

GCSE CHOICES 2023 - 2025

“WHERE THERE
IS BELIEF THERE
IS POSSIBILITY”



“ I BELIEVE I CAN MAKE A
SUSTAINED DIFFERENCE TO
THE WORLD”

MORGAN

Lucklex
HOUSE SCHOOL

Excellent all-round day and boarding education for boys and girls
aged 11-18 years, Wokingham, Berkshire.

INTRODUCTION TO GCSEs

Luckley House School aims to provide a Key Stage 4 (GCSE) curriculum that includes a core of essential (compulsory) subjects and a range of choices, to enable each pupil to develop their individual abilities, interests and skills.

All pupils follow GCSE courses in the core subjects:

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- ENGLISH LITERATURE
- MATHEMATICS
- SCIENCE (Most pupils study the Double Science award but there is an opportunity to study three individual Sciences as part of the options programme).

We would strongly recommend that each pupils studies at least one;

- MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE and at least one
- HUMANITIES SUBJECT (History, Geography or Religious Studies)

Most pupils select two additional GCSE courses bringing the total number of subjects studied to nine. There is a range of subjects from which to make these choices.

Details of the available GCSE courses, including the methods of assessment are shown in this booklet. However, the school may withdraw a subject if numbers are too few to make a course educationally effective.

Latin is offered as an option at GCSE for those who have already started studying this subject. If you wish to study Latin, please speak to Mrs Bouwer.

Where possible, Luckley House School acts as a centre for pupils wishing to take a GCSE in their mother tongue, where English is not their first language.

Deputy Head (Academic), Mr Ian Vallance will give information and advice about this process at the **GCSE Options evening on Wednesday 25 January 2023**. During this evening you will also have the opportunity to speak to teachers about your subject choices.

After the options evening, Mrs Bouwer will send out a provisional options form for completion. Option blocks will then be constructed from which you will be able to make your final choices.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Subject Overview

All pupils will study English Language. This course allows you to demonstrate your ability in functional English, to investigate and analyse language and to experiment and use language creatively. It offers a skills-based approach, which will enable you to make original and individual responses to each element of assessment. You will be given the opportunity to explore the way language works and to understand and appreciate the way writers and speakers adapt their language to suit their audience and purpose.

Course Content

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing

You will read and understand a range of fiction texts, identifying the writers' crafts and transferring these skills into your own writing.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives

You will explore a range of non-fiction texts, identifying the techniques and strategies used in the development of the writing. You will be required to write your own work according to the requirements of a number of different specific genres.

Find out more at: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Course Aims

The course will enable you to:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding;
- read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve your own writing;
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately;
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately;
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
- listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

Assessment

There are two different written exam papers, each lasting one hour and 45 minutes. Each paper will contain a reading and a writing section. You will also carry out a formal presentation which will be filmed and assessed. Within this task, you will be required to demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting; listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including questions and feedback on presentations; and use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations. NB. Whilst this component is now non-exam, it is compulsory and will carry a level on GCSE certificates.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Subject Overview

All pupils will study English Literature. This course allows you to experience a range of Literature drawn from contemporary and modern texts, texts from across the globe and texts which have had a significant influence on our English literary and cultural heritage. You will be given the chance to study a modern text, i.e. post-1945, from which point a discernible shift in culture is evident. You will also learn to recognise that Literature has the power to cross cultures. The course takes a skills-based approach to the study of Literature, which will enable you to make original and individual responses to each element of assessment.

Course Content

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century Novel.

You will study one Shakespeare text and one 19th-century novel.

There will be one exam question on each.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry.

You will study one modern text and a section of poetry from an anthology.

You will answer one exam question on the text, one exam question comparing two poems and one additional exam question on an unseen poem.

Find out more at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Course Aims

The course will encourage you to:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, making connections across your reading;
- read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that you are able to discuss and explain your understanding and ideas;
- develop the habit of reading widely and often;
- appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage;
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about your reading, using Standard English;
- acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms you need to criticise and analyse what you read.

Assessment

There are two written exams, one lasts one hour and 45 minutes and the other two hours and 15 minutes.

