



Icknield Community College

KEY STAGE 4 Guided Choices Booklet

2019 - 2021



COURSES 2019-2021

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Summary

The next two years at Icknield Community College will be spent studying courses which will prepare you for your further education or training. It is important that you spend time looking at and discussing the information in this booklet.

This information booklet provides details of subjects which are both compulsory and optional. Optional subjects have a time allocation of 6 hours per fortnight.

Compulsory subjects

These are the subjects that everyone has to study either because they are needed to get onto the next stage of your education, training or employment or because they give you skills that will help you as you move on from Icknield.

- GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science **or** Separate-Sciences
- Core PE (not examined)
- Citizenship

Option subjects

These subjects are not compulsory. You may pick up to 3 option subjects although the combinations you can pick will be limited by the timetable so you do have to pick carefully.

Creative Arts

GCSE Art, Craft & Design

GCSE Drama

GCSE Music

GCSE 3D Design

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Modern Foreign Languages

GCSE French

Humanities

GCSE Geography

GCSE History

GCSE RE

Other

GCSE Media Studies

GCSE Physical Education

National Award in Information Technology

GCSE Computing

BTEC Technical Award in Health and Social Care



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Year 9 Parents' and Students' Guided Choices Evening	31 st January 2019
Completed Guided Choices forms returned	25 th February 2019
Key Stage 4 Guided Choices confirmed	April 2019

Advice

The choices you make now will lead to a two year commitment, so a lot of thought and discussion will be required. Consider what you are good at and will do well in, what you enjoy and what will keep as many doors open for you in your future as possible.

These DOs and DON'Ts may help:

- DO** think carefully about your choices
- DO** choose subjects you are interested in and feel successful in
- DO** be realistic about your own strengths and weaknesses
- DO** try to keep a range of subjects
- DO** find out as much as you can about the courses from teachers, parents and older students
- DO** research the future requirements for education, training or career options you may consider

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- DO NOT** choose a subject just because your friend has
 - DO NOT** choose a subject just because you like the teacher
 - DO NOT** be prejudiced about thinking a subject is only suitable for boys or girls
 - DO NOT** choose a subject because you think it will be easy

Please remember:

These are important decisions.

If insufficient students select a course, it will not run.

Please be aware that some course combinations will not work.

Until July, changes to choices may be possible. However, please be aware that choices will be far more limited.

Once courses have started, it is very unlikely that you will be able to change courses.



FAQs

1. What is the EBacc and should I be trying to get it?

The EBacc or English Baccalaureate is a performance measure for schools that involves students getting a **GCSE grade 5 or above in a certain combination of subjects**: English, Maths, Sciences, a Language and either History or Geography. This is to encourage schools to enter more students into the more academic subjects. If you want to study A-levels and go on to university then this might give you a good academic platform and possibly ensure you have good breadth so you have more options available to you but it is not an entry requirement and you should choose the subjects you enjoy and think you will do well in.

2. If I take Combined Science does that mean I don't get taught all 3 sciences?

Whether you do combined or Separate Science you will still be taught all three sciences separately. When you do separate science you simply study some additional science topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which accounts for the third GCSE. Also each separate grade is made up differently:

Biology	Biology Paper 1 & 2
Chemistry	Chemistry Paper 1 & 2
Physics	Physics Paper 1 & 2

Combined Science Biology Paper 1/Chemistry Paper 1/Physics Paper 1
Biology Paper 2/Chemistry Paper 2/Physics Paper 2

3. How is it decided who will do Separate Sciences and who will do Combined Science?

There is usually only one science set that is taught Separate Science. Separate Science is more difficult than Combined Science as the additional units are harder. We therefore usually make this set 1 in Science, however we do move students between sets before the end of Year 9 to make sure we have the right people in this set – taking into account their performance in Science, Maths and their interest in taking Separate Science. Students wishing to take A-levels in Science don't have to have taken Separate Science and may in fact want to have another slot available to take an alternative subject to have more breadth.

4. Why does everyone have to do Core PE?

It is a statutory requirement for all student to continue to have Physical Education throughout their time at school. PE teaches students about fitness and coordination but also build skills in communication and leadership and is an important part of their education.

5. What is the difference between IT and Computing?

Both the Computer Science GCSE and the Information Technologies National Award are based on how Computers are used to improve the everyday lives of humans. Computer Science is split between, firstly, looking at the hardware within a computer and a network, and, secondly, looking at the design of algorithms using computational thinking. Computer Science is heavily based on writing computer code, relying on mathematical and problem solving skills. The course content is detailed and there are many key definitions and new forms of language to learn. Information Technology is different as instead of looking at the detailed components of computers, it investigates the use of computers to collect, store, manipulate and analyse data. This course is built around teaching students to use a project life cycle structure within their work and projects.



