

KEY STAGE 4 COURSES BOOKLET

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When students and parents have read this booklet and given thought to subject choices, the Option Preference Form should be completed and handed to Form Tutors by no later than Monday 9th March.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday 21st January	Parents' Information Evening
Monday 26th - Friday 30th January	Subject information week in lessons
Monday 26th Jan – Friday 6th Feb	Y9 Options discussions with tutors
Thursday 12th February	Taster lessons in new subjects and careers sessions as part of whole school Curriculum Enhancement Day
Thursday 5th March	Year 9 Parents' Consultation Evening
<u>Monday 9th March</u>	<u>Return of preference forms</u>

This booklet is also available on the school website.
Follow the weblinks through: <http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/>

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM AND PATHWAYS

It is very important to remember that the overall programme of subjects should be well-balanced. Students should consider future career choices and make sure they are not limiting their options later on. In addition, the National Curriculum dictates some of the subjects to be studied up to the age of 16.

Core Subjects	GCSE
❖ English (English Language and English Literature for most students)	2
❖ Mathematics	1 or 2
❖ Science (Double or triple)	2 or 3
❖ Physical Education	
❖ Personal Health and Social Education (including Careers Guidance and Citizenship)	
❖ Religious Studies: Short Course GCSE Philosophy & Applied Ethics	0.5
❖ Work Related Learning & Enterprise across subjects and through calendared events	

Students may also choose the equivalent of 4 option courses

One choice should include a Modern Foreign Language course.

We are able to offer the following range of courses this year:

- GCSE French & GCSE German
- NVQ French for Business & NVQ German for Business (at Level 1/2)

Those from top sets have the option to do either French, German or both. For those students choosing 2 languages, the second language will take one of their further options choices.

For those in other sets their language has already been chosen; students will be guided to the most appropriate course (GCSE or NVQ). Class teachers will provide further guidance about courses (in addition to the information in this booklet) and will be able to respond to any questions.

A small number of students who have received additional support in Key Stage 3 may be approached by the learning support department for continued support in place of an option subject at Key Stage 4.

Three remaining choices - Two pathways:

Triple Science	Full course RE
	ICT ITQ
Double Science	Option

Pathway one Triple Science – This is now included in the option blocks. Students who have been recommended to do triple science will follow an accelerated programme which also gives them the opportunity to obtain either:

a) Full course GCSE Philosophy and Ethics (top-up from Short Course GCSE)

or

b) Short course GCSE Philosophy and Ethics and a Level 2 ITQ IT qualification (up to the equivalent of a full course GCSE at grade B).

This pathway is available to students who have obtained an average grade of C or above in this year's assessments alongside sustained effort in Science lessons.

Triple scientists will have 2 further options choices.

Pathway two Double Science - Students following the double science pathway will complete lessons in all three disciplines as in triple science; the course is examined by two rather than three modules.

Double Scientists will have 3 further options choices alongside short course Philosophy and Ethics.

Those students recommended for triple science have the choice to take double or triple, but the triple course is advised in the majority of cases.

Further options choices – Students get to choose from a wide range of subjects. Please read all the guidance carefully as the range of courses on offer do not all follow the same pattern.

The two pathways – What do they look like?

Pathway one – Triple Science:

Maths (1 or 2)	English (2)	Science (3)	Option 1 - MFL (1)	Option 2 (1)	Option 3 (1)	RE (1) or RE (0.5) ITQ (1)	PE
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Your option choices may look like any of these (or your own combination):

1	GCSE German	1 x Level 2
2	GCSE History	1 x Level 2
3	GCSE Art	1 x Level 2

1	GCSE French	1 x Level 2
2	BTEC Information and Creative Technology	1 x Level 2
3	GCSE Geography	1 x Level 2

1	GCSE German	1 x Level 2
2	GCSE French	1 x Level 2
3	GCSE Music	1 x Level 2

Pathway two – Double Science:

Maths (1 or 2)	English (2)	Science (2)	Option 1 - MFL (1)	Option 2 (1)	Option 3 (1)	Option 4 (1)	RE (0.5)	PE
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Your option choices may look like any of these (or your own combination):

1	GCSE French	1 x Level 2
2	GCSE German	1 x Level 2
3	GCSE History	1 x Level 2
4	GCSE PE	1 x Level 2

1	NVQ French	1 x Level 1/2
2	GCSE Music	1 x Level 2
3	GCSE History	1 x Level 2
4	BTEC Information and Creative Technology	1 x Level 2

1	GCSE German	1 x Level 2
2	GCSE Catering	1 x Level 2
3	BTEC Performing Arts	1 x Level 3
4	GCSE Business Studies	1 x Level 2

There are also a limited range of vocational options in collaboration with South Staffordshire College. These are delivered at the TORC Vocational Centre.

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This booklet contains information about the subjects we hope to offer in Y10 and Y11; it also explains some of the choices and decisions which students will be making with guidance from parents and teachers and why it is important to consider carefully choices of subjects at this stage.

WHAT AM I AIMING FOR?

The national benchmark for schools is currently the percentage of students achieving 5A*-C including English and maths at GCSE level. This is one of a number of performance indicators. It is also a reflection of the standards required to access a full A-level programme in the sixth form at King Edward VI School. However, all students will be working towards an individual set of agreed targets across all their subjects to maximise their potential.

Features of assessment due to changes in national policies include:

- The majority of GCSE courses are now examined in May/June of Year 11.
- New GCSEs in English and Maths graded from 9 to 1 instead of A* to G.
- For students completing GCSEs in English Literature, Geography, History and Religious Studies, external assessments now include additional marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar.

WHAT IS THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE?

One of the performance measures used by the government is the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This is not an overarching qualification and does not currently lead to a certificate.

Students need to obtain GCSE A*-C passes in:

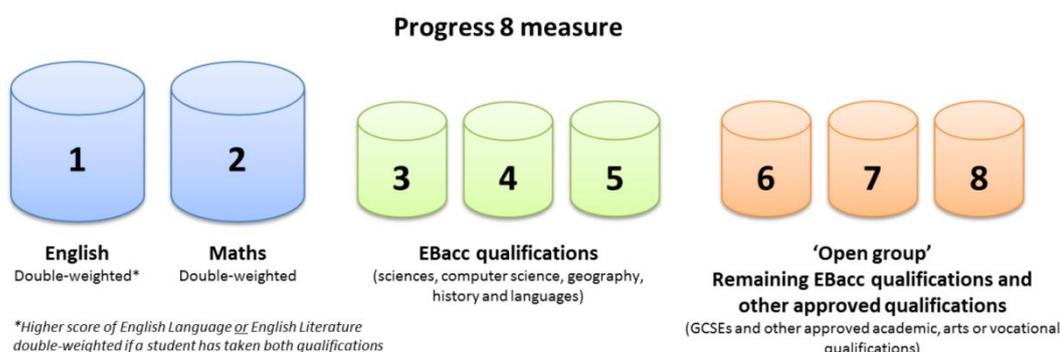
- English Language and/or English Literature (and be entered for both)
- Mathematics
- Two sciences
- History or Geography
- A modern foreign language

Students wishing to go on to A-levels and university should consider their range of subjects carefully. However, there is no requirement from universities for the English Baccalaureate. For further information see the report by the Russell group of 20 leading UK universities: [The Russell Group guide to making decisions about post-16 education](#) (web link through electronic version on school website)

Students are encouraged to take a balanced range of subjects, including our successful courses in history and geography. Although we might encourage the Baccalaureate in some cases, students are not directed by the school towards this although we will ensure that students' options are appropriate.

WHAT IS PROGRESS 8?

The progress 8 measure is a new measure of school performance based on student's progress across eight subjects: English; mathematics; three other EBacc subjects; and three further subjects from a range of approved qualifications.



From 2016, the floor standard will be based on schools' results for the Progress 8 measure. The school is well placed to respond to this given the courses on offer.

I'VE HEARD THAT STUDENTS NEED TO STAY AT SCHOOL UNTIL THEY'RE 18 – IS THIS TRUE?

The Education and Skills Act 2008 increased the minimum age at which young people in England can leave learning, requiring them to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday.

Raising the participation age (RPA) does not mean young people must stay in school; they will be able to choose one of the following options:

- full-time education, such as school, college or home education
- work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship
- part-time education or training if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

WHAT ARE LEVEL 1, LEVEL 2, LEVEL 3 COURSES?

With a wider range of courses it is useful to think of courses as Level 1 or Level 2.

Level 1 is equivalent to D-G grade at GCSE.

Level 2 is equivalent to C-A* at GCSE.

Level 3 is equivalent to AS/A-Level standard

WHAT IS THE GCSE?

GCSE stands for "General Certificate of Secondary Education".

Students will receive more information about GCSE examinations as they go through Key Stage 4 courses. Some subjects will include **Controlled Assessment**; this is work completed during Years 10 and 11, which will count towards the final examination result.

For a small number of students, the school may decide to enter them for an "Entry Level Qualification" in one or more subjects, usually as well as but sometimes instead of GCSE. An Entry Level Qualification is a widely recognised qualification which has been specially designed to meet the needs of and to reward those students who may

be finding difficulties with certain aspects of the GCSE course. It allows staff greater flexibility in choosing key focus areas and can, therefore, make the course much more rewarding for students. Parents are kept informed about the details of such entries.