The course is 100% exam. Both of the exam papers are “closed book”, with students being provided with extracts from the set texts as their primary focus, but with an expectation that they are also able to use quotations from the whole text in order to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding fully.



MATHEMATICS

Subject Overview

All pupils will study Mathematics. Studying Mathematics teaches you a range of key skills which will be valuable as you progress through every stage of your life. These skills include learning to:

- break down problems into small steps in order to solve them using mathematical skills, logic and reason;
- relate these skills to real-life situations;
- develop the ability to use mathematical language and notation to justify answers.

Course Content

GCSE Mathematics covers a wide range of skills and areas as at Key Stage 3:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Statistics

Find out more at: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-mathematics-a-2016.html>

Pupils in set 1 will also work towards Level 2 Further Maths. This qualification fills the gap for high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at A level.

Further details of the course can be found at: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8365/changes-for-2022

Course Aims

The aim of the course is to help you to develop a positive attitude towards Mathematics and to encourage confidence, enjoyment and perseverance in the subject. Almost all higher education courses (and many employers) require a good grade in Mathematics and therefore the subject is compulsory.

Assessment

You will follow a linear course, examined at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment or coursework element to Mathematics. There are two possible tiers of entry: Higher Tier (Grades 9-4) or Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1). It is expected that you will learn the Higher Tier syllabus, but the decision as to which tier of exam you will sit will be taken based on your performance during Year 10 and the early stages of Year 11.

The exam is split into two papers (two hours each). A calculator may be used in both papers.



SCIENCE – DOUBLE AND TRIPLE

Subject Overview

Science is the lens through which we can begin to understand ourselves and the world around us. In the double science course, students learn about unifying patterns and themes in biology, chemistry and physics and use them in new and changing situations. They then use this knowledge to describe and explain these phenomena developing experimental and investigative skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques, analysing, interpreting and evaluating data and experimental methods, to draw conclusions that are consistent with evidence.

Course Content - Double Award

The course is composed of a dual award (two GCSEs).

You will study fundamental concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics that allow progression to A level and beyond.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

Course Content - Triple Award

For pupils with a passion for Science and who wish to pursue a career in the sciences, medicine, engineering or similar demanding fields, there is an option to study for the individual sciences.

At the end of the course pupils will be awarded a GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Triple Science offers the same fundamental concepts, but gives time to study some of these areas in more depth.

Biology: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

Chemistry: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

Physics: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463>

Assessment

Both courses are examined at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework element to Science.

There are two possible tiers of entry: Higher Tier (Grades 9-4) or Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1).

It is expected that you will learn the Higher Tier syllabus, but the decision as to which tier of exam you will sit will be taken based on your performance during Year 10 and the early stages of Year 11.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Subject Overview

All pupils are expected to follow a Modern Foreign Language course in French, German or Spanish. Language study brings many benefits, such as building practical skills, developing intellect, and teaching you how to learn. Language study broadens experiences and encourages critical reflection, improving knowledge of your own language, whilst exposing you to modes of thought outside of your native language. It also teaches and encourages respect for others and ultimately makes you a better candidate for work and promotion.

Course Content

You will study familiar topics such as self, family and friends, school, future plans, employment, the local area, free time and travel and tourism. There will be some new aspects such as more emphasis on the culture of the target language speaking countries and communities.

We are lucky to be able to offer a range of trips and activities such as residential trips abroad, day trips to UK-based places of interest and a wide variety of competitions.

What's more, our GCSE (and A level) students also benefit from weekly speaking sessions with our friendly and helpful Foreign Language Assistants.

Course Aims

The course aims to create a generation of confident communicators who can utilise their language skills creatively in any situation they might encounter in today's modern world.

It brings languages to life as you apply your learning to real-world scenarios.

There is also an opportunity to study the culture and history of the country of your chosen language(s) to gain a deeper understanding of it.

Assessment

All GCSEs will be linear and all exams will take place at the end of the two-year course. The four skill areas will have equal weighting :Listening (25%) Speaking (25%) Reading (25%) Writing (25%)

Translation from and into the foreign language will be assessed in the reading and writing exams.



