GCSE CHOICES
2026 - 2028



BELIEF CREATES
POSSIBILITY

AMBITION

We set high expectations and nurture academic excellence

Luckley
HOUSE SCHOOL

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/IGCSE courses in the core subjects of **English Language, English Literature, Mathematics** and **Science** (Most pupils study the Combined Science award but there is an opportunity to study three individual Sciences as part of the options programme).

We would strongly recommend that each pupil studies at least one **Modern Foreign Language** and 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.

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 Grant Woolner, will give information and advice about this process at the **GCSE Options Talk on Monday 19 January 2026 and pupils will have the opportunity to find out more about each subject at the GCSE Options Breakfast on Tuesday 20 January 2026.** Parents can also speak to teachers about subject choices at the **Year 9 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 21 January 2026.**

After the options breakfast, 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

Head of Department:
Miss D Bahbra, BA (Hons) Surrey, MSc Leicester

Examination Board: Edexcel

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

All pupils will study the IGCSE English Language course.

This specification 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 understand and appreciate the way writers and speakers adapt their language to suit their audience and purpose.

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 of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
- listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1/Paper 1
Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing (60%)

Section A: Reading
A mixture of short and long-answer questions related to a non-fiction text from Part 1 of the Anthology and one previously unseen extract.

Section B: Transactional Writing
One 45-mark writing task, from a choice of two involving a given audience, form or purpose.

Component 3/Coursework
(40%) Non-examined assessment

Assignment A: Poetry and prose texts
One 30-mark essay question based on any three poetry or prose texts from Part 2 of the Anthology.

Assignment B: Imaginative Writing
One 30-mark imaginative writing task.

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

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through coursework and a written exam.

The written exam (Component 1) is two hours and 15 minutes in length and is open book with pupils being provided with clean copies of the Edexcel anthology in the assessment. With regard to the coursework, you will be given time in class and for homework in order to complete these tasks.

All students will be entered for their English Language IGCSE examination in November of Year 11.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Head of Department:
Miss D Bahbra, BA (Hons) Surrey, MSc Leicester

Examination Board: Edexcel

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

All pupils will study the Pearson Edexcel IGCSE English Literature course.

This specification 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.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Poetry & Modern Prose (60%)
Section A: Unseen Poetry
Exploring the meaning and effects created in an unseen poem.
Section B: Anthology Poetry
Comparing two poems from English Anthology.
Section C: Modern Prose.
Component 3/Coursework Modern Drama & Literary Heritage Texts (40%)
Non-examined assessment text covered: one modern drama text and one literary heritage text from the list of set texts.
Assignment A: Modern Drama
One essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text.
Assignment B: Literary Heritage Texts
One essay response to a teacher devised assignment on the studied text.

Find out more at:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-international-gcses/international-gcse-english-literature-2016.html

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through coursework and a written exam.

The written exam (Component 1) is two hours in length and is closed book. Pupils will be given copies of the poems required to complete the assessment but will not have their modern novel in the exam.

With regard to the coursework, you will be given time in class and for homework in order to complete these tasks.



MATHEMATICS

Head of Department:
Mr M Stubbs, BSc (Hons) University of Surrey
Examination Board: Edexcel

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

All pupils will study Mathematics IGCSE. 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.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

IGCSE 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/internationalgcse-mathematics-a-2016.html

Pupils in set 1 will also work towards Level 2 Further Maths. This qualification fills the gap for high achieving pupils 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.