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Other clear differences are detailed in the table below but you may also want to refer to their respective sections in this booklet for more information. Alternatively if you would like more information or a chance to view the specifications for these courses please feel free to contact adam.rickard@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

	Computer Science	Information Technologies
Exam Board	OCR	OCR
Grading System	9-1	Level 2 Distinction * - Level 1 Pass
Methods of Assessment	2 Exam Papers, each 80 marks, each 1 hour and 30 minutes long, 40% of overall GCSE each paper. 1 Controlled Assessment. 20 Hours long, 20% of overall GCSE. Coding based.	1 Exam Paper, 80 marks, 50% of Overall GCSE 1 Controlled Assessment, 20 hours long, 80 Marks, Real-World scenario evolved around data collection in a business.
Key Topics	Computer hardware, networks, computer code, algorithms.	Data collection, project life cycle, technological developments in IT
Higher Education Opportunities	A Levels, Vocational Courses at Level 3, Apprenticeships	Apprenticeships, Vocational Courses at Level 3

6. I know some students in Year 10 are doing an alternative course and only taking 2 options – what is this and why isn't it an option?

Last year we started to run a Personal Development Programme as a course for students that we thought would not be suited to taking 3 option subjects. This is not an option as it is not a GCSE or GCSE equivalent and is only for small groups of students where we feel there is a need for it. The course is tailored to students needs and though not a GCSE is a nationally recognised award with a Bronze, Silver and Gold level that students work to achieve. If you would like to know more about this then please contact Sam Walkley – sam.walkley@icknield.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs V Pickford
Assistant Headteacher



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COMPULSORY SUBJECTS 2019 – 2021



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Examination Course Title:	English Language
Examination Board:	AQA
Final Examination Percentage:	100%
Number of Papers:	Two
Controlled Assessment Percentage:	None (although <i>Spoken Language</i> is examined as a 'non-examination unit' and will appear on students' results certificate as a <i>pass, merit or distinction</i>)

Brief Course Outline

- **Paper One: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**
Section A – Reading, one literature set text
Section B – Writing, descriptive or narrative writing
- **Paper Two: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**
Section A – Reading, one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
Section B – Writing to present a viewpoint

Assessment

- Paper One: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)
- Paper Two: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

No tiers of entry (Exam paper is based on Grades 1 to 9)

What sort of homework will I get?

- Revision of key terminology
- Practice questions
- Wider reading
- Quizzes
- Creative writing tasks

What will GCSE English Language be like?

Myths	Truths
Studying English Language is just looking at a load of different, unrelated and dull fiction and non-fiction texts.	Not at Icknield! We use the themes of our GCSE Literature texts to support our GCSE Language teaching, so when you are reading <i>An Inspector Calls</i> in Literature, for example, you will be studying Language texts based on the theme of <i>Society and Responsibility</i> (the theme of the play). This means that the texts are <i>always</i> relevant to what we are reading, and we can make interesting links between the two disciplines of both Language and Literature academic study.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

There is no single career where English skills take precedence, however any role where good communication skills are vital need strong English skills. These include: Journalism (Newspaper, Magazine, Digital etc) / Copy Writing + Proof Reading / Librarian / Marketing / Advertising / Teaching (Primary and Secondary) / Lecturing / Project Management / Public Relations...



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination Course Title:	English Literature
Examination Board:	AQA
Final Examination Percentage:	100%
Number of Papers:	Two
Controlled Assessment Percentage:	None

Brief Course Outline

Students explore a wide range of different texts from across the ages. You are introduced to literary classics and encouraged to analyse and explore them in detail. You will read a Shakespeare play and also a modern piece of drama, as well as a post-1914 novel and a collection of poetry from an Anthology.

- **Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel**
- **Paper Two: Modern texts and poetry**

Assessment

- Paper One: 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)
- Paper Two: 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

No tiers of entry (Exam paper is based on Grades 1 to 9)

What sort of homework will I get?

- Revision of each literature text
- Quizzes
- Practice questions
- Wider reading
- Creative tasks

What will GCSE English Literature be like?