WHAT IS CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT?

Controlled assessment replaced coursework for all GCSE subjects from September 2010. Some subjects (e.g. Maths and Religious Studies) have no controlled assessment at all. It is intended to ensure the validity and reliability of coursework and to enable assessors to confidently authenticate candidates' work. Controlled assessment is designed to take place within the normal teaching timetable, for example in the classroom, lab or workshop.

Excellent attendance at school is vital throughout Years 10 and 11. It is especially important during periods of controlled assessment. Whilst every effort would be made to help your child catch up, depending on the nature of the task set and the degree of supervision needed, it may not be possible to make up the time. Further information will be made available on the school website.

WHAT IS A "SHORT COURSE"?

In terms of syllabus content, a short course is roughly half of a full course and, will be shown on the certificate as GCSE (Short Course) at the appropriate grade (A* to G). It is not an easier option than a full course. Although there is less subject content to cover, the actual standard that you need to achieve is the same as for a full GCSE. We offer the Short Course GCSE in Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics) for all students as part of the statutory curriculum.

WHAT IS A BTEC?

A BTEC is a practical, work-related course. Students learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. It introduces students to the employment area they have chosen and provides a good basis to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification. There is a separate parent & learner guide available either from school or through the website: http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/BTEC%20Nationals/325848_BTEC_Parents_Guide.pdf

WHAT IS AN NVQ?

NVQ stands for National Vocational Qualification. An NVQ is a qualification which recognises the skills and knowledge a person needs to do a job. NVQs measure what you can do, as well as how much you know and understand. They are based on practical, work related skills and knowledge. Level 1 is the equivalent of E grade at GCSE and level 2 is the equivalent of a B grade.

WHAT ABOUT VOCATIONAL COURSES?

For those students that feel the subjects on offer may not provide the most appropriate pathway there may be a possibility of taking a vocational course. The courses that are currently running at Tamworth College that may be a possibility are: Construction & the Built Environment and Hair & Beauty. If it is felt this may be of interest to you then please contact the school. Please be aware that places are limited and subject to viability.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT THE COURSES OFFERED?

- Read the booklet and use the web link for more information
- Ask the Head of Department or your class teacher
- Opt for a taster session
- ASK QUESTIONS! If in doubt your tutor can help you find the person you need

WHO SHOULD I SPEAK TO IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

- Heads of Department and subject teachers can give detailed advice about individual courses. Each subject page provides the name of a member of staff to contact.
- Mr Whitehurst (Achievement Leader) or Mr Bailey (Assistant Achievement Leader)
- Mrs Sandland (Head of Learning Support)
- Mr Cotton (Assistant Headteacher)

You can access information through **Entrust Careers Service** website at:

www.entrustcareersservice.co.uk

Students are using the 'Which Way Now?' materials and Kudos website in school and you can also click through this link in the booklet on our website to access other materials.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

SHOULD I CHOOSE THE SUBJECTS WHICH I ENJOY MOST?

Do choose a course because:

- ✓ you are good at it and think you will enjoy the subject
- ✓ it links to a career idea
- ✓ it will go well with your other choices
- ✓ it will help you develop knowledge and skills that interest you
- ✓ you think that you might want to continue studying it after Year 11
- ✓ your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you

Don't choose a course just because:

- × your friends have chosen it (you may not be in the same group)
- × someone else thinks it's a good idea (you need to have a commitment to it)
- × you like the teacher you have now (you may not have the same teacher)

CAN I BEGIN TO STUDY A SUBJECT WHICH I HAVE NOT TAKEN BEFORE?

Most subjects at Key Stage 4 will build on previous study of the same subjects. There are, however, some courses which are new, offering subjects which have not been available in Y7-Y9 (e.g. Child Development, Business). You may wish to consider one or more of these, but you need to be sure that you know what is involved. Just because it is new does not mean that it will be any easier! If you're not sure then talk to a teacher of the subject concerned and ask for advice. You may also opt for a taster session in many of these subjects.

CAN I TAKE A SUBJECT AT ADVANCED LEVEL WITHOUT STUDYING IT AT KEY STAGE 4 (GCSE OR EQUIVALENT)?

Yes. There are some subjects which you can take at Advanced Level which you don't have to have done before. These include Business Studies, Economics, Psychology, and Sociology. There may be other exceptional circumstances but, in most cases, students will be expected to have a qualification in the subject before selecting it for study at Advanced Level. If in doubt seek further advice from a teacher of the subject concerned.

WHAT IF I AM UNCERTAIN ABOUT MY CAREER PLANS?

There is no need to worry at this stage about if you don't yet have a particular career in mind. If you have no career plans it is wise to choose courses which keep open as many opportunities as possible. Simply remember that it is most important to achieve a good balance in the subjects chosen. Future employers will look for a person who is flexible and adaptable to changing situations.

Careers Guidance is available to all students; individual students and parents can request additional careers support at any time where this is felt to be necessary.

Ask yourself:

- Which subjects are most important for me at this stage?
- Is my proposed choice of subjects a well-balanced one?
- If my career aim changes will my subject choice still be suitable?
- Does my choice of subjects close any career path which I may wish to follow?
- Am I likely to change my ideas as I grow older?

WILL I AUTOMATICALLY BE GIVEN MY FIRST CHOICE OF SUBJECTS?

It is possible that not all courses listed in this booklet will run. It is also possible that a certain combination may prove impossible. A minimum number of students are required to make a teaching group viable and some groups are limited to a maximum number which is determined by the availability of equipment or by safety considerations. If you choose a vocational course there are limited places available. We will try our best to support all students in gaining places on suitable courses.

Qualification Points Table

Points	BTEC First	GCSE	GCSE Short Course	ITQ (ICT)	NVQ	New national performance rating for English & Maths
116	Cert D*					9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
110						
104	Cert D					
98						
92	Cert M					
80	Cert P					
58	Award D*	A*				
55						
52	Award D	A				
49					Level 2	
46	Award M	B		Level 2 Cert		
40	Award P	C				
34		D				
28		E	A*		Level 1	
26			A			
25				Level 1 Cert		
23			B	Level 2 Award		
22		F				
20			C			
17			D			
16		G				
14			E			
11.5				Level 1 Award		
11			F			
8			G			

*For non-GCSE options D= Distinction M = Merit P=Pass

CORE SUBJECTS

The following subjects are part of the core curriculum for all students:

English Language GCSE (One GCSE)

This course is undertaken by all students and must be taken in conjunction with the English Literature GCSE.

AQA: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Course Details

The course looks to give you a range of skills across reading, writing and spoken language study. It encourages you to become fluent, critical and evaluative readers of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, and it will help you to gain an understanding of how texts are tailored to suit their audience and purpose. These will include works of literature, as well as literary non-fiction and other writing such as reviews and journalism.

The course also requires you to write accurately and coherently using Standard English appropriately, choosing content and adapting style and language to a wide range of forms, media, contexts, audiences and purposes. It will enable you to write grammatically correct sentences, using figurative language and textual analysis. You will also listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

This GCSE is taught concurrently with the English Literature GCSE and as such is not equally split across the two years.

Students will be terminally assessed via two examinations, details of which are provided below.

Three speaking and listening tasks will also be undertaken throughout the course, but the marks from these do not count towards the overall GCSE qualification and will be awarded separately.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification in English Language comprises 2 examinations, which will be taken at the end of Year 11.

The two papers to be sat are as follows:

- i)* A 1 hour 45 minute examination 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing'. This will assess both Reading and Writing; the reading questions will be based on an unseen literature fiction text, while the writing section will test either descriptive or narrative skills. This exam is worth 50% of the GCSE.

- ii)* A 1 hour 45 minute examination 'Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives'. This will again assess both Reading and Writing; the reading questions will be based on two linked texts-one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction, while the writing section will test the skill of presenting a viewpoint. This exam is also worth 50% of the GCSE.

What skills will I gain from studying English?

Communication skills are highly sought after by employers and the ability to express yourself clearly, creatively and persuasively will help make you stand out from the crowd. You will understand how spoken language evolves in response to changes in society and technology, and how this process relates to identity and cultural diversity.

You will learn to become critical readers, helping you to understand the ways in which texts attempt to manipulate their audiences. You will understand how meaning is constructed through words, sentences and whole texts and evaluate the ways in which meaning might be interpreted differently according to the perspective of the reader.

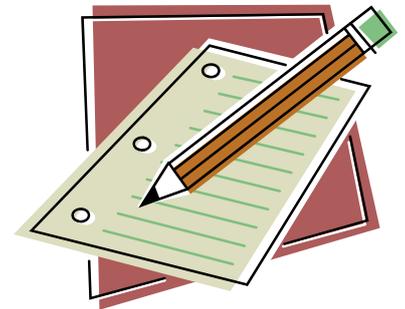
You will also learn how to adapt your own writing for a range of audiences and purposes by experimenting with language to create effects to engage your audience.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This course leads to one GCSE in English Language and must be taken in conjunction with the GCSE English Literature course.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact: Mrs Davies, Head of English



English Literature GCSE (One GCSE)

This course is undertaken by all students and must be taken in conjunction with the English Language GCSE.

