YEAR 8 OPTIONS EVENING
JANUARY 23rd 2019
Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our Options Evening. This is the first time in your child’s education that they have a choice in regards to some of the subjects they wish to study. Choice is a wonderful thing, but can sometimes bring its own challenges when it becomes difficult to decide exactly which choices to make! As a result, the Options process can sometimes be a daunting one for both students and parents. What if I pick the wrong subjects? What if I change my mind? What is best to pick for a specific career? Etc. Please do not worry in any way, we are here to help to ensure that the process is smooth and that you get all of the support and guidance you need.

This evening will hopefully make it clear which core subjects your child will be studying and ensure you are fully aware as to how the process works and the timeline of events. The most important thing is that students select and study subjects which they enjoy, and in which they are ultimately going to be successful.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s Options, please do not hesitate to contact us. The best people to contact initially are Mrs Brown, Key Stage 3 Achievement Coordinator and Mr Reader Assistant Headteacher, who oversees the Options process here at Fort Pitt.

Yours faithfully,

Nicky Archer
Headteacher
Here at Fort Pitt Grammar School (FPGS) students complete their Key Stage 3 courses in two years, and then commence their Key Stage 4 GCSE courses at the beginning of Year 9, which allows three years to ensure students have a deep knowledge and understanding of the subjects they study.

In KS4 students 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. It goes without saying that the importance of good results at GCSE cannot be over-emphasised in the highly competitive world of higher education and employment.

**The Fort Pitt Core** includes GCSE courses in the following subjects which lead to GCSE qualifications:

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

As part of the core students also study non-examined subjects with the aim of broadening their horizons and cultural capital:

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

**Fort Pitt Options**

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

**Options subjects:**

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<th>Business Studies</th>
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<th>Philosophy and Ethics</th>
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<td>Computing</td>
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*Please note that subjects will only run if numbers opting for the courses are sufficiently high*

All of the GCSE courses are examined at the end of year 11. We firmly believe that completing GCSE course over 3 years maximises students’ potential and provides them with the best opportunity to achieve the highest grades. This of course ensures there are no limits on their choices for A level subjects in Years 12 and 13 and beyond.
The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc); though not a qualification in itself; is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically, English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. These are the subjects which are usually looked upon favourably by universities, and most likely to be required or preferred for entry to degree courses and ones that will keep the most doors open.

To achieve the EBacc, students need to study GCSEs in:
- English
- Maths
- The Sciences
- Geography or History
- Modern Foreign Language

The Government’s ambition is for 75% of students nationally to complete the EBacc, and although not compulsory at Fort Pitt it is strongly recommended. We advise that students should seriously consider this when making your subject choices.

A Levels and Next Steps

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.

Decisions

In PSHEE students have been working on decision-making skills to help them approach their option choices in a mature way. It is really helpful and important that students should discuss their ideas and reasons with family and subject teachers.

Students should consider:
- The facilitating EBacc subjects; Oxbridge and Russell Group universities in particular, place great stock on studying facilitating subjects at GCSE and A level.
- 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
- Possible career aspirations-

Things not to consider:
- Friends and their choices- this is very much a personal choice.
- Teachers- there is no guarantee that a specific teacher will be teaching you at GCSE level. Remember you are picking the subject, not the teacher.
Wednesday 23rd January 2019: GCSE Options Evening

This evening is an opportunity for you to learn how the Options process works here at Fort Pitt. You will receive detailed information about each course, and will have the chance to ask any questions. Alongside this booklet you will also receive your child’s Option choices form, which will need to be completed by deadline outlined below.

Tuesday 29th January 2019: GCSE Options Fair

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.

Wednesday 30th January 2019: YR8 Parents Evening

Parents evening gives you a chance to discuss your child’s current progress and their aptitude for option subjects at GCSE.

Friday 15th February 2019: Option Choices Form Deadline

The Option Choices form that you received at the GCSE Options Evening should be fully completed and submitted to Mrs Brown in the PACE office no later than Friday 15th February 2019.

What happens next?

- We will allocate four option subjects for you
- You will be consulted as to whether 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 in more detail.
GCSE Guidance

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 also include:

- **Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)** which replaced coursework/controlled assessments, this measures subject-specific knowledge and skills that cannot be tested by timed written papers, and are completed under supervision in exam conditions. These contribute to varying proportions of the final grade, depending upon the individual subject.

The New GCSE 1 to 9 Grades

As many of you will be aware, GCSEs in England have been reformed to keep pace with universities’ and employers’ demands. They are based on new and more demanding subject content, and the new grade scale makes it clear to everyone that students have studied the new GCSEs. The diagram below gives you an idea of how the new system relates to the old GCSE grading system.