Myths	Truths
You can get away with just reading a study guide and looking at some notes on the internet written by somebody else. They're all just really old books anyway.	That just doesn't work! Also, it misses out the key point: that the texts you will study for Literature are all <i>interesting, provocative and engaging</i> . They may be classics and therefore from a different era, but they raise issues that impact on our lives <i>today</i> and they will reward the time you take studying them with lots of thinking points about the way our modern world works. Give them a chance: they are well worth it.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

There is no single career where English skills take precedence, however any role where good communication skills are vital need strong English skills. These include: Journalism (Newspaper, Magazine, Digital etc) / Copy Writing + Proof Reading / Librarian / Marketing / Advertising / Teaching (Primary and Secondary) / Lecturing / Project Management / Public Relations



MATHEMATICS

Examination Course Title: GCSE Mathematics 8300

Examination Board: AQA

Final Examination Percentage: 100%

Number of Papers: 3

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 0%

Brief Course Outline

You will:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Learn to select and apply appropriate mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- Interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Assessment

- Paper 1, 2 and 3: 1 hour and 30 minutes each (exams are equally weighted)
- Paper 1 is non-calculator based but a calculator is permitted for exam papers 2 and 3

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

- Higher (Grades 4 to 9) NB It is possible for you to gain a Grade 3 if you fall below the Grade 4 threshold
- Foundation (Grades 1 to 5)

Special Equipment Required

Scientific calculator, a compass and a protractor is required for both levels

What sort of homework will I get?

- Skills checks
- Exam questions
- Online practise on Hegarty Maths
- Flipped Learning using Hegarty Maths

What will GCSE Mathematics be like?

Myths	Truths
Some people have a maths brain and some people don't so you will always be very good or really bad at maths depending on the type of brain you have.	People can improve in maths like any skill it takes time patience and practice. (This has been scientifically proven recently!)
Algebra is not useful in real life.	As well as improving your problem solving skills which is useful in plenty of careers – Builder, Lawyer, Medicine, Management to name a few – without algebra we wouldn't have any of our beloved technology (yes including your smart phone!!).



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Trigonometry will not be on the non-calculator paper.	Any topic can come up on any paper.
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What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Maths is a fundamental requirement of all courses and training on leaving school at age 16 and will be a part of all further education opportunities. Careers where maths is main component could be Actuarial Science, Computer Science, Operational Research, Biomathematics and Cryptography.



COMBINED SCIENCE

Examination Course Title: Combined Science: Trilogy

Examination Board: AQA

Final Examination Percentage: 100 %

Number of Papers: 6

Controlled Assessment Percentage: N/A

Number of GCSEs awarded: 2

Brief Course Outline

The subject content is split into three sections for each of the subject areas: biology, chemistry and physics. In addition the following skills will be developed throughout the course: Working scientifically, Mathematical skills and use of apparatus and techniques.

- Biology paper 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
- Biology paper 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- Chemistry paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
- Chemistry paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.
- Physics paper 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
- Physics paper 2: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

The working scientifically skills fall broadly into four main strands:

1. The development of scientific thinking
2. Experimental skills and strategies
3. Analysis and evaluation
4. Vocabulary, units, symbols and nomenclature.

Assessment

Students will sit 6 papers, 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics. All will be written exams.

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

The papers are deliberately flexible in terms of the mixture of question types and number of marks within each topic. Each question assesses an assessment objective and in some cases more than one assessment objective.

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding (40%)

AO2: Apply knowledge and understanding (40%)

AO3: Analyse information and ideas to (20%)

Special Equipment Required

- Pencil and ruler
- Scientific Calculator

What sort of homework will I get?

A mixture of homework that may include creating revision resources, practising skills and processes, research, exam question practise.



What will GCSE Science be like?

Myths	Truths
You need Separate Science GCSEs to take A-levels.	Access to A-Level courses will require a minimum grade in a Science GCSE, which could either be Combined Science or Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
You will only be assessed on the recall of your scientific knowledge.	This is part of the GCSE but mostly it is about showing understanding of your scientific knowledge and applying this, as well as your working scientifically skills. For example, you will be assessed on your analysis and evaluation of data and experimental procedures.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

- A-Levels in Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology)
- BTECs and Technical awards (list for 2019 to be confirmed)

There are really no limits to the type of job studying science could lead to. The skills you gain from studying science will open up opportunities in areas which are not obviously science related. For example: finance, teaching, marketing, patent law, photography, media and film production, food technology and computer science.