ART

Subject Overview

Fine Art endorsement covers the following disciplines: painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and alternative media; photography and digital manipulation. Fine Art allows you to develop your skills in whatever medium you like and we encourage students to add to their skills set by exposing them to different ways of working. You have a lot of choice over the type of project you would like to run and we encourage students to take ownership of their projects in order to develop independent working and thinking skills. Disciplines: painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and alternative media; photography and digital manipulation.

Course Content

Submissions for each portfolio contain supporting studies in the form of sketchbooks, pieces outside the sketchbook and final larger personal responses to the set themes, such as 'Magnified Surface and Texture' in Year 10 and 'An Environmental Response' in Year 11.

From these set themes you will generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using a large range of media including: oil and acrylic painting, printmaking, photography, darkroom photography and digital manipulation, mixed-media/three-dimensional materials, chalk pastel, charcoal, watercolour and ink.

Throughout Years 10 and 11, visiting galleries will reinforce your understanding of critical art history and enable you to draw from live paintings, drawings and sculptures.

Find out more at: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>

Course Aims

Work produced for this qualification endeavours to:

- extend your language and manipulation of art materials in order to give form to your thinking and enable you to effectively communicate feelings, meanings and ideas;
- visualise your way of seeing the world through the investigation of set themes, that also encourages analytical and experimental skills;
- increase your independent thinking, self-discipline, perseverance and confidence;
- increase your understanding of art, craft and design.

It is essential that Art has been taken at GCSE in order to progress to Art A level.

Assessment

Coursework

Unit 1: Personal portfolio in Art & Design (60%)

Exam at the end of Year 11

Unit 2: Externally-set assignment in Art & Design (40%)



BUSINESS

Subject Overview

Think about the new top you bought last week: what businesses made it possible for you to be wearing it right now? Not just obvious ones, like the shop and factory, but what about the cotton growers, the label makers, the delivery companies and the marketing professionals who persuaded you to buy it? Considering all those processes and people allows you begin to understand what Business is about. Business principles and practices are used in every business and workplace, making GCSE Business a valuable, interesting and useful GCSE to study.

Course Content

Theme 1 Investigating small business:

Enterprise and entrepreneurship; spotting a business opportunity; putting an idea into practice; making the business effective; external influences on business.

Theme 2 Building the business:

Growing the business; making marketing decisions; making operational decisions; making financial decisions; making human resource decisions.

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

You do not have to study this course in order to study Economics or Business A level.

Course Aims

This is a modern and stimulating specification which aims to give you an understanding of a wide range of issues facing UK businesses in the 21st century, and the many factors affecting business success and behaviour.

You will learn to apply business concepts and techniques across a range of types of organisation, gaining an appreciation of the critical roles people play in achieving business success.

You will develop the confidence to calculate and interpret business data, and learn to use a critical approach to building arguments and making informed judgements.

Assessment

Paper 1: 90-minute paper based on Theme 1 comprising a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions, based on a business context.

Paper 2: 90-minute paper based on Theme 2 comprising a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions, based on a business context.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Subject Overview

With the increased use of computers in all manner of fields the importance of being computer literate is essential. GCSE Computer Science is an excellent foundation, particularly useful if you are interested in a career relating to Maths, Science and Engineering. GCSE Computer Science is both enjoyable and challenging, encouraging you to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

Course Content

Course entry requirements: You must be in the top set for Maths and likely to get a Grade 6 or above at GCSE.

The course introduces you to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

The course will develop your skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.

The skills and knowledge developed within this component will support you when completing the Programming Project.

Throughout the course you will gain a great deal of experience at problem solving.

Find out more at: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

Course Aims

You will be introduced to core principles of Computer Science and will develop skills in problem solving and computational thinking. The course helps develop an understanding of computer science methods in the real world and provides a real study of computation. Computer Science reflects today's global world – you will develop knowledge and understanding of how technology can be used proactively to help with current issues that impact on modern society.

The content will enable you to move on to A level Computer Science with a clear knowledge and understanding of the subject. In addition, it develops transferable skills for progression to higher education – you will develop ‘underpinning’ concepts which are useful in many subjects, for example mathematics, science and engineering.