As you can see, grade 9 represents the highest achieving students nationally whilst a grade 7 equates approximately to an A grade. We firmly believe that our girls are capable of achieving the very top grades, but with the added rigour at GCSE level, it is vital that students are committed, organised and focused if they are to realise their potential.
Target Grades

In year 9 students are issued with GCSE target grades which are:

- Based upon their performance at Key Stage 2.
- Based also upon their performance throughout Key stage 3.
- Challenging and aspirational, to ensure every student reaches their full potential at the end of Year 11
- A measure against which their progress in each GCSE course can be assessed

At regular intervals throughout your child’s GCSE journey you will be provided with regular feedback on their performance and progress. This will be in the form of parents’ evenings and meetings, alongside data drops.

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

During Years 9, 10 and 11 students will be encouraged to become more involved in their own self-assessment and, through discussion and negotiation, also be encouraged to identify their own strengths and weaknesses in order to maximise their success.

We ask parents/carers to encourage students to make the most of their opportunities in KS4 and beyond, not just in their learning within the classroom, but outside through additional roles and responsibilities, extra-curricular clubs, enrichment and extension activities and other interests.
Are any GCSE subjects a specific requirement for entry to University courses?

Put simply, yes they can be. We of course recommended the ‘EBacc’, as many universities think highly of it, but further to that, English, Mathematics and 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.

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 (Assistant Headteacher) and use the UCAS website for more information [https://www.ucas.com/](https://www.ucas.com/)

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

Some of the best universities (Oxbridge and 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 ‘EBacc’.

Please see the following link for more information: [http://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/](http://russellgroup.ac.uk/about/our-universities/)

Do you need to study a subject for GCSE to be able to go on to A level?

For some subjects, such as languages, students need the requisite skills achieved at GCSE before embarking on the A Level course. However, students often study a subject at A Level, without having studied it for GCSE; for example, here at Fort Pitt there is no pre-requisite to have studied Economics at GCSE to take Economics A Level. Ask the subject teacher, if you are unsure and require clarification.

Is it possible to take more subjects than will fit into the option system?

No, unfortunately not. The timetable simply does not permit any more subjects to be fitted in.

Can you request a specific teacher to deliver lessons in chosen subjects?

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

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

Of course! In the event of this happening, we will select another of your child’s six choices and will discuss this with them.
What should a student do if they wish to change their options after submitting their Option Choices form?

If they go through the process properly, there should be no need for a change. However, in exceptional circumstances, students should bring in a letter from their parents outlining the request. Please note that the later a request to change is received, the less likely it is we can do it.

Can a student change their options once they have started on their courses in Year 9?

Unfortunately not. 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 a student doesn’t get the option choices they want?

Mr Reader and Mrs Brown will review all of the options once completed. Where there are issues Mr Reader will contact the student concerned to discuss. Parents will not automatically be contacted in this process.
# The Fort Pitt Core

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# Enrichment

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# GCSE Options

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<td>Spanish</td>
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<td>Sports Science (PE)</td>
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<td>Textiles</td>
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Overview:

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*
- 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


English Literature:

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<th>Paper 1:</th>
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<td>Paper 2:</td>
<td>Modern texts and poetry 60%</td>
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No Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)
Overview:

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 the following six areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and Measurement
- 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:

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<td>Paper 2</td>
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<td>Paper 3</td>
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<td>Calculator (33%)</td>
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Examination Board: Edexcel

Overview:

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 Practicals, 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.

Examination board: Edexcel


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<tr>
<th>Paper 1:</th>
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<td>Paper 2:</td>
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</table>
Overview:

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

Topics studied:

- Atomic structure and bonding
- States of matter and mixtures
- Chemical changes
- Extracting metals and equilibria
- Alloys and quantitative chemistry
- Groups in the periodic table
- Rates of reaction and energy changes
- Fuels and Earth science
- Tests for ions
- 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.

Examination Board: Edexcel


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Overview:

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

Topics studied:
- Key Concepts
- Motion and Forces
- Conservation of Energy
- Waves
- Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Radioactivity
- Astronomy
- Work and Energy
- Forces and their Effects
- Electricity (Current)
- Electrostatics
- Magnetism
- Electromagnetic Induction
- The Particle Model
- Forces and Matter

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

Careers

Physics plays a significant role in Engineering, Aeronautical Design, Astronomy, Medicine, Electricity, Computing, 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.

Examination Board: Edexcel


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Overview:

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.
Overview:

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.
Overview:

“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?

If the answer is yes, then Business Studies 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 a 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.

Examination Board: Edexcel

Final Assessment:

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<th>Paper 1: Written examination</th>
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<td>Paper 2: Written examination</td>
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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.
Overview:

Computer Science GCSE combines theoretical and practical programming studies, focusing on the ability to understand how computer systems work. Students have opportunities to increase their awareness of the ways in which computing applications are developed, develop their programming skills, and to visit Mercedes Benz World, The National Museum of Computing, and the National Space Centre.

Topics covered:

- Computer Processing Unit
- Network Topologies
- Wireless networks
- The ethical, legal and cultural concerns associated with Computer Science
- Computational thinking
- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Logic
- Data representation

Careers

Computer Scientists are in high demand! Last week GCHQ announced female only courses to attract candidates into the world of cyber-security. The skills taught within the specification are highly transferable, ensuring a wealth of other careers are open to students.