Possible apprenticeships and jobs include:

- Animal care and agriculture
- Electrical installation apprentice
- Electronic engineering
- Horticulture
- Land-based technology
- Optics
- Plumbing apprentice
- Service engineering apprentice
- Sports science
- Vehicle maintenance

Information on possible career paths can be found at <http://sciencecouncil.org/>



SEPARATE SCIENCE GCSEs

The information about the Combined Science GCSE is applicable to the Separate Science GCSEs except for the information below.

Examination Course Title: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Examination Board: AQA

Final Examination Percentage: 100 %

Number of Papers: 6

Controlled Assessment Percentage: N/A

Number of GCSEs awarded: 3

Brief Course Outline

The same topics titles are Separate Science units are used in Combined Science. However, Separate Scientists will study additional sub-topics within these units.

Assessment

Students will sit 6 papers, 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics. All will be written exams.

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE



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OPTIONAL SUBJECTS 2019 – 2021



ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

Examination Course Title: Art, Craft and Design

Examination Board: AQA

Final Examination Percentage: 40%

Number of Papers: 1

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 60%

Brief Course Outline

This is an, **exciting and vibrant** course run over 2 years. You will learn and explore a wide range of techniques and processes including drawing, painting, print-making and 3D design. You will be taught how to engage in new ways of thinking and expressing ideas creatively, imaginatively, and skillfully. You will learn how to observe, plan and 'create' successfully to a high standard of technical competency, both through practical and written analytical tasks, themes and projects. Your skills as an **independent thinker** and **creative problem solver** will develop through a varied range of tasks and opportunities.

Assessment

Art	Craft	Design
Development of personal work to explore a theme, idea or experience	Making activities with knowledge of tools, skills and practical processes	Response to a specific need or brief with given requirements
Portfolio of Coursework – minimum of 2 projects 60%		
Exam Project 40%		

Special Equipment Required

You will need:-

- A3 Sketchbook for each project (available to buy from school)
- A3 plastic carry case/portfolio (available to buy from school)
- Set of sketching pencils
- USB Memory stick

What sort of homework will I get?

You will be given a range of homework tasks throughout the course which will include written research, photography, drawing, collecting as well as completing tasks acting on feedback.

What will GCSE Art, Craft & Design be like?

Myths	Truths
You have to be 'good' at drawing	You need to be open to learning new skills
It's easy because there's no writing in Art	The new GCSE requires a high written content
I can do my own 'thing'	Your projects and tasks are set and directed by your teacher
It's a 'soft' option / not academic subject	There is a high technical content and written element required to be successful.
You have to do masses of work	It is a lot of coursework but if you work steadily across the course you will be successful.



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What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

A Level or BTEC – Art & Design, Fine Art, Photography, Ceramics, Graphic Communication

Careers: Artist, product designer, graphic designer, florist, set designer, window dresser, marketing, architecture, planning, photographer, animation, art therapist, fashion, interior design



COMPUTING

Examination Course Title: GCSE Computer Science J276

Examination Board: OCR

Final Examination Percentage: 80% across 2 papers

Number of Papers: 2

Controlled Assessment Percentage: Non Exam Assessment – 20 Hour in class exam based on a coding scenario. 20% of overall GCSE mark.

Brief Course Outline

The course is split into 3 components. Component 1: Computer Systems, Component 2: Computational Thinking and Algorithms and Component 3: Non Exam Assessment.

Computer Systems

Students will study:

- The components of a computer; the CPU, memory and storage.
- Wired v wireless networks and their topologies.
- System security and system software.
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns in Computer Science.

Computational Thinking and Algorithms

Students will study:

- Algorithms and programming. How computers are used to solve everyday problems.
- Programming techniques and how to produce robust programs.
- Computational logic.
- Translators and facilities of computing languages.
- Data representation in a computer.

Non Exam Assessment (NEA)

Students will:

- Learn a wide range of computer programming skills in a high level programming language, currently Python.
- How to code, debug and test large pieces of computer code.
- Create a report explaining how their code meets the success criteria stated in the scenario by the exam board.

Assessment

Paper 1: Computer Systems – 40%, 1 hour and 30 minute, 80 marks available

Paper 2: Computational Thinking and Algorithms – 40%, 1 hour and 30 minutes, 80 marks available

NEA: In class controlled assessment – 20%, 20 hours, 40 marks available.

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

All students take the same examinations. There are no tiered papers.

What sort of homework will I get?

You will get 1 hour of homework per week. Having access to a computer and Python (free software) on the computer will be essential. Homework will include answering exam questions, researching a new topic or answering programming scenarios. Each student should have a USB stick for this subject.