Assessment

Component 1: Computer systems

Written examination - one hour and 30 minutes (50%)

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written examination - one hour and 30 minutes (50%)



DANCE

Subject Overview

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages you to develop your creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever your previous experience in the subject. You will study a range of dance styles and style fusions. AQA realises that most GCSE Dance students choose dance for the practical rather than theoretical focus. The written assessment is clear, well-structured and easy for pupils to understand. You will enjoy the variety of question styles, which include multiple choice, short and extended answer. AQA has bridged the gap between GCSE, AS and A level, giving pupils the skills and experience to better prepare them for the demands of AS and A level if they choose to progress with their study.

Course Content

Component 1: Performance and Choreography Performance

- Solo Performance: You will be taught four set phrases and must perform two of the set phrases separately.
- Duo/Trio Performance: You will be taught a duo/ trio routine that you must perform.

Choreography

- You will respond creatively to a set stimulus to choreograph your own complete dance.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

Section A – Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.

Section B – Critical appreciation of own work.

Section C – Critical appreciation of professional work.

Course Aims

The aim of the course is that you will:

- perform dance, reflecting choreographic intent through physical, technical and expressive skills;
- create dance, including movement material and aural setting, to communicate choreographic intention;
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills;
- critically appreciate own works and professional works, through making analytical, interpretive and evaluate judgements.

Assessment

Component 1: Performance and Choreography
60% NEA work. Internally marked and moderated.

Component 2: Dance Appreciation
40% Written exam (1.5 hrs)



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY (DT)

Subject Overview

If you have a keen interest in Engineering, you will enjoy studying GCSE Design Technology. Designing a product and seeing it as a 3D outcome is exciting. You will gain inspiration for new product design by looking at designers and their influences. You will be able to analyse the demands of a target market and design and make products which match a particular need. An enquiring and open mind, an independent spirit and a willingness to take on new ideas are essential in order to study this subject. The world of Design has many career opportunities and this course gives you the basic skills to take forward into further education.

Course Content

Technical Principles

You will develop a breadth of knowledge in five core areas which cover both Textiles and Engineering: DT in Our World, Smart Materials, Electronic Systems & Programmable Components, Mechanical Components & Devices and Materials. You will study the theory of one of these areas in more depth for your written exam.

Design & Making Principles

You will complete a Design and Make task (NEA) in relation to your chosen specialism. You will apply a broad knowledge and understanding of DT principles within Design and Make activities in order to produce a product. This will include: selecting and working with materials and components, marking out and using tools and equipment, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes. Having studied the entire range of DT topics in Year 10, you will use what is available to you in the DT workshop to construct the product outcome from this NEA project.

Find out more at: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/design-and-technology-2017.html>

Course Aims

Design and Technology enables you to work creatively when designing and making, learning how to apply technical and practical expertise.

You will develop a working knowledge of a wide range of materials and components appropriate to modelling, prototyping and manufacturing.

You will learn about design and market influences, economic factors, processes and manufacture, environmental issues and the use of ICT in relation to the manufacturing of material products.

You will be able to recognise the contribution you can make to the environment through careful consideration and selection of sustainable resources.

Assessment

Component 1: Design and Technology, One hour 45 written examination (50%)

Component 2: Design and Make task NEA, 35 hours (50%)



DRAMA

Subject Overview

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course which develops understanding of a wide range of issues and themes. By exploring a variety of theatrical genres and styles, through theatre visits, workshops and practical work, you will analyse your own process and skills, both verbally and in written form, stimulating depth and breadth in your subsequent performance work. These skills of self-evaluation, communication and co-operation are invaluable in whatever career path you ultimately choose.

Course Content

You will acquire knowledge and understanding of different genres and performance styles, both abstract and naturalistic, and from a range of historical perspectives:

- the ways in which performers and designers communicate meaning to an audience;
- a variety of stage and performance conventions;
- appropriate drama terminology and how to use it;
- how plays are constructed and realised through the study of play texts;
- how to create, interpret and communicate meaning and characterisation;
- the place of drama within its social, cultural and historical context.