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

Course Details

The course aims to develop your knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, you will have a chance to develop culturally and to acquire knowledge of the best works that have been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage you to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

This GCSE is taught concurrently with the English Language GCSE and as such is not equally split across the two years.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification in English Literature comprises 2 examinations, which will be taken at the end of Year 11.

The two papers to be sat are as follows:

- i)* A 1 hour 45 minute examination 'Shakespeare and the 19th century novel'. This will assess students' ability to write in detail about an extract from each text and then to write about the text as a whole. This exam is worth 40% of the GCSE.
- ii)* A 2 hour 15 minute examination 'Modern texts and poetry'. This will assess students' ability to write discursively on a modern prose or drama text, as well as writing comparatively on anthology poetry and both singly and comparatively on unseen poetry. This exam is worth 60% of the GCSE.

What skills will I gain from studying English Literature?

You will understand how texts from the English literary heritage have been influential and significant over time and explore their meaning today. You will also explore how texts from different times and traditions may reflect or influence values, assumptions and sense of identity. You will be required to connect ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts and by doing this you will become critical readers of fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This course leads to one GCSE in English Literature and must be taken in conjunction with the GCSE English Language course.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact: Mrs Davies, Head of English.



GCSE Mathematics

AQA: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

Course details

The maths GCSE is about to change. The last 3/4 years have already seen significant changes in the emphasis of the questioning in GCSE Mathematics examinations. The GCSE currently includes a higher proportion of questions that require students to have a deep understanding of mathematical skills and techniques. The emphasis is on how to use these skills to solve problems in context. The emphasis in the new GCSE has not changed but the skill set will now be much broader at both the Foundation and Higher Tier. All the grades are changing too. The grades will be awarded on a nine-point scale, 1 – 9, with 9 being the best grade. Mathematics is a compulsory subject and achievement at grade 4 is a key requirement for entry on to many courses for study beyond age 16. The skills taught in the GCSE appear throughout the whole school curriculum and are essential life skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course of study is the AQA Mathematics 8300. This is a linear course that is examined either at Foundation (grades 1 – 5) or Higher (grades 4 – 9). The examinations all take place at the end of the GCSE course and there are three papers of equal length and weight, one of which is a non-calculator paper.

Students will start the GCSE after February half term in year 9 and will be examined internally, regularly throughout the course. The end of Year 10 assessments will contribute to decisions over final tiers of entry. Final external examinations will be at the end of year 11.

There are 3 different paths a student might take:

- i) Further mathematics – This is a level 2 qualification and it will be taught alongside the higher GCSE taken by those working towards an 8/9. It will provide a good transition for those wishing to study Mathematics as an A-level
- ii) Higher GCSE – The higher GCSE is aimed at those targeted for grades 6 to 9, although it covers grades 4 to 9.
- iii) Foundation GCSE – The foundation GCSE is aimed at those targeted grade 1 to 5.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment for GCSE Mathematics.

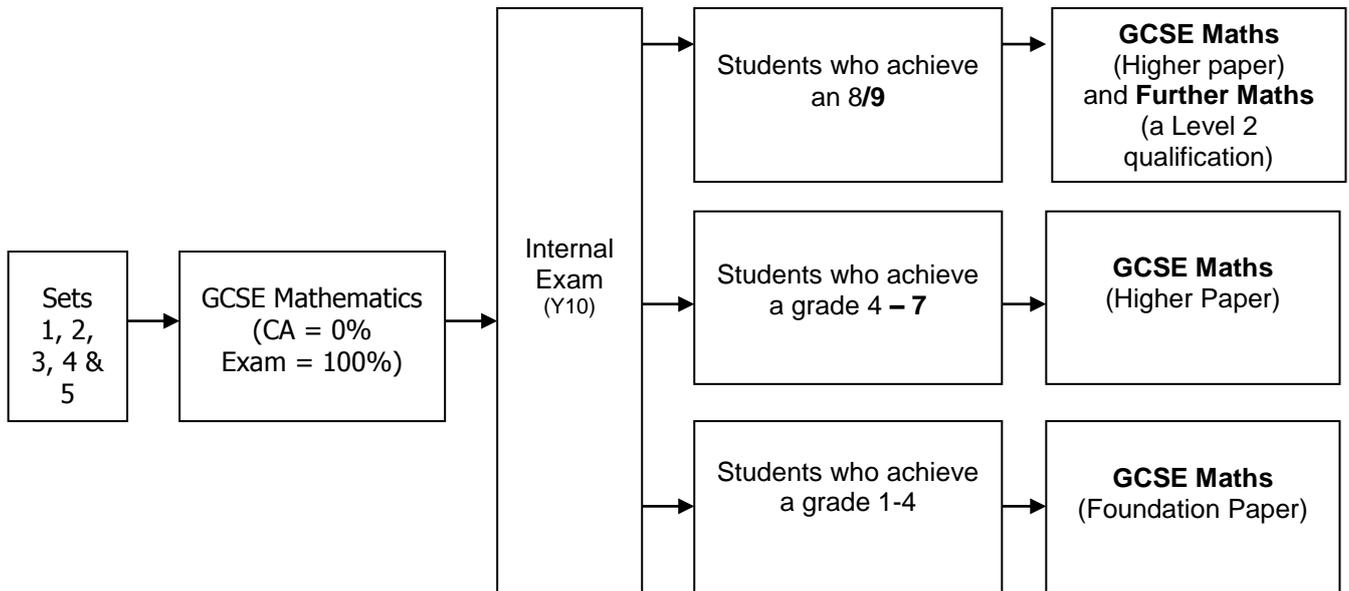
What skills will I gain from studying Mathematics?

While working on the core skills and techniques, there is now much greater emphasis on encouraging students to think independently about mathematical problems and apply logic and problem-solving skills to the work they are completing. Therefore alongside learning the core skills, students will develop skills and techniques that will support their studies across the curriculum.

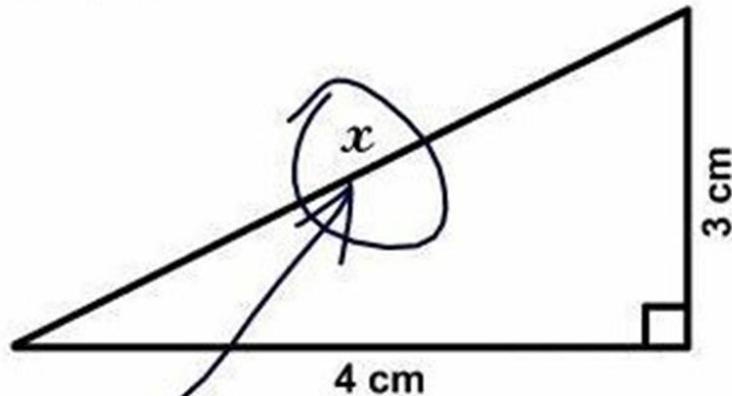
What should I do if I need any further information?

Contact: Miss Walker – Head of Mathematics

MATHS AT KEY STAGE 4



3. Find x .



Here it is

Science GCSE Full Course

Course Details

All students will follow one of two routes at KS4 and start on these pathways in Year 9. All sets follow the AQA Science course. The triple pathway is available to students who have obtained an average grade of C or above in this year's assessments alongside sustained effort in Science lessons.

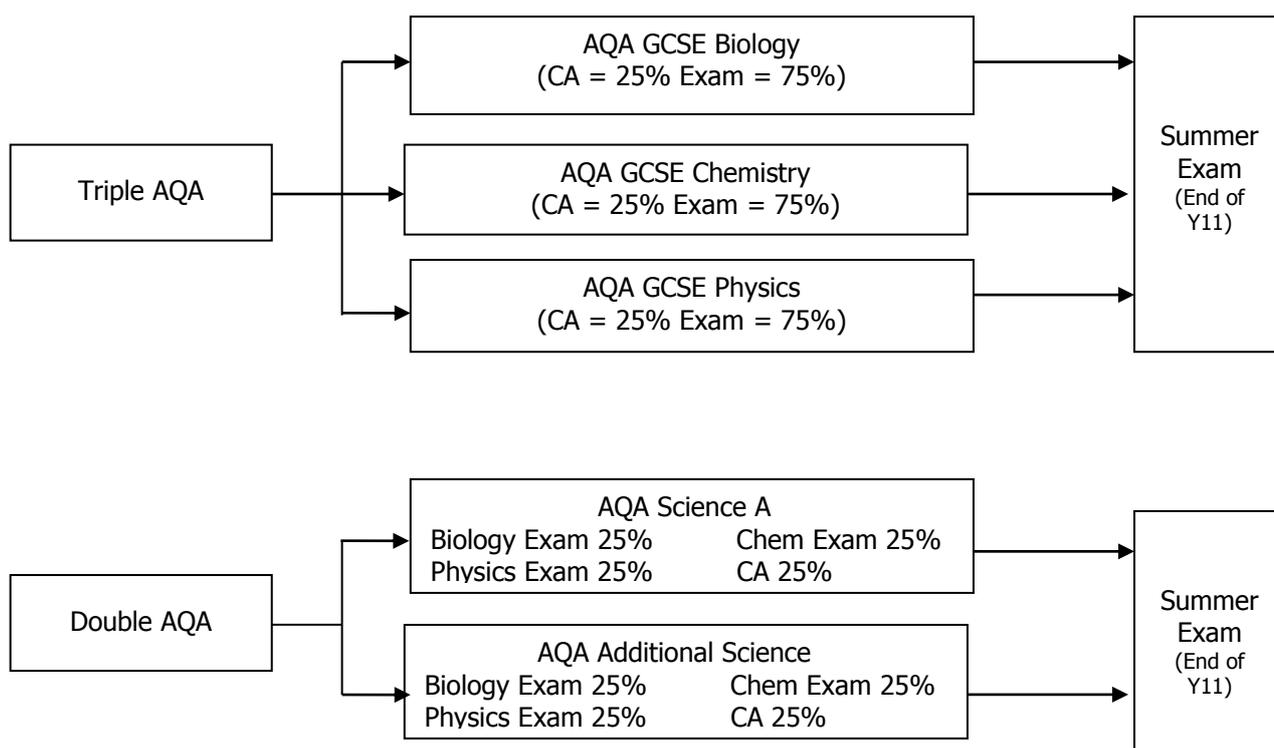
1. **Triple Science AQA** : www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science.php

Biology, Physics and Chemistry are studied as separate subjects leading to 3 separate GCSE grades. This is ideal for those students particularly interested in and committed to science and it is a good base for those who wish to carry on with these subjects at AS level. The courses will be completed at the end of Year 11.