What will GCSE Computing be like?

Myths	Truths
I like playing computer games so this course will allow me to do that.	Enjoying spending time on a computer is beneficial, and there will be times where games will be discussed as an example, but it is much more important to enjoy problem solving and understanding how to create programs and games rather than the playing. This course is all about the computational thinking behind programs, mathematical skills are hugely beneficial and a resilient attitude. Learning computer code is comparable to learning a new language. This is challenging and can be frustrating to learn.
All my lessons will be on a computer so I don't have to write much.	The majority of lessons will be book based with plenty of note taking. The fundamentals of Computer Science can be studied without the use of Computers and this is essential for success in this course.
Computer Science is for boys	This stereotype is being challenged all the time. Many of the most famous Computer Scientists were female. Girls' problem solving abilities and computational thinking can lead to very successful students in this course.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

The Computer industry is the fastest growing industry in the world and the opportunities are endless. There are many higher education and further education opportunities that this course can lead to such as A Levels. Future careers include programmers, software engineers, cyber security analysts, database engineers and network engineers.



3D DESIGN

Examination Course Title: GCSE Art and Design – 3D Design

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Final Examination Percentage: 40%

Number of Papers: 1 (Practical exam)

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 60%

Brief Course Outline

In studying this qualification you will research a given theme before experimenting with materials and techniques. You will also learn about how materials can be manipulated to create different effects which can be used in the production of your final design.

You will then embark on creating a wide range of ideas, develop them and then create your final product to an extremely high standard. The new specification clearly highlights the expectation of drawing to support the development of ideas. Students who choose this subject should be **comfortable and confident in their drawing skills**. Disciplines covered can include - Product Design, Jewellery, Architecture and Set Design. The disciplines are chosen based on the class interests and abilities.

Assessment

The course is divided into two units;

1. Unit 1 is the controlled assessment (coursework) worth 60%.
This starts from September of year 10 until January of year 11.
2. Unit 2 is the exam worth 40%.
The preparation period starts from February year 11 until May. Please note that the exam for this course is a practical exam usually held in April/May. The exam is 10 hours (2 days) to **create** your final product that you have designed.
3. Grading is 9-1 (9 being the highest)

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

Not applicable.

What sort of homework will I get?

You will receive sketchbook based homework each week. This will vary from collecting images, to annotating images, creating ideas and drawing final designs. The homework supports you through making progress with your projects.

What will GCSE 3D Design be like?

Myths	Truths
3D Design is easy because it's just practical work.	3D Design requires a huge amount of organisation, creativity and resilience as well as independence. To be successful you have to love researching, designing and making things.



<p>3D Design is only useful if I want to be a designer or maker.</p> <p>3D Design is for boys only</p>	<p>Skills learnt and practiced in 3D Design such as researching, generating ideas, communication, ICT, problem solving, demonstrating resilience and evaluating are all highly regarded skills in this ever developing world.</p> <p>Quite simply, ridiculous! Both boys and girls can take the course and be equally highly successful in this field.</p>
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What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

In terms of further education for 3D Design there is a whole host of options for you. You could choose between A-Levels in 3D Design/Product design or perhaps a BTEC or even apprenticeships. The career world from studying 3D Design is vast. You could decide to follow the trade route and look to explore anything from Plumbing through to Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering. You may decide to follow a Craft based route and explore Furniture design and making. You might also explore a pathway to becoming an Architect too. Other careers such as Interior designer, Landscape designer, Set designer and Jewellery designer are all other routes you could explore from studying 3D Design.



DRAMA

Examination Course Title:	GCSE Drama
Examination Board:	AQA
Final Examination Assessment:	40%
Number of Examination Papers:	1
Controlled Assessment Percentage:	60%

Brief Course Outline

Component 1: Understanding drama (written exam worth 40%)

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Coursework

Component 2: Devising drama (practical worth 40%)

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical worth 20%)

- Performance of two extracts from one play
- Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1

Assessment

The course is assessed in two ways; firstly by written exam at the end of the course (component 1). This is split into three sections, knowledge and understanding of drama (4 marks), study of a set text (44 marks) and an analysis of a live performance (32 marks). Secondly, by two pieces of controlled assessment, a devising piece based on a stimulus (component 2) and performance of two scripted scenes (component 3). The devising piece is worth 80 marks, however, there is a written devising log that accompanies this piece of work that is worth 60 of the 80 marks. Component 3 is purely practical and is worth 40 marks.