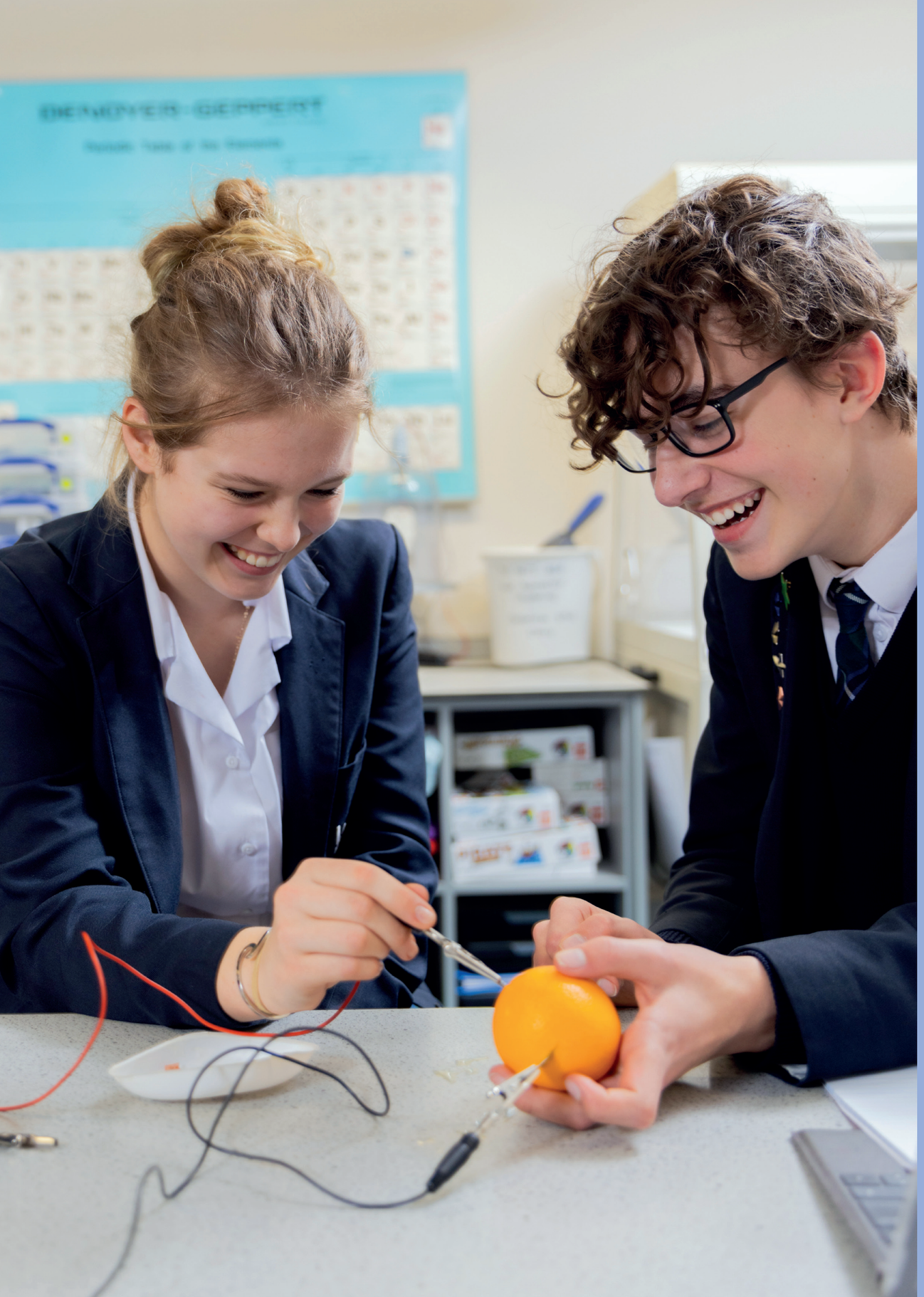
Find out more at:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8365/changes-for-2022

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

You will follow a linear course, examined at the end of Year 11. There is no controlled assessment or coursework element to Mathematics.

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



SCIENCE
(COMBINED & SEPARATE)

Head of Department:
Mr J Boyce, MPharm Reading

Examination Board: AQA

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Science is the lens through which we can begin to understand ourselves and the world around us.

In the Combined and Separate Science course, you will learn about unifying patterns and themes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and use them in new and changing situations. You 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

COMBINED SCIENCE

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.

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

At the end of the course you will be awarded a GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Separate Sciences offers the same fundamental concepts, but gives time to study some of these areas in more depth.

Find out more at:

Biology:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/biology/gcse/biology-8461/specification

Chemistry:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/chemistry/gcse/chemistry-8462/specification

Physics:
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physics/gcse/physics-8463/specification

Combined Science: Trilogy
www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/specification

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

Both courses are examined at the end of Year 11 over a total of 6 papers (2 for each Science).

For Combined (Double), each paper is 1hr15mins and 70 marks.

For Separate (Triple), each paper is 1hr45mins and 100 marks.

There is no coursework element to Science – although a number of required practicals will be completed across the course that can be referenced in the final exams.

There is an expectation that alongside core subject knowledge pupils will develop their scientific skills work – from producing accurate graphs through to the evaluation of data.



