take part in a visit to Spain to improve your spoken Spanish as well as increasing your cultural awareness. You will develop a range of language and communication skills and will eventually sit a range of examinations testing these skills at the end of the course.

### Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

Assessment: four examinations

Listening 25%  
Speaking 25%  
Reading 25%  
Writing 25%

## FRENCH

### ***Parlez-vous français? Aimez-vous le français?***

If you like French lessons at the moment, it is likely that you will enjoy the GCSE course.

***Why should I learn French?*** As new technology brings people together across the globe, studying a language becomes ever more important in preparing you for living and working in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It will teach you how people live in France and 46 other countries where it is spoken. If you wish to go to University, a GCSE in French is highly regarded, and, when applying for a job, it might just give you the edge over other candidates.



***How is the course organised?*** You will use a mixture of digital, online and interactive resources during lessons to cover a range of GCSE topics. You will also learn about French culture as well as language. There are four exams at the end of the course which will test your ability to understand and communicate effectively in French. As this is a three year course there will be more time to include trips to France, to practise speaking French.

***Are you convinced yet?*** France is easily accessible from this area, and, knowing the language when travelling or staying in France, is a valuable advantage. There is an increasing demand for people with language skills.

**Examination Board:** AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

**Assessment:** four examinations

Listening 25%    Reading 25%  
Speaking 25%    Writing 25%



## GERMAN

If you have enjoyed lessons so far why not continue to develop your language skills on the German GCSE course? Not convinced? Well read on... German is a first language for over 100 million people and has major significance as a language of Business, Science and Technology. German will be of use to you, if you wish to broaden your future employment prospects, or if you consider yourself as a potential specialist linguist. Also, as fewer schools now offer German, a GCSE qualification will impress, particularly if you hope to apply to one of the top universities!



### What examinations will you need to take?

There are four examinations which will test your comprehension skills, as well as your ability to communicate effectively in spoken and written German. A variety of multimedia resources will be available to you to support your learning and help you achieve your potential. You will also have the opportunity to take part in trips and visits to improve your spoken German and cultural awareness.

We hope that, if you choose German, you will enjoy extending your language skills as you learn more about German speaking countries. People often say 'I wish I had kept up my languages at school', so why not take the opportunity to keep up your German?

**Examination Board:** AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668>

Assessment:

Four examinations

Listening 25%    Speaking 25%  
Reading 25%    Writing 25%

## PSYCHOLOGY

Why study Psychology? Apart from it being the best subject that you will ever study! It helps you to understand why people behave as they do, for example what motivates people? Why do people imitate each other? How do we develop into individuals and what has an impact on our personality?

### How will Psychology help your career?

Psychology is relevant to all areas of your life, as you will always work with people and/or animals. The career options are endless from Clinical Psychology, to Sport, Health, Educational and Criminal.

The topics covered in GCSE Psychology relate to the topics that are covered in the A level specification. This course gives you a good basic understanding that will help you decide if you want to continue into

A Level Psychology; where you would study topics such as Schizophrenia, Relationships and Forensic Psychology.

This is a 3 year course, covering: Memory, Research Methods, Perception, Developmental Psychology, Social Influence, Brain & Neuropsychology, Psychological Problems and Language, Thought & Communication.

**Exam Board:** AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Assessment: 2 examinations.

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour
<p><b>What's assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social influence</li><li>• Language, thought and communication</li><li>• Brain and neuropsychology</li><li>• Psychological problems</li></ul> <p>Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.</p>
<p><b>How it's assessed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li><li>• 100 marks</li><li>• 50% of GCSE</li></ul>
<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)</li><li>• Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)</li><li>• Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)</li><li>• Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)</li></ul>

## Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour

### What's assessed

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### Questions

- Section A: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- Section B: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- Section C: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)
- Section D: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing (25 marks)

## SOCIOLOGY

### What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of individuals and groups within society. Sociologists research and study what makes people behave in the ways they do. Questions which Sociologists consider include:

- *Are we born the way we are or are we shaped by other factors?*
- *How do the family, education, peers, the media, and work affect the way we behave?*
- *How are we controlled?*

### What will I study if I choose Sociology?

The GCSE course includes 2 exam papers which cover:

Paper 1 – The Sociology of families and education

Paper 2 – Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

The course content covers the following:

<b>Topic 1 – The Family</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Functions of the family</li><li>• Family Forms</li><li>• Conjugal roles</li><li>• Changing relationships</li><li>• Criticisms of the family</li><li>• Divorce</li></ul>	<b>Topic 2 - Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roles and functions</li><li>• Relationship between education and capitalism</li><li>• Educational achievement</li><li>• Processes in school</li></ul>
<b>Topic 3 – Crime and Deviance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Social construction of crime</li><li>• Social control</li><li>• Criminal and deviant behaviour</li><li>• Data on crime</li></ul>	<b>Topic 4 - Social Stratification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Theories of stratification</li><li>• Socio-economic class</li><li>• Life chances</li><li>• Poverty</li><li>• Power and authority</li><li>• Power relationships</li></ul>

If you are interested in taking Sociology, please speak to Mrs Doran for more information.

**Examination Board:** AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

Assessment: 2 examinations (1h 45m in duration) 50% each

Paper 1 – The sociology of families and education

Paper 2 – The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

## DRAMA

- ✚ Do you enjoy performing?
- ✚ Are you full of ideas?
- ✚ Do you work well in a team?
- ✚ Do you like working hard to achieve your best?
- ✚ Are you imaginative and creative?
- ✚ Are you well organised?

This course is all about exploring, creating and performing, so if you have a flair for acting, a good imagination and enjoy working with others, then Drama is the course for you.

The course is very practical, focusing on your development of skills in both scripted and devised performance. You will learn about key Drama practitioners, as well as strategies for creating and developing your own original work. You will study a range of plays and there will be theatre trips to see what you have learnt in theory put into practice.

The course requires full commitment and time – be prepared for this.

**Examination board:** EDUQAS

<http://eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/>

- Devising Theatre (40%)
- Performing from a Text (20%)
- Interpreting Theatre (Written Exam) – 40%