Any students following this route should be aware of the additional workload that will include extra science homework each week.

2. **Double AQA**: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science

Students study GCSE Science A which comprises of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They take 3 separate exams together with a controlled assessment. This is followed by Additional Science where the students are assessed as before (3 separate exams and controlled assessment). The courses will be completed at the end of Year 11.



How will I be assessed?

Triple Science / Double Science AQA

There will be a controlled practical assessment in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, largely undertaken in lesson time and under controlled conditions. Periodic checks will be made on progress. Final examined assessments will be at the end of Year 11.

What skills will I gain from studying Science?

- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Practical skills
- ◆ Improve your knowledge of a wide range of scientific topics
- ◆ Develop research skills
- ◆ Organisational skills improve allowing practical work to be carried out safely

Is there anything else I need to know?

- ◆ Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics will be taught by specialist teachers.
- ◆ There are 3 periods of each of these subjects per fortnight for double scientists.
- ◆ There are 4 periods of each of these subjects per fortnight for triple scientists.
- ◆ There are two tiers of entry for the examination:

Higher	-	Grades A* - D targeted
Foundation	-	Grades C – G targeted

The sort of activities you will be doing in class:-

- ◆ Practical work, including whole investigations
- ◆ Individual and group research
- ◆ Notes and consolidation questions on work studied in class, to make sure concepts are understood
- ◆ Practical coursework will be done in class. Some research might be done at home.

There will be at least one homework per fortnight for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, e.g.

- ◆ 'How Science Works' skills such as data analysis, graph drawing, data evaluation
- ◆ Research – for notes or practical's or presentations
- ◆ Short answer questions
- ◆ Learning for tests
- ◆ Extended writing
- ◆ Online activities



What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to one of your Science teachers or to Dr. Maxwell (Head of Science).

Religious Studies B – Philosophy & Applied Ethics **(Short Course GCSE)**

OCR – <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-religious-studies-b-philosophy-and-applied-ethics-j621-j121-from-2012/>

All students follow the short course as part of the core curriculum

Course Details

Religious Studies is one of the most useful, stimulating and interesting subjects to study at GCSE, as it is concerned with people, their beliefs and lifestyle, and their responses to a variety of current moral, social and philosophical issues. In today's world, it is even more vitally important to be religiously educated.

This course allows you to study both Philosophy and Ethics – units B601 and B603 – using the insights of Christianity and Hinduism:

- What is God like?
- Is there life after death?
- Why get married – why not live together? and other issues such as divorce, re-marriage, the family, contraception etc.
- Is abortion murder? and other issues in medical ethics such as euthanasia, the use of animals in medical research etc.



How will I be assessed?

Your final GCSE grade is based on 2 examination papers of 1 hour duration each – 1 on each of the 2 units (1 Philosophy unit and 1 Ethics unit). You will be given practice in the different types of examination questions during the course. There are no tiered papers or controlled assessments in RS.

What skills will I gain from studying Religious Studies?

- Improved discussion skills – talking about your own ideas, taking account of alternative views, and drawing reasoned conclusions
- Skills of enquiry, and critical reflection on issues and ideas
- Better understanding of the complexity of beliefs and values and their application in everyday life and moral issues
- Reflect on your own beliefs and values

Is there anything else I need to know?

You do not have to have any particular faith yourself to study RS at GCSE. This exciting and varied course builds on the work you have done at Key Stage 3 and will challenge your ideas. You can also study RS as a full course option – find out why and how...

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mr Garner (HOD) or a member of the RE Department.

OPTIONS SUBJECT INFORMATION

	Page	Options
Art and Design GCSE	20	✓
Business Studies GCSE	21	✓
Child Development GCSE	22	✓
D&T: GCSE Hospitality & Catering	23	✓
D&T: GCSE Product Design	24	✓
D&T: GCSE Textile Design – Fashion and Clothing	25	✓
D&T: GCSE Home Economics	26	✓
Drama: BTEC in Performing Arts	27	✓
Drama: GCSE	29	✓
English GCSE (Language & Literature)	11-13	CORE SUBJECT
Geography GCSE	30	✓
Health and Social Care GCSE	31	✓
History GCSE	32	✓
ICT - OCR ITQ Level 1/2 Certificate	33	TRIPLE SCIENTISTS ONLY
ICT – GCSE Creative iMedia	34	✓
Mathematics GCSE	14-15	CORE SUBJECT
MFL - GCSE French & German	35-36	✓
MFL - NVQ French & German	37	✓
Music GCSE	38	✓
Physical Education GCSE	39	✓
Religious Studies: Philosophy & Applied Ethics GCSE with Citizenship GCSE Short Course	40 41	✓
Religious Studies: Short course GCSE	18	CORE SUBJECT
Science (Double or Triple Science)	16-17	CORE SUBJECT

Art and Design GCSE Full Course

AQA : <http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/pdf/AQA-4200-W-SP-10.PDF>

Course Details

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and media and technologies such as textiles, wood, plaster, plastic, and paint. It is an unendorsed course where students can work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and interests and will keep a work book for this purpose. Students will produce practical and contextual work associated within two or more art specialists i.e.: graphics, textiles, fine art, jewellery/costume, fashion, sculpture and photography.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria

- Developing ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding
- Refining ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas observations and insights, relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms
- Presenting a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding. And making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

Unit 1 - Student will complete a portfolio of work. This will include more than one project. This is worth 60% of the total marks.

Unit 2- Externally set question, including 10 hours under exam conditions at the development stage of your work. This is worth 40% of the total marks.

What skills will I gain from studying art and design?

The most important skill is that of independent learning and thinking. Students will learn to develop their own ideas across a wide range of media, materials and techniques. Outcomes can be highly personal and individual.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The field of art and design is massive. Students wishing to work in Graphic Design, Fashion and Textiles, Interior design, advertising, 3D design and more creative industries will need to study this subject at this level (and advisably at post GCSE level too.) Employers in related industries and admissions officers in Art and Design Foundation, HND and degree courses will require a background in Art and Design plus an extensive portfolio of work.

Students will be required to purchase an art pack from the department.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs Wright (HOD) or your art teacher.

GCSE Business Studies – (Full Course)

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2009.html>

Course Details

This introductory course to Business Studies is ideal for any student who; wants a good understanding of how businesses work, is intending to study any business subject in the future, wishes to understand how to make a success of their future career in business, or who might even be thinking of setting up their own business!

GCSE Business Studies looks to give students an understanding of a wide range of ideas, theories and skills that are essential for any business to succeed, with particular focus on small businesses and business start-ups. The first year of the course focuses on identifying business opportunities, understanding and researching the competition and developing the skills of the business “entrepreneur” (ie. the person who sets up and runs a business). Whilst in the second year students develop their understanding of key business functions including; Marketing, Finance, People, and Operations and the impact of the economic environment on businesses.

How will I be assessed?

To complete the full GCSE students have to sit two exams (75% of the course) as well as carryout research and write up a report for their controlled assessment (which makes up the final 25% of the GCSE).

Exams:

The two exams (sat at the end of year 11) consist of the following:

- i)* a 45 minute “short answer” (multiple-choice) exam paper worth 25% of the GCSE, and
- ii)* a 90 minute “long answer” exam worth 50% of the GCSE.

Controlled Assessment:

Controlled Assessment makes up 25% of the GCSE and requires students to undertake 6 hours of research into a local small business of their choice to answer a specific business question. Students are then given a further three hours, under exam conditions, to write a business report based around their research and conclusions.

What skills will I gain from studying Business Studies?

Students will develop a broad understanding of the range of activities businesses undertake to compete and be successful in the global economy. Key to the course is understanding and developing the skills that the entrepreneur needs to be successful in business with activities being undertaken to improve students’ teamwork, leadership, communication, presentation, thinking and risk-taking skills.

Is there anything else I need to know?

This is the first opportunity students have to study business organisations, how they operate, the environment in which they work and the challenges they face and given the daily interaction we all have with the business world this is the ideal opportunity for students to prepare themselves for the demands of a future life in business.