MODERN LANGUAGES

Head of Department:
Mrs L Simmonds, BA (Joint Hons) Exeter

Examination Board: AQA

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

We encourage all pupils to follow a Modern Foreign Language course. We offer:

- French
- German
- 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.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

The new GCSE course combines cultural insights with modern topics that are relevant to teenagers nowadays such as celebrity culture, customs, festivals and celebrations, education and work, environment and where people live and free time activities.

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 extra-curricular opportunities. What's more, our GCSE (and A Level) pupils also benefit from weekly speaking sessions with our friendly and helpful Foreign Language Assistant.

Find out more at:

Spanish: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/gcse/spanish-8692/specification

French: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification

German: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/german/gcse/german-8662/specification

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

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.



FINE ART

Head of Department:
Mrs E Swift, BA (Hons) Hertfordshire

Examination Board: Edexcel

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Fine Art covers a wide range of disciplines, including 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 will encourage you to add to your skill set by exposing you to different ways of working. You have lots of choice over the type of project you would like to run and we encourage you to take ownership of your projects in order to develop independent working and thinking skills.

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 to study Art at GCSE in order to progress to Art A Level.

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 "Structures, "Inside/Outside" and "I, Me, Mine".

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:
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through coursework and a practical assignment.

Coursework
Unit 1: Personal portfolio in Art & Design (60%)
Exam - end of Year 11

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



BUSINESS

Head of Department:
Mr J Higgins BA (Hons) Leicester

Examination Board: Edexcel

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.

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.

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.

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

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

Head of Department:
Mr D Dodds, BSc Buckinghamshire New University

Examination Board: OCR

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

With the increased use of computers in all manner of fields, the importance of computer literacy is essential.

GCSE Computer Science is an excellent foundation, particularly useful if you are interested in a career relating to Mathematics, Science or Engineering. GCSE Computer Science is both enjoyable and challenging, encouraging you to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.

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, developing knowledge and understanding of how technology can be used proactively with current issues that impact on modern society.

The content will enable you to move on to A Level Computer Science and acquire transferable skills for progression to higher education. You will develop 'underpinning' concepts which are useful in many subjects, for example Mathematics, Science and Engineering.

COURSE CONTENT

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.

You 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:
www.ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computerscience-j277.pdf

Working at a minimum of Grade 6 in Mathematics would be helpful if choosing Computer Science GCSE.

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

Component 1:
Computer systems
Written examination
90 minutes (50%)

Component 2:
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
Written examination
90 minutes (50%)

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Head of Department:
Mrs F Lennon, BA (Hons), York St Johns

Examination Board: Eduqas

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

If you have a keen interest in design and engineering, you will enjoy studying GCSE Design Technology. Designing and manufacturing a product to a commercially viable standard is exciting.

You will gain inspiration for new product design by looking at designers and their influence and will analyse the demands of a target market and design to make products which match a particular need. An enquiring and open mind, an independent spirit and a willingness to problem solve and take on new ideas are essential.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

Technical Principles

You will develop a breadth of knowledge in the core areas of: Timber, Metal, Polymers, Paper and Textiles.

You will look at the impact of new and emerging technologies such as: CAD CAM, technical materials, including smart and modern materials, Mechanica and programmable components.

You will then study a material in depth for your written examination.

Design & Making Principles

You will complete a Design and Make task (NEA) in relation to your chosen specialism, applying a broad knowledge and understanding of DT principles. 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 construct the product outcome from this NEA project in Year 11.

Find out more at:
www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/design-and-technology-gcse

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through written examination and a practical assignment.

Component 1:
Design and Technology,
Two hours
written examination (50%)

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

BELIEF CREATES
POSSIBILITY



“I BELIEVE I CAN BECOME A
FAMOUS SAXOPHONIST"

OSCAR

BELIEF CREATES
POSSIBILITY

“I BELIEVE I CAN BECOME A
PROFESSIONAL CRICKETER"

ISLA



DRAMA

Head of Department:
Mrs E Brown, BA (Hons) Wales

Examination Board: AQA

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course that 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.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

You will acquire knowledge and understanding of:
• 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.

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

TECHNICAL DESIGN

If you love the theatre but prefer to be behind the scenes, you may choose to specialise in the technical aspects, rather then performance. Working alongside the actors, you can explore how best to deliver themes and intentions to an audience through innovative use of sound, lighting, set and costume design. You will work towards practical examination performances and presentations showing off your ideas. Working within a fully equipped theatre, with an industry professional technician gives you the highest possible support in creating new theatre.