You will develop the ability to:

- select, synthesize and apply performance and production skills;
- acquire reflective and evaluative skills in response to a range of texts;
- work collaboratively and creatively.

Find out more at: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>

Course Aims

You will work imaginatively, creatively and collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas. You will learn to evaluate your work and that of others and to develop and demonstrate a range of practical, creative and performance skills. This work will encourage you to consider and explore the ways in which Drama can help you to investigate and express views on social, historical and cultural influences in society.

You do not have to study Drama at GCSE in order to take A level Drama and Theatre Studies.

Assessment

The course is divided into three components:

Component 1: Understanding Drama (40%)

Written Exam - One hour and 45 mins,

Text - Open book, review of live performance

Component 2: Devising Drama (40%)

Devising log, devised performance

Component 3: Texts in Practice (20%)

Performance of two scripted extracts which are externally examined.



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Subject Overview

This is an exciting qualification that is relevant to the world of food today. This course aims to equip you with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. The course will encourage you to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways, as well as develop life skills that enable you to feed yourself and others affordably, now and in later life.

Course Content and Aims

You will acquire knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- Food preparation skills: preparing, cooking and presenting high quality meals;
- Food Science: investigating and applying the scientific principles involved in the preparation of foods, as well as understanding the functions of ingredients;
- Nutrition and food choices: understanding detailed principles of nutrition and healthy eating.
- Food safety: understanding food hygiene and safety techniques when preparing food;
- Food provenance: learning about where our food comes from and the challenges that we face globally to supply the world with nutritious and safe food.

Find out more at:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234806-specification-accredited-gcse-food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309.pdf>

Assessment

There will be one examination for this qualification, which will assess your knowledge of the theory behind Food Preparation and Nutrition. The exam will be one hour 30 minutes long and is worth 50%.

The second part of the assessment will be a non-examination assessment and will consist of two tasks, involving practical work. For Task 1 you will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that support the preparation and cooking of food (15%).

This task will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and practically apply your understanding of the science behind cooking. You will practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why.

For Task 2 you will plan, prepare, cook and present a three course menu. This task will provide you with an opportunity to showcase your creativity and cooking skills. (35%.) You might make a street food menu, create delicious tapas dishes or cook up a menu for a student on a budget.



GEOGRAPHY

Subject Overview

You will study Geography within a balanced framework of physical and human themes and will investigate the link between themes studied. You will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. You will be encouraged to understand your role in society by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

Course Content

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

Section C: The living world

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Unit 3: Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Section C: Geographical skills

Find out more at: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse>

It would be advisable for you to take GCSE Geography if you wish to study Geography at A level.

Course Aims

The aim of the course is that you will:

- develop and extend your knowledge and appreciation of locations, places, environments and processes;
- gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments;
- develop and extend your competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork;
- develop competence in applying sound enquiry and investigative approaches to questions and hypotheses;
- apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts;
- develop well-evidenced arguments.

Assessment

Unit 1: Written exam - one hour 30 minutes (35%)

Unit 2: Written exam - one hour 30 minutes (35%)

Unit 3: Written exam - one hour 15 mins (30%)



HISTORY

Subject Overview

This course covers some exciting and important periods of history from the modern and early modern period. You will study topics in depth and breadth and will develop key skills in evaluating evidence, making supported arguments and analytical thinking that will help you to be well equipped for A levels, further study and careers. There will be opportunities to learn outside of the classroom during the course of the GCSE.

Course Content

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Section A: Period studies

- Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship

Section B: Wider world depth studies

- Conflict and tension in Asia 1950-1975

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

Section A: Thematic studies

- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to present day

Section B: British depth studies including the historic environment

- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

Find out more at: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145

It would be advisable for you to take GCSE History if you wish to study History at A level.

Course Aims

The History GCSE enables you to:

- actively engage in the process of historical enquiry;
- develop your knowledge and understanding of selected periods, societies and aspects of history;
- develop an awareness of how the past has been represented, interpreted and accorded significance;
- develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them;
- organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding;
- recognise that your historical knowledge, understanding and skills help you to understand the present.