What should I do if I need any further information?



Contact: Mr Rossin – Head of Business, Economics & Accounting

Child Development GCSE Full Course

OCR : <http://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-home-economics-child-development-j441-from-2012>

Course Details

The main part of the course focuses on growth and development. This includes physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of babies and children. In addition work on the family and parenting, pregnancy and birth are important features of the course. In fact, everything you need to know about babies, children and women who are pregnant will be covered in detail.

How will I be assessed?

The final examination paper will last for 1 hour 30 minutes and be worth 40% of the course. In addition students will be expected to cover three small tasks in lesson. Two of the tasks will assess planning, practical work and an evaluation. The third task will assess investigative skills. Each task will take approximately 7 hours to complete and is worth 30% of the final grade. In Year 11 a Child Study task will be completed. This will involve observing a child aged 0 – 5 years that the student/family will know. This is worth 30% of the total exam mark.

What skills will I gain from studying Child Development?

You will learn how a child grows and develops up to the age of 5 years. In addition you will learn how to produce course work to an excellent standard, which will help you achieve a high grade in this subject. Time management and good planning are skills that will develop over the two years. Understanding assessment criteria is a very important feature as this will help you develop your work to a high standard and achieve the maximum possible marks.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will be responsible for finding a child to study in Year 11. It is very important that you can access a child easily over a term.

This course is suitable for boys and girls who have an interest in child care and education. This could lead on to careers in the NHS for example midwifery, health visiting, paediatric nursing or child therapy, Social Services and Education.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs Sheasby.



GCSE in Hospitality and Catering

WJEC: <http://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering/>

Course Details

This GCSE course enables learners to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required for employment within the hospitality and catering industry. The course is heavily practical based and students will be cooking on weekly basis to learn a variety of catering skills related to food preparation and service. In total there are 12 pages of coursework for the course. The examining board is WJEC and the course leads to GCSE qualification. Assessment is untiered and covers the range of grades from A* - G.

Years 10 & 11		
UNIT 1: Catering skills related to food preparation and service	60% of total course Controlled Assessment 45 hours	YEAR 10 – 4 pages A4 max YEAR 11 – 8 pages of A4 max
Year 11		
UNIT 2: Catering, food and the customer	40% of the total GCSE 1hour 15 minutes written paper	EXAMINATION

How will I be assessed?

The two coursework projects account for 60% of the overall mark and are internally assessed (UNIT 1). The examination accounts for the remaining 40% of the overall mark and is externally assessed.

Work is regularly assessed throughout the course. The higher the quality of the work handed in the higher the marks awarded. Assessment is carried out using criteria laid down by the examination board.

What skills will I gain from studying Hospitality and Catering?

You will gain a wide range of practical skills ranging from pastry, cakes, breads and dough products, hot and cold desserts, pasta, vegetable, meat and fish dishes. Students will learn many set skills as well as having the opportunity to choose and create their own dishes.

In addition you will learn about safe hygienic and secure working environments, effective teamwork and food safety.

Is there anything else I need to know?

As the majority of this course is food production and cooking it is essential you are able to provide ingredients on a regular basis.

In addition you will need to have an interest and love of food. This course is certainly for the 'foodies' amongst you. If you enjoy watching programmes such as 'Master Chef' or the 'Great British Bake Off' you should enjoy this course.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs Stevens in the Design Technology department or the Head of Department Mrs Thurlow.



Design and Design and Technology: Product Design GCSE Full Course

OCR : <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-design-and-technology-product-design-j305-from-2012/>

Course Details

Should they wish to work in **Textiles, Graphic Design and/or Materials (ie. Wood, Metal & Plastics)** then this is the course students should choose. Students choose which area they wish to work in for themselves because of this they can be sure that they will enjoy the completion of the coursework projects.

The course enables students to combine their designing and making skills with knowledge and understanding, in order to design and make quality products. The examining board is OCR and the course leads to a GCSE qualification. Assessment is untiered and covers the range of grades from A* - G.

Classwork is varied, including many activities. Creative design and make tasks are the main focus of the work. Students are encouraged to develop practical skills throughout the course. A major feature of the work is the 'Design Process' which underpins all of the work done, developing logical approaches to problem solving, organisation of resources and time management, basically, this amounts to a course on 'project management'.

How will I be assessed?

There are four compulsory assessment units. Two coursework projects account for 60% of the final grade and the remaining 40% is given over to one assessed practical task and one written examination.

Work is regularly assessed throughout the course. The higher the quality of the work handed in the higher the marks awarded. Assessment is carried out using criteria laid down by the examination board.

What skills will I gain from studying Product Design?

The field of Product Design is a very varied one indeed. There is very little that we wear, eat or use in our everyday life that didn't start off as an idea in a designer's head. This course will encourage students to develop the possibilities and potential of their talents by exploring what already exists around them and creating designs in any material (within reason, of course) they choose which will bring about benefits to consumers and create profitable business opportunities.

Is there anything else I need to know?

In today's society we have an ever increasing reliance upon the products, systems and environments which are, invariably, the result of Design & Technology practices. Because of this, this subject is perfectly well placed to meet the needs of the commercial and educational world. The general skills base that this course allows students to develop is a most versatile one and lends itself very well to a really varied range of Advanced Level courses or employment opportunities. Indeed, it is wide ranging enough to cater for all aspirations and ambitions from anyone wishing to be an Architect to Fashion Designer.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mr M. Rogers, Head of Design and Technology.

Design and Technology: Textile Design - Fashion & Clothing **GCSE Full Course**

OCR: <http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/82556-specification.pdf>

Course Details

This GCSE course enables students to develop their designing and making skills to create quality fashion products. Candidates undertake research associated with the specific product before establishing their own design brief and detailed specification for an improved or similarly functioning product. Throughout the process, the candidate will record, research, design and make products using a portfolio to include photographs and other digital media. Candidates will be modelling and making fashion and clothing related items. The examining board is OCR and the course leads to a GCSE qualification. Assessment is untiered and covers the range of grades from A* - G.

Year 10		
UNIT A571 – Introduction to designing & making	30% of the total GCSE Controlled assessment Approx. 20 hours 60 marks	Design and make project work including practical tasks
Year 11		
UNIT A573 – Making quality products	30% of the total GCSE Controlled assessment Approx. 20 hours 60 marks	Design and make project work including practical tasks
UNIT A575 – Sustainability and technical aspects of designing & making	40% of the total GCSE 1hour 30 minutes written paper 80 marks	EXAMINATION

How will I be assessed?

The two coursework projects account for 60% of the overall mark and are internally assessed (UNIT A571 & UNIT A573). The examination accounts for the remaining 40% of the overall mark and is externally assessed.

Work is regularly assessed throughout the course. The higher the quality of the work handed in the higher the marks awarded. Assessment is carried out using criteria laid down by the examination board.

What skills will I gain?

Students will develop a range of skills and techniques by hand and machine using a variety of fabrics. These skills are the foundation for post 16 education and work within the Fashion and Clothing industry.

The course develops independent learning and thinking, teamwork, social skills, communication and presentation skills, problem solving and decision making skills.

Is there anything else I need to know?

As the majority of this course is practical based it is essential you are able to provide fabric and resources on a regular basis.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs Stevens in the Design Technology department or the Head of Department Mrs Thurlow.



Design & Technology: Home Economics GCSE Full Course
OCR : <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/type/gcse/he/food/index.html>

Course Details

The specification covers Nutrition and Health, Food commodities e.g. eggs, milk, cheese and fish, Meal Planning, Food Preparation and Cooking, Food Safety and Consumer Education.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a final examination paper which will last for 1 hour 30 minutes and be worth 40% of the total exam mark. Controlled assessment (course work) is worth 60% of the exam. In Year 10 students will complete three short tasks demonstrating practical skills and knowledge. All the tasks will take approximately 7 hours to complete and be worth 10% each. In Year 11 an extended piece of food study work will be carried out and is worth 30% of the examination.

What skills will I gain from studying Home Economics?

A range of practical skills will be learnt including main courses, pastries, desserts, cake and biscuit making, sauces etc. In addition an understanding of diet and nutrition will be an important part of the course. There will be an emphasis on the development of course work skills to gain high marks in this area.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will need to provide ingredients on a regular basis. An interest in food is desirable.

There are many employment opportunities in the food industry and an increasing range of courses in further education including university. Hotel management, catering, dietician, food teacher, working in the media with foods are all roles where Food and Nutrition would be useful. Remember behind every celebrity chef there is a person who has studied food, who sometimes become successful themselves.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to your own teacher or the Head of Department Mrs. Thurlow.



**Drama: BTEC Performing Arts:
Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts (Acting)(Dance)
(Musical Performance) or (Musical Theatre)**

Edexcel: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/firsts2012/performing-arts/Pages/default.aspx>

Course Details:

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award is a level 2 qualification **equivalent to ONE GCSE**. It is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands.

This award provides a good foundation for post-16 education and progression on to qualifications such as the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Performing Arts (equivalent to A Level) and GCE AS or A Levels in Drama and Theatre Studies and Performing Arts.

The grades you can achieve are:

- Level 2 Pass (equivalent to GCSE C), Level 2 Merit (GCSE B)
- Level 2 Distinction (GCSE A), Level 2 Distinction* (GCSE A*)

However, if a Level 2 Award is not achieved you will still be able to achieve a Level 1 award.