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through written examination and devised performances.

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

Head of Department:
Mrs S Gibson, BSc Bath

Examination Board: OCR

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

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:

www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234806-specificationaccredited-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 90 minutes 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

Head of Department:
Mrs N Boyer-Castle, BSc (Hons) Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education

Examination Board: AQA

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.

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.

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:

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.

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

Unit 1: Written exam 90 minutes (35%)
Unit 2: Written exam 90 minutes (35%)
Unit 3: Written exam 75 mins (30%)



HISTORY

Head of Department:
Mrs V Stratton, BA (Hons) York

Examination Board: AQA

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Studying GCSE is an opportunity to explore the past and understand how it shapes the world today. You will have the opportunity to think critically, analyse opinions and complete historical research as you dive into fascinating topics such as the Vietnam War, the history of English medicine, Nazi Germany and the rule of Elizabeth I.

Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you will learn a range of valuable skills, that will help you with A Levels, future work and life in general. These include:
- excellent communication and writing skills.
- how to construct an argument.
- research and problem skills.
- investigation and problem-solving skills.
- analytical and interpretation skills.
- develop a balanced perspective by evaluating evidence and different viewpoints.

History is a subject that encourages curiosity about human experiences through time and teaches lessons from the past that remain relevant for the future. Plus, it's engaging, challenging, and rewarding!

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.

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

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

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



MUSIC

Head of Department:
Mrs J Ellwood, GRSM (Hons) DipRCM, PGCAPerf- The Royal College of Music, QTS Reading

Examination Board: Edexcel

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

If you like listening to music, finding out how it was written, playing or even composing your own, the 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 'Star Wars'. Performing a solo and an ensemble piece and composing some of your own music make up the rest of this course - playing an instrument or singing is an essential part 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.

The course will also give you 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.

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:

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html

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

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through a written exam, musical performances, and original compositions.

Listening and Appraising - externally marked (40%)
Performing - internally marked and externally moderated (30%)
Composing - internally marked and externally moderated (30%)



PHOTOGRAPHY

Head of Department:
Mrs E Swift, BA (Hons) Hertfordshire

Examination Board: Edexcel

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

If you love taking photographs and have a natural curiosity for the world around you, consider studying Photography GCSE.

This course 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 independence and we positively encourage you to develop your independent and creative working and thinking skills. The course is cross–curricular and can link to fashion, media, sports, criminology and many other topic areas that will be of interest to you.

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. You will build an expressive and informed portfolio of work and prepare 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, amongst others.

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 have the opportunity to learn how to use a 35mm SLR and Medium Format cameras.

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

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

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

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through coursework and practical examination.

Coursework - 60% Exam - 40% The exam takes the form of 10 hours work over two days.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Head of Department:
Mr T Hamilton, BSc (Hons) University College Chichester

Examination Board: OCR

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

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.
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.

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.

You must be competing at either school or club level in two of three chosen sports.

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)

• A controlled assessment where you apply your knowledge to your own or a peer's performance in one activity

Find out more at:

www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through written examination, coursework and practical examination.

Paper 1: Physical Factors affecting Performance - 60 minutes. (30%)

Paper 2: Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology
- 60 minutes (30%)

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



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Head of Department:
Mrs C Woolner, BA (Hons) Durham, PCGE

Examination Board: AQA

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.

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 with lots of possibilities for future studies and careers.

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 four 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.

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:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is 100% assessed through examination.

There are two written examinations: each lasting one hour and 45 minutes and worth 50% of the course.

Questions range from one mark (multiple choice), to 12 marks (evaluative essay). Marks are awarded for both Knowledge and Understanding (AO1) and Analysis and Evaluation (AO2).



TEXTILES

Head of Department:
Mrs F Lennon, BA (Hons) York St Johns

Examination Board: AQA

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The Art and Design: Textile Design GCSE is a practical, creative and reflective qualification. The course centres 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.

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.

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

COURSE CONTENT

In Year 10 you will be introduced to the assessment objectives: Research, Experimentation, Explanation and Final Piece/s. You 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.

Find out more at:

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

ASSESSMENT

This qualification is assessed through portfolio coursework and practical examination.

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 LIGHTING DESIGNER FOR THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY "

SOPHIE

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