Assessment

Paper 1: Written exam - two hours (50%)

Paper 2: Written exam - two hours (50%)



MUSIC

Subject Overview

If you like listening to music, finding out how it was written, playing or even composing your own, then Music GCSE could be for you. You will study some of the greatest music ever written. The course covers pieces from the classical genre up to rock music by 'Queen', and from musicals on Broadway, to the film music 'Starwars'. Performing a solo and an ensemble piece and composing some of your own music make up the rest of this course. Throughout the two years there will be plenty of opportunities to perform and to go to concerts and shows both locally and in London. This course provides an excellent foundation for careers in the music business and shows that you can work methodically and with self-discipline.

Course Content

Performing

You will perform at least two pieces, one of which must be part of an ensemble. The minimum time for both pieces must be four minutes.

Composing

You will compose at least two pieces, one in response to a given brief and the other a piece of free composition. The pieces should together last not less than three minutes.

Appraising

You will learn about four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700-1820; Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen; Fusions. You will be able to read and write staff notation and respond to unfamiliar music in the exam.

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

It is advisable to take Music GCSE if you would like to study at A level.

Course Aims

This course will enable you to understand and appreciate a wide range of different types of music. Your critical and creative thinking skills will improve as will your aesthetic sensitivity and emotional awareness. You will also have a greater understanding of people from other cultures as a result of listening to their music. As an instrumentalist or singer, you will improve your performance skills as a soloist. Your ensemble skills will improve as you make music with other pupils in the group. You will investigate how music is put together and make up your own pieces, learning how to use professional music software programmes like Sibelius and Cubase to create your compositions.

Assessment

Listening and Appraising - externally marked (40%)

Performing - internally marked and externally moderated (30%)

Composing - internally marked and externally moderated (30%)



PHOTOGRAPHY

Subject Overview

If you love Photography or just like taking pictures, consider studying Photography GCSE.

Photography GCSE gives you the opportunity to explore a wide range of themes, focusing on areas of interest that you can use in your work. The course gives you lots of independence and we positively encourage you to develop your independent and creative working and thinking skills. The course is very cross –curricular and can link to fashion, media, sports, criminology and many other topic areas that may be of interest to you.

Course Content

You will work in digital and manual formats, exploring both image manipulation software techniques and darkroom processes, including film processing and developing.

Written work, including analysis and evaluations, will help support and develop your literacy and vocabulary. You will get the opportunity to learn how to use a 35mm SLR and also Medium Format cameras.

The course allows you to choose your areas of interest, developing effective research techniques and build up extensive subject knowledge.

You will create a personal portfolio and sit a timed exam.

Course Aims

The course gives you the opportunity to develop critical and creative thinking skills and a wide range of practical skills.

We aim to help you become fantastic independent learners who approach their work with confidence. We aim to help you build an expressive and informed portfolio of work and prepare you for Degree or Foundation course interviews as required.

The course is ideal if you have ambitions to follow a higher education course at degree level in Photography, Art, Media, Fashion, Event Management or Journalism, to name but a few!

Assessment

Coursework - 60%

Exam - 40%

The exam takes the form of 10 hours work over two days.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Subject Overview

Do you want to learn about how to improve your own sporting performance? Or the performance of others? Explain the role physical activity has in developing a good overall health? Help break down some of the barriers to sport? The course helps develop skills which prepare you for the further study of PE or sports science courses as well as other related subject areas such as Psychology, Sociology and Biology. Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by further education, higher education and employers in all sectors of industry.

Course Content

Physical Factors Affecting Performance

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Physical Training

Socio-Cultural Issues & Sports Psychology

- Socio-cultural Influences
- Sports Psychology
- Health, Fitness and Well-Being

Performance in Physical Education (Practical & Coursework)

Performance of three activities:

- One 'individual' – e.g. Badminton, Climbing, Athletics, Tennis
- One 'team' – e.g. Football, Netball, Cricket, Hockey
- One other, either 'individual' or 'team'

Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP)

- Controlled assessment getting students to apply their knowledge to their own or a peer's performance in one activity

For further information visit: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/>

Course Aims

GCSE PE equips you with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain your performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being.