How will I be assessed?

The course is made up of 3 Units: Two core Units and one specialist Unit.

Core Units:

Unit 1: Individual Showcase (externally assessed)

You will produce a letter of application for a company or Drama School and you will prepare and demonstrate two pieces of performance, each lasting two minutes.

Unit 2: Preparation, Performance and Production

This is an internally assessed Unit where you have to work together as a small Theatre Company.

You will need to work together to explore, develop and shape ideas for the performance. You will need to take part in preparations for the performance that are appropriate to your role which might be as an actor, designer or dancer to ensure everything is ready for the opening night. All of your hard work will come to fruition when you present your performance to an audience.

Specialist Skills Units:

You will study **one** more specialist Unit to showcase your particular skills. You can choose to study:

Acting, Dance, Musical Performance (singing) or Musical Theatre

What skills will I gain from studying Performing Arts?

Acting, movement/dance and musical performance skills. Reliability, initiative, co-operation. Team work, confidence, social skills. Communication and presentational skills. Problem solving and decision-making skills. Independent research and learning.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will also have the opportunity to have lessons at the Garrick and there will be lots of workshops and theatre visits arranged. Studying this award doesn't mean that you can only be an actor! There are plenty of jobs where it is useful to have had experience in Drama. All of the skills mentioned above are transferable to ANY job in any career path not just in the Performing Arts. With further training students can go onto Careers specifically in the Performing Arts, such as: Acting, design, costume, makeup, set, lighting, sound, dance, choreography, Direction, Advertising, Radio, TV, Media and many, many more! You can go on to study A level Drama and Theatre Studies.

What should I do if I need any further Information?

See Mrs. Plant



Drama GCSE Full Course

AQA: <http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/pdf/AQA-4240-W-SP.PDF>



Course details

'GCSE Drama is fun, exciting and inspirational' that's just one quote from a GCSE student. Drama is about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes and empathise with the different roles and the situations they find themselves in. It's an emotional and intellectual journey that allows you to get in touch with your creativity.

The course involves lots of practical work and you will take part in creating and performing in lots of situations. As well as creating your own original work you will also study plays written by other people and get the chance to explore design elements of theatre such as make-up, set and costume.

The course is in two parts:

Unit 1. A written exam when you will write about the pieces of Drama personal to you of which you have been proud.

Unit 2. Practical work. Over the two years you will take part in lots of different plays and improvisations and the best two will be submitted as your final mark to the board.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 60% practical work where you will totally focus on creation and performance of different types of Drama and movement. This can be improvised, scripted or devised but you can also be assessed on design elements such as costume make-up and set.

The one and a half hour written exam is worth 40% and is taken at the end of the course. You will answer questions based upon two pieces of practical work, explaining what the pieces were about and how you developed your creative ideas for your acting role or design element.

You can achieve grades A*-G in GCSE Drama.

What skills will I gain from studying Drama?

Team work, confidence, social skills, communication, problem solving and decision making skills. You will take part in independent research and learning; be reliable and use your initiative.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will have the opportunity to see live productions and take part in workshops from visiting practitioners. Visits, workshops and rehearsals might take place inside or outside of normal school hours, including lunch times. Performances take time to rehearse and perfect so you will need to be totally committed to your group and focused throughout the lesson.

You can go on to study AS and A2 Drama and Theatre Studies and BTEC Performing Arts. Drama helps develop transferable skills and is useful for careers/courses in retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing, medicine and any job where it requires you to lead or be part of a team or deal with people face to face.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Please speak to Mrs Plant.



Geography GCSE Full Course

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-a-9030>

Course Details

The course followed is AQA specification A which is divided up into Physical Geography (37.5%), Human Geography (37.5%) and a fieldwork investigation (25%). The course deals with contemporary issues which will help you make sense of the changes happening in the world and to make informed decisions as a result.

There are 2 entry tiers; foundation (grades C-G) and higher (grades A*-D)

Geography groups are generally taught in mixed ability sets but this will depend on the number of students opting and the timetable arrangements.

How will I be assessed?

Assessments will include the marking and review of specific notes, questions and homework activities. Students will also be given end of unit tests and engage in both peer and self-assessment. 'Assessment for learning' will be prominent throughout the course. The fieldwork investigation is done as a controlled assessment with the analysis and the evaluation sections written under high level controlled conditions. Students will be monitored and supported by teaching staff in line with the new guidelines. Students will take an internal examination in Y10 and a trial examination in Y11. The final examination has 2 papers: the physical Geography paper will contain questions on The Restless Earth, Ice on the Land and The Coastal Zone. The Human Geography paper will contain questions on Changing Urban Environments, The Development Gap and Tourism. Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes in length.

What skills will I gain from studying Geography?

Students will find a flexible and enquiring mind useful along with good personal organisational skills. Geography will help you to develop your spatial and interpretational skills. In addition you will learn to work with data and the presentation of this data sometimes using statistical analysis, develop modelling and role playing skills, produce ICT presentations and have the opportunity to debate issues. Fieldwork will help develop your individual, group and social skills. You will research using a variety of information sources including the internet, TV programmes and newspapers.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Geography is a popular and successful subject and one that is hugely important and relevant in today's complex and rapidly changing world. As a 'bridge' subject it fits between the physical sciences and the social sciences, combining elements of both and as such will combine well with most other subjects. The department runs a field visit to collect the data for the coursework topic and a 5 day residential visit to Iceland.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to your own Geography teacher, Miss Niesiolowska (Head of Geography) or Mrs Boyling (Second in Geography).



Health and Social Care GCSE Full Course

Edexcel : <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/hsc/Pages/default.aspx>

Course Details

The National Health Service employs 2 million people. There are many roles available that would include working with children, elderly people, the disabled and the sick. The Social Care Service involves working with people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, youth offending teams and probation. In addition the provision of early years services are increasing. If you feel you are interested in working with people or children this course could be for you.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1

This is an exam and is 40% of the total mark. This unit contains the following four topics:

- ◆ Human Growth and Development e.g. infancy, childhood, adolescence and adulthood
- ◆ Factors affecting human growth and development e.g. genetic and environmental factors, physical factors such as illness, disease, diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol
- ◆ Effects on relationships on personal growth and development – friendships, sexual relationships, working relationships
- ◆ The effect of life events of personal development e.g. relationships, physical changes, changes in life circumstances e.g. starting school

Unit 2

This is course work and is 60% of the total course. This unit contains the following four topics:

Care needs for infants, children, adolescents, individuals in early, middle and later adulthood and individuals with specific needs.

Services that are available to the above client groups and how they are provided.

The main work roles of care practitioners and the skills and qualifications needed to deliver services effectively.

Care values which support relationships e.g. confidentiality, effective communication etc.

What skills will I gain from studying Health and Social Care?

- ◆ You will learn about the needs of individuals at different stages of life. The style of the lessons encourages communication through discussion and the sharing of ideas.
- ◆ You will learn how to generate a high standard of course work which can positively affect the outcome of a high grade.
- ◆ You will have a greater understanding of life!

Is there anything else I need to know?

Class work is varied, using many activities. This is a very interesting course that young people should enjoy.

What else should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs Eccles.



History GCSE Full Course
AQA : www.aqa.org.uk/history

Subject Details

AQA Modern World History

Unit 1: International Relations: Conflict and Peace in the Twentieth Century World 1933-1980

Unit 2: Twentieth Century Depth Studies (1920s America, Hitler's Germany 1933-45 and Vietnam)

Unit 3: Controlled Assessment-British People in war

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Examination 37.5%

Unit 2: Examination 37.5%

Unit 3: Controlled Assessment 25%

- This will be done in Autumn and Spring of 2015-16
- There will be 2 questions which students will research after direction from the teacher
- Total write up time is 4 hours, during which no help can be given.

What skills will I gain from studying history?

- The ability to discuss and debate issues
- The ability to write effective extended pieces of work
- Knowledge of the Twentieth Century linking to citizenship and politics
- Ability to evaluate evidence critically
- Opportunity to undertake independent research
- An understanding of how the past can be interpreted in different ways

Career links

History provides students with a very broad range of skills which are highly valued by employers (e.g. the ability to evaluate information and the skill required to present an argument). In addition the subject has relevance to careers such as law, business and personnel management. People as diverse as Gordon Brown, Jonathan Ross, Michael Palin, Al Murray and Chris Martin from Coldplay have history degrees.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to your history teacher or to Mr Bowman.



OCR ITQ - Information Technology - IT User Skills (ITQ)
Level 1/2 Qualification
ICT for Triple Science Students

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-qualifications-qcf-itq-2009-levels-1-3-in-it-user-skills-03991-03999-13995/>

Course Details

This course gives you the opportunity to achieve an ITQ Level 1/2 qualification. You will be given the opportunity to develop your ICT skills by completing practice exercises and assessments in a range of applications:

- Word Processing
- Imaging Software
- Presentation Software

Qualification Aims

The aim of these qualifications is to give candidates the opportunity to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of IT
- develop their skills and competencies in IT which could include: basic desktop technology, security management, IT support processes and tools, the use of communications and mobile technologies.
- demonstrate competencies in the workplace.
- achieve a nationally recognised qualification.

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/80627-centre-handbook.pdf>

How will I be assessed?