Examination Board: OCR


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<td>Paper 2:</td>
<td>1 hr 30 minutes 40%</td>
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<td>NEA computing project</td>
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Overview:

- 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/

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<td>Component 2:</td>
<td>Performing from a text 20%</td>
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<td>Component 3:</td>
<td>Interpreting Theatre 40%</td>
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Overview:

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th 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.

Examination board: WJEC

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

| Component 1: Key Developments in US Film Written examination | 1 hour 30 minutes 35%  
| 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. *Attack the Block* |
| Component 3: Production Non-exam assessment | 30% of qualification  
| One genre-based film extract (2-2 ½ minutes) One evaluative analysis (750-850 words) |
Overview:

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, as the course provides an exciting opportunity to follow a practical subject which identifies your individual artistic strengths, and gives you the framework in which to develop.

During the course you will:

- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1 Controlled Assessment</th>
<th>80 Marks – 60%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes 2 or more guided projects</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Topics set by teacher</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 2 Externally Set Task</th>
<th>80 Marks – 40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topic chosen from selection on examination paper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 hour focussed study to produce final outcome</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

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.

Careers

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


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1: Written Examination:</th>
<th>A 2 hour written exam which represents 50% of your final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2: NEA</td>
<td>50% of the final GCSE grade made up of a food investigation task (15%) and a food preparation task (35%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

Parlez-vous français? Aimez-vous le français?

If you like French lessons at the moment, then you will definitely 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 21st 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Listening</th>
<th>25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2: Speaking</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3: Reading</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4: Writing</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview

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 highly valued by universities and industry alike. A facilitating subject, if you choose to study Geography you will develop a wealth transferable skills.

Examination board: AQA

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

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment 35% (1 hr 30-minute 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% (1 hr 30-minute 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% (1 hr 30-minute exam)

Section A – Issue evaluation- Problem solving and decision making
Section B – Fieldwork – 2 geographical enquiries, investigating changes in the River Darent as it flows downstream and 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)
Overview:

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 you 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Listening</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2: Speaking</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3: Reading</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4: Writing</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
GRAPHIC DESIGN

Overview:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1: Controlled Assessment</th>
<th>80 Marks - 60% Work from at least two projects showing a range of different approaches and skills, which is presented in a portfolio.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2: Externally Set Task</td>
<td>80 Marks - 40% Topic chosen from a selection. 10 hour focused study under examination conditions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

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 to determine 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Medicine and the Historic Environment c1250-present</th>
<th>1 hr 15 minutes 30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2: American West: Anglo-Saxon and Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588</td>
<td>1 hr 45 minutes 40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 3: Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941</td>
<td>1 hr 20 minutes 30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

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: 3rd movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- L van Beethoven: 1st 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


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component 1: Performing Non-examined Assessment</th>
<th>Students perform for at least 4 minutes 30 marks 30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 2: Composing Non-examined Assessment</td>
<td>Students compose two compositions of at least 3 minutes 60 marks 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Component 3: Written examination</td>
<td>1 hr 45 minutes 80 marks 40% consisting of 2 sections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

PLE is a varied and interesting subject that covers 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.

Why 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Written examination</th>
<th>The study of religions 50% (1 hr 30 minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2: Written examination</td>
<td>Thematic studies 50% (1 hr 30 minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

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.

Examination Board: AQA

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

| Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour | 1 hr 45 minutes 100 marks 50% |
| Paper 2: Social Context and behaviour | 1 hr 45 minutes 100 marks 50% |
Overview:

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 course content covers the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic 1 – The Family</th>
<th>Topic 2 - Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Functions of the family</td>
<td>Roles and functions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Forms</td>
<td>Relationship between education and capitalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjugal roles</td>
<td>Educational achievement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing relationships</td>
<td>Processes in school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criticisms of the family</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorce</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic 3 – Crime and Deviance</th>
<th>Topic 4 - Social Stratification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social construction of crime</td>
<td>Theories of stratification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social control</td>
<td>Socio-economic class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal and deviant behaviour</td>
<td>Life chances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data on crime</td>
<td>Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Power and authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Power relationships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Overview:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper 1: Listening</th>
<th>25%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2: Speaking</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 3: Reading</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 4: Writing</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Overview:

Do you play for a school team or participate in a sport outside of school? Do you have a high level of fitness? If you do, GCSE Sports Science could be the right option for you. The GCSE Sports Science comprises of a practical component and written examination.

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.

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

Examination Board: AQA
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subj.../8582

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 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.

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).

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

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.

Examination Board:  AQA

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 1: Controlled Assessment</th>
<th>80 Marks - 60% At least two sketchbooks in a portfolio of work which demonstrates development of textile skills and techniques.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 2: Externally Set Task</td>
<td>80 Marks – 40% Topic chosen from a selection. Preparation period of about six weeks with a 10 hour focussed study under examination conditions.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>