You will understand how:

- the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport;
- the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being;
- key socio-cultural influences affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

If you are considering this course please consult a member of the PE Department, as there is an emphasis on practical ability. An aptitude for science is also essential.

Assessment

Paper 1: Physical Factors affecting Performance - one hour. (30%)

Paper 2: Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology - one hour (30%)

Coursework and Practical: Performance in Physical Education (40%)



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Subject Overview

Are you interested in the way different people think? Do you love a good debate? Do you enjoy talking about ethical issues and trying to understand topics from different viewpoints? If this is you then a Religious Studies GCSE is the perfect choice for you. Teaching valuable evaluative skills, different debating styles, how to appreciate the perspectives of others and giving you an in-depth understanding of two religions; Christianity and Islam Religious Studies is a subject packed full of possibilities for futures studies and careers.

Course Content

The course is split into two papers which are taught in tandem throughout Years 10 and 11. Each of the themes in Paper 2 is considered both from a Muslim and Christian perspective, as well as from a secular point of view.

Paper 1: The study of religions

Christian Beliefs and Teachings; Christian Practices; Muslim Beliefs and Teachings; Muslim Practices.

Examples of topics covered on this paper include: The nature of God, Life After Death, Worship, Charity and Pilgrimage

Paper 2: Thematic Studies

Relationships and Families; Religion and Life; Crime and Punishment; Human Rights and Social Justice

Examples of topics covered on this paper include: Gender Equality, Environmental Ethics, Abortion, Poverty and the Death Penalty

Find out more at:

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

Course Aims

- You will develop an in depth understanding of the teachings and beliefs of Christianity and Islam, and how these beliefs are reflected in the everyday lives of believers.
- You will consider the ethical questions related to 4 key areas in life and how both religious and secular viewpoints contribute to these discussions.
- You will also learn to express your own opinions, forming balanced and considered arguments which evaluate alternative points of view and lead to justified conclusions.

Assessment

There are two written examinations: each is 1 hour 45 minutes long and is worth 50% of the course.

Questions range from 1 mark (multiple choice), to 12 marks (evaluative essay).

Marks are awarded for both Knowledge and Understanding (AO1) and Analysis and Evaluation (AO2).



TEXTILES

Subject Overview

The Art and Design: Textile Design GCSE is a practical, creative and reflective qualification. The course is centred on developing knowledge of how to work with fabrics, apply decorative techniques and construct textile based products. Equal in significance is acquiring an understanding of how to gather inspirational material from a variety of relevant sources and translate this through experimentation into a personal and meaningful final piece. Project work could be focussed on a variety of areas including costume, fashion, interiors and decorative textiles.

Course Content

In Year 10 you will be introduced to the assessment objectives (AO1 – Research, AO2 – Experimentation, AO3 – Explanation and AO4 – Final Piece/s) and will be guided through the process of completing a project from the initial engagement with an idea through to the realisation of intentions. There will also be a focus on rapid development of practical skills and knowledge of how to work with textiles. This will include a wide variety of decorative techniques such as different types of dyeing, printing and stitching; in addition to fabric construction methods such as felting and weaving. A visit to an exhibition at a museum or gallery to collect first hand research is a highlight of Year 10.

In Year 11 you will work more independently on a Sustained Project which must include evidence of all AOs and will be focussed on a theme of your own choosing. This will be followed by the Externally Set Assignment which also covers AO1-4 but must follow a topic set by the exam board.

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

N.B. According to the rules set by the Department for Education, students cannot opt for both Textile Design and Fine Art at GCSE level.

Course Aims

Work produced for this qualification endeavours to:

- extend your visual language and enable you to effectively communicate feelings, meanings and ideas;
- enhance your ability to manipulate and experiment with textile materials in order to give form to your thinking;
- visualise your way of seeing the world through the investigation of set themes;
- increase your independent thinking, self-discipline, perseverance and confidence.

Assessment

100% NEA

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

Must include the Sustained Project and can include any further project work from Year 10 or Year 11.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

A single project which must follow the theme set by AQA and is started in January of Year 11, culminating in a 10 hour practical exam at the end of Year 11.



“I BELIEVE I CAN BECOME
A FAMOUS FASHION
DESIGNER”

PETER





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