You will be required to complete a series of set Tasks and Specimen Assignments, which will be assessed against the OCR marking criteria for the qualification, as you progress through the scheme. You will be assessed for external certification using OCR set assignments. These exams will be sat at a time when it's appropriate for you personally. There is no set exam date, i.e. no end of year exams with this course.

Successful completion of the Core unit (Unit 01) plus 3 other level 2 units will earn an ITQ – Level 2 Certificate.

What skills will I gain from studying ITQ?

This course will equip you with the broad range of transferable skills necessary to meet the demands of the modern workplace, and will support your use of ICT across all curriculum areas. The qualification recognises complex and specialist skills in the use of IT in vocational contexts.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The qualifications outlined above are highly regarded but are **not** GCSE qualifications. However, a Level 1/2 qualification will provide you with practical skills you will find useful in other GCSE subjects.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs S. Gregory or Mr J. Vyse



OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR: Mrs S. Gregory

<http://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/creative-imedia-level-1-2-award-certificate-j807-j817/>

Course Details

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will provide learners with opportunities to develop, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Learners will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products.

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will also challenge all learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and techniques; encouraging independence and creativity and providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum.

How will I be assessed?

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia consists of two mandatory units and two optional units.

Unit	Assessment Method	Description
<i>Mandatory</i>		
<i>Pre-production skills</i>	Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour 15 mins	Developing the students' understanding of preproduction skills that are used in the creative and digital media sector.
<i>Creating digital graphics</i>	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated	Plan and create new digital graphics to meet a specific client brief.
<i>Optional</i>		
<i>Creating interactive multimedia products</i>	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated	Creating an interactive multimedia product.
<i>Developing digital games</i>	Centre assessed tasks OCR moderated	Designing and developing digital game concepts.

What skills will I gain from studying Creative I Media?

- Knowledge of the main preproduction skills and techniques that are integral to the planning and creation process when developing digital solutions.
- A range of skills in the use of digital packages to express creativity when designing a creative and digital media solution.
- Awareness of the associated legal requirements.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia is equivalent in size to a GCSE. The qualification is designed with both creative and practical elements. There is also synergy with practical subjects such as Information Technology and Computing where key elements such as the use of program coding, website design and legislative requirements are common themes.

Next steps for this course include the OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mrs S. Gregory or Mr J. Vyse.

Modern Foreign Languages GCSE

Most of you will study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE level. You will have already opted for either French or German at the end of year 8 so this is the language that you will continue to study over the next two years. However, if you have studied BOTH French and German in year 9, you now have 2 options available to you;

- a) to continue to study both, or
- b) continue with EITHER French OR German.

If you have achieved level 6s in languages this year you have already demonstrated the skills necessary to achieve a grade C at GCSE in writing (see below). If you have achieved level 6 in BOTH languages, we would strongly encourage you to consider continuing to study both languages at GCSE. Those who have chosen to study 2 languages in the past have all achieved high grades giving them an excellent base on which to study languages further at A level and university.

Course Details

Modern Foreign Languages: French GCSE Full Course

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-4655>

Modern Foreign Languages: German GCSE Full Course

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/german/gcse/german-4665>

Your Writing and Speaking are not tiered so your mark will reflect your performance against the criteria set out in the above links.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in 4 skills: **Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing**

Listening and Reading 40% – Exams at end of Year 11

- They are each worth 20% of your final grade.
- The listening and reading exams are available at Foundation Tier (grades G - C) and Higher Tier (grades D-A*). Your teacher will decide which tier will be most appropriate for you.

Speaking and Writing 60% – Controlled Assessments throughout Years 10 and 11

- As the controlled assessments are completed in lesson time, this course requires a high level of discipline to keep on top of assessments. EVERYTHING taught in lessons will be assessed and count towards the final GCSE grade.

The Writing Controlled Assessments will be similar to those you have produced in year 9. For a grade C or higher, you will need to produce between 200 and 300 words for each task. Two tasks will be submitted to the exam board, each worth 15% of the final grade.

The Speaking Controlled Assessments will be based on the questions you practise in your lessons. They will be assessed and marked by your teacher. For a grade C or above, you need to be able to discuss the topic prepared in class for between 4 and 6 minutes. The Controlled Assessment is recorded by your teacher on a one-to-one basis. Again, 2 tasks will be submitted to the exam board, each worth 15% of the final grade.

The topics consolidate those covered at KS3 and are as follows: Home & Local Area, Health & Sport, Leisure & Entertainment, Travel & the Wider World, Education & Work.

What skills will I gain from studying languages?

Languages are highly valued by employers and universities because they teach you transferable skills such as;

- communication skills,
- organisational skills,
- interpersonal skills,
- intercultural understanding,
- working independently,
- teamwork,
- absorbing and retaining complex information,
- self-motivation,
- analytic and problem-solving skills.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will have 5 periods per fortnight in your chosen language.

If you wish to study a language at A-level or beyond you will need to study the language at GCSE level.

“In today’s world English graduates without languages are at a real disadvantage.” says Anny King, French-born director of the Centre for Languages at Cambridge University.



What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to your teachers directly or to Mrs Briden [French] or Mrs Dunn [German] and / or see the following resources:

<http://www.all-languages.org.uk/uploads/files/Press%20Releases/Work%20Talk.pdf>

<http://creative.dailymail.co.uk/dcsf/modernlanguages/ml-didyouknow.html>

Modern Foreign Languages : NVQ French: Level 1/2
Modern Foreign Languages: NVQ German: Level 1/2

<http://www.vocationallanguages.co.uk/>



Course Details

The **NVQ** is a vocational course. These qualifications are suitable for you if you have achieved a level 5 at the end of year 9 and think you might find it difficult to write 200 words from memory as required at GCSE. They are NOT suitable for anyone who might later want to study the language for A level.

How will I be assessed?

As a portfolio based qualification, assessments will be carried out regularly throughout the course. There are assessments in all 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The assessments will be conducted by the class teacher when the group is ready, and you are able to correct any mistakes you have made. You DO need to get 100% in each section, though, so these qualifications require determination to get it right.

What skills will I gain from studying languages?

The ability of many of our European neighbours to speak several languages gives them an enormous advantage over us, and this is becoming even more significant. You will develop essential skills such as communication, teamwork and problem-solving. Many companies in all areas are building up links with our European neighbours and your future prospects and employability can only be enhanced by ensuring that you are equipped to succeed in the modern world.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Learning a language combines the intellectual with the practical as no other subject does. You need to be able to think on your feet, but when you can find exactly the right foreign word or phrase, you get a real sense of achievement.

Languages are very sociable. If you enjoy being with people and communicating with them, the chances are you'll enjoy being able to do this in a foreign language too.



What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to your teachers directly or to Mrs Timores (NVQ Assessor and Co-ordinator)

Music GCSE Full Course

Edexcel: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse09/music/Pages/default.aspx>

Course Details

GCSE music follows on from the KS3 class study, and is therefore accessible to the majority of students. It includes performing, composing and listening. The majority of the course is accessed through practical work – performing and composing.

Performing.

All students will need to perform a solo and an ensemble piece. Students will need to develop performing skills either on an instrument or through singing. GCSE Music students can access free instrumental/vocal lessons subject to availability. Students are expected to participate in ensemble music to help develop the necessary skills.

Composing

Students will compose 2 pieces in a variety of styles. This is a practical skill which involves use of their own instrument and learning recording and ICT skills to produce the final pieces of coursework. Detailed instruction will be given in how to approach composition tasks.

Listening and Appraising

Students study 12 set works from a wide range including popular music, world music and classical music. Students learn to recognise and understand technical features of these pieces. Wherever possible, pieces will be approached through performance.

How will I be assessed? 60% of the course is assessed through coursework.

Performing 30% - one solo and one ensemble performance on any instrument/voice in any style, which can be recorded at any point during the course.

Composing 30% - 2 pieces will be submitted during the course.

Listening and Appraising 40% - one 90 minute paper. 8 short-answer listening questions based on the set works studied, and one 10-mark longer answer on one set work.

What skills will I gain from studying music?

- You will improve your performing skills as a soloist and in a group.
- You will learn how to how to compose music from initial ideas through to the finished product, and how to use music technology and multi-track recording.
- You will learn how music is put together and the features of different styles.

Is there anything else I need to know?

You will need to practise regularly on your instrument. Reading music is not a requirement of the course, but relevant skills will be taught within the course.

Why take GCSE Music?

You like listening to music and you enjoy performing it.

You are interested in understanding a wider variety of music.

You would like to be able to use music technology.

You like making music with other people.

Music is a life-long skill and a music GCSE counts equally with other academic subjects.

Any Questions? Ask your music teacher.



Physical Education GCSE Full Course

https://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/GCSE%20New%20GCSE/GCSE_PE_Spec.pdf

Course Details

60% Practical
40% Theory

You study all of the sports that we offer, and then we put your best four activities forward.

How will I be assessed?

- ◆ Practical assessment against activity specific criteria (ongoing).
 - You can be assessed as a coach or official in one activity.
 - Sporting activities that you do outside of school **may** be used for practical assessment with video evidence.
- ◆ Examination
- ◆ Controlled Assessment – an analysis of sporting performance and planning a training programme.

What skills will I gain from studying Physical Education?

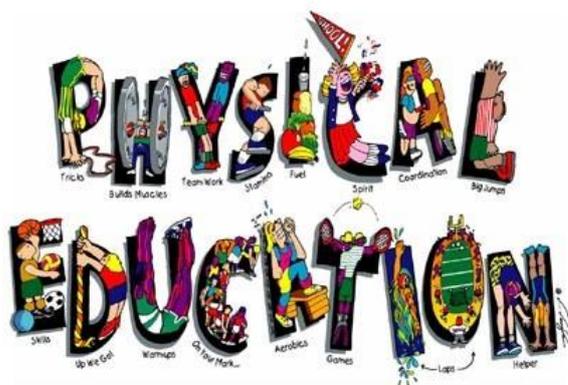
You will gain further experience of both practical and theoretical PE. This will help you to develop a wide range of skills, including; team work, independence, performance, observation and coaching (teaching skills). You will assess both your performance as well as other pupils' performances.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The theory course is wide-ranging and includes elements of Anatomy and Physiology, Injury / Treatment, Fitness Theory, the Role of the Media in Sport, Crowd Violence and Behaviour, Reasons for Participation in Sport, Sponsorship and Marketing of PE/Sport.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Please ask any PE staff – but specifically Miss Pearson or Mr Churchill.



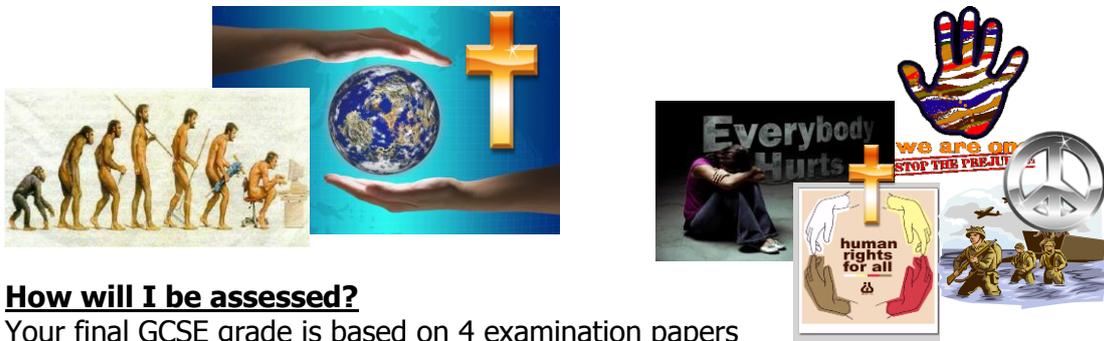
Religious Studies B – Philosophy & Applied Ethics **(Full Course GCSE)**

OCR - <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-religious-studies-b-philosophy-and-applied-ethics-j621-j121-from-2012/>

Course Details

This course builds on the units studied for Religious Studies short course, so that you can gain a full course qualification. You will study 2 more units - 1 Philosophy (B602) and 1 Ethics (B604) - looking at such issues & questions as:

- Why is the universe the way it is? e.g. the origins of the world, environmental issues.
- Why is there evil & suffering?
- Are human beings equal? & other issues relating to prejudice, discrimination, forgiveness & reconciliation.
- Is war ever justified? & other issues such as crime & punishment, justice etc.



How will I be assessed?

Your final GCSE grade is based on 4 examination papers of 1 hour duration each – 1 on each of the 4 units (2 Philosophy units & 2 Ethics units). i.e. 2 additional papers to the Short Course. There are no tiered papers or controlled assessment in RS. You will also be given practice of the different types of examination question during the course.

What skills will I gain from studying Religious Studies?

- Improved discussion skills – talking about your own ideas, taking account of alternative views, & drawing reasoned conclusions
- Skills of enquiry, & critical reflection on issues and ideas
- Better understanding of the complexity of beliefs & values & their application in everyday life and moral issues
- Reflect on your own beliefs & values

Is there anything else I need to know?

You do not have to have any particular faith yourself to study RS at GCSE. This exciting & varied course builds on the work you have done at Key Stage 3 and within the Short Course and will challenge your ideas.

Those pupils studying RS as a full course option will also follow a course in Citizenship Studies (GCSE short course: AQA) in this time.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Mr Garner, HOD, or a member of the RE Department.

Citizenship Studies (Short Course)

AQA – http://web.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcscs/cit_hum/new/citizen_overview.php

This course will be taken alongside the full course GCSE in Religious Studies

Course Details

During the course you will study four themes :

- ◆ Theme One - Community Action and Active Citizenship.
- ◆ Theme Two - Being a Citizen in the UK : Democracy and Identity
- ◆ Theme Three - Fairness and Justice.
- ◆ Theme Four - Global Issues and making a difference.

By the end of the Course it is hoped that you will have found the inspiration to become lifelong, well-informed, critical, active participants in contributing to the life of the Community you live and work in.

How will I be assessed?

There are two assessed Units.

Unit One – Written Paper (41051)

Your final GCSE grade is based on one written examination paper of one hour duration. The written paper is worth 40% of the final mark. There will be compulsory short and source based questions on Theme One. There will also be a choice of one question from three, based on each of Themes Two, Three and Four.

Unit Two – Advocacy and Representation (41052)

This is the Controlled Assessment Unit.

This Unit is worth 60% of the final mark. The unit cannot be done purely by sitting in a classroom or in front of a computer. You have to be involved and participate in taking reasoned, responsible action(s). It will require you to work in a small group to research information and opinions, plan a course of action, assess the impact that your actions have had and then review how the activity went.

What skills will I gain from studying Short Course Citizenship?

- ◆ Improved discussion skills – talking about your own ideas, taking account of alternative views and drawing reasoned conclusions.
- ◆ Skills of enquiry and critical reflection on issues and ideas.
- ◆ Better understanding of the complexity of issues concerning morals, rights, democracy and community.
- ◆ Reflective skills relating to your own beliefs and values.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Those pupils studying RS as a full course option will also follow the AQA Short Course in Citizenship Studies. The two courses run concurrently through Year 10 and Year 11.

What should I do if I need any further information?

Speak to Ms Hamer (Teacher of Citizenship), or your RE teacher.

Beyond GCSEs . . .

You may be interested to know already the range of subjects currently offered by teachers you know in the Sixth Form at King Edward VI School.

SUBJECTS OFFERED POST-16

Course	Level
Accounting	AS/A2 Level 3
Art, Craft and Design	AS/A2 Level 3
Biology	AS/A2 Level 3
Business Studies	AS/A2 Level 3
Chemistry	AS/A2 Level 3
Design & Technology – Product Design	AS/A2 Level 3
Drama and Theatre Studies	AS/A2 Level 3
Drama – Performing Arts	BTEC Level 3
Economics	AS/A2 Level 3
Engineering (at Nether Stowe)	BTEC Level 3
English Language	AS/A2 Level 3
English Literature	AS/A2 Level 3
French	AS/A2 Level 3
General Studies	AS/A2 Level 3
Geography	AS/A2 Level 3
German	AS/A2 Level 3
Health and Social Care (Single or Double Award)	AS/A2 Level 3
History	AS/A2 Level 3
ICT – Cambridge Tech	Level 3
Mathematics	AS/A2 Level 3
Mathematics - Further Mathematics	AS/A2 Level 3
Music	AS/A2 Level 3
Physics	AS/A2 Level 3
Physical Education	AS/A2 Level 3
PE - BTEC National Certificate in Sport (<i>2 year course</i>)	BTEC Level 3
Psychology	AS/A2 Level 3
Religious Studies – Philosophy and Ethics	AS/A2 Level 3
Science – Applied Science	AS/A2 Level 3
Sociology	AS/A2 Level 3

If you're interested in finding out more then look for the link on the school website.

My choices



When you have an idea of what you would like to find out more about then make some notes here along with questions that you need to ask:

	Courses which interest me	Questions to ask/things to find out
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		



When you've made your choices keep a note of them here:

1	Language course -
2	
3	
4	
Reserve 1	
Reserve 2	

SUBJECT INDEX

	Page	Options
Art and Design GCSE	20	✓
Business Studies GCSE	21	✓
Child Development GCSE	22	✓
D&T: GCSE Hospitality & Catering	23	✓
D&T: GCSE Product Design	24	✓
D&T: GCSE Textile Design – Fashion and Clothing	25	✓
D&T: GCSE Home Economics	26	✓
Drama: BTEC in Performing Arts	27	✓
Drama: GCSE	29	✓
English GCSE (Language & Literature)	11-13	CORE SUBJECT
Geography GCSE	30	✓
Health and Social Care GCSE	31	✓
History GCSE	32	✓
ICT - OCR ITQ Level 1/2 Certificate	33	TRIPLE SCIENTISTS ONLY
ICT – GCSE Creative iMedia	34	✓
Mathematics GCSE	14-15	CORE SUBJECT
MFL - GCSE French & German	35-36	✓
MFL - NVQ French & German	37	✓
Music GCSE	38	✓
Physical Education GCSE	39	✓
Religious Studies: Philosophy & Applied Ethics	40	✓
GCSE with Citizenship GCSE Short Course	41	✓
Religious Studies: Short course GCSE	18	CORE SUBJECT
Science (Double or Triple Science)	16-17	CORE SUBJECT