Special Requirements

It is important to note that for the third section of the written exam students are expected to have experienced live theatre. There will be several trips run during the course, I would encourage students to come on as many as possible but one compulsory.

What sort of homework will I get?

A mixture of practical and research based homework will be set along with line learning and exam preparation. Students will often find their own time to rehearse in their groups, this can be at lunch time or after school.

What will GCSE Drama be like?

Myths	Truths
Drama is easy because it's practical	There is, of course, a great deal of practical work involved. Students will be expected to be continually working on their performance skills which takes dedication and self-discipline. There is also an increased emphasis on being able to write about these skills in the course work log and the written exam
Drama is only useful if I want to be an actor	Studying drama can help students become more self-confident and help them learn how to work effectively in a team. It develops problem



<p>Drama is all singing and dancing</p>	<p>solving skills and helps them to think more creatively. All of these are skills that everyone will need later in life no matter what their career path.</p> <p>It's not, there is no singing or dancing involved in the course. That said, there are lots of transferable skills, it will certainly be advantageous if students have a background in any type of performance that has given them experience of being on stage.</p>
<p>I have to have done/will need to do the school production</p>	<p>No, you don't. There is no expectation that you have done or that you will do the school show during the course. However, it may be worth saying that if you have never had any interest in the taking part (in any capacity) in the show it maybe that a performance based qualification is not for you.</p>
<p>Drama is for girls</p>	<p>Quite simply, ridiculous! I have had the privilege of teaching lots of hugely talented male drama students over the years. Some have gone on to study drama further and the rest have gone on to the next stage of their lives having a wealth of new skills to help them. There is absolutely no reason for this horrifically stereotypical view to still exist.</p>

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

If you are looking at specifically continuing your Drama education then Theatre Studies (more academic) or a BTEC in Performing Arts (more practical) would be the obvious route for you to follow. Alternatively, the life skills you learn in Drama are applicable across the board for whatever your future may hold.



FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Examination Course Title:	GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
Examination Board:	Eduqas
Final Examination Percentage:	50%
Number of Papers:	1 paper - 1 hour 45 minutes
Controlled Assessment Percentage:	50%

Brief Course Outline

The GCSE exam course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3. It requires you to demonstrate principles of food science, healthy eating, nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety.

Practical investigations and assessments are a compulsory element of this GCSE. It is important to note that you will be required to provide the relevant ingredients regularly. You will be developing a deeper understanding of the working characteristics, functional properties and chemical characteristics of ingredients through investigations and practical tasks. Assessments have been designed to expand practical skills in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, and presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

Assessment

There are two practical Controlled Assessments which amount to 50% of the overall GCSE grade. The work will be assessed through research, investigation, planning, preparation, written reports (1,500–2,000 words), photographic portfolios as well as practical. These include:

Assessment 1 - The Food Investigation Assessment (15%)

A scientific food investigation which will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment 2 - The Food Preparation Assessment (35%)

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of three final dishes.

What sort of homework will I get?

You will be expected to complete a minimum of one hour of homework per week. These will include research and analysis tasks as well as revision and exam questions.

What will GCSE Food & Nutrition be like?

Myths	Truths
It's all cooking	There will be 3-4 practical tasks each term.
I get to cook what I want	Sometimes – you will be given tasks that relate to topics, these can be adapted to personalise.
There's loads of coursework	There USED to be, this is the new course where there is less but individuals will still need to be independent, responsible and motivated.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Chef, Caterer, Nutritionist, Dietician, Product development, Food Writer, Hospitality (restaurant/hotel)



GEOGRAPHY

Examination Course Title: AQA A Geography 8035

Examination Board: AQA A

Final Examination Percentage: 100%

Number of Papers: 3 papers

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 0% (replaced with fieldwork exam)

Brief Course Outline

The course is split into 3 sections; Unit 1: The Physical world, Unit 2: The human world and Unit 3: Geographical applications.

In year 10 students start the course with the physical world and look at how the natural world interacts with humans. The topics they study are;

Section A: Natural hazards	Section B: Living world	Section C: UK landscapes
Tectonic hazards	Ecosystems	UK landscapes
Weather hazards	Tropical rainforests	Coastal landscapes
Climate change	Hot deserts	River landscapes

Students will also carry out one piece of compulsory PHYSICAL fieldwork which will be based on a river study in the local area. There will also be an opportunity to attend an optional fieldtrip to Slapton Ley in Devon, this has previously been at a cost of around £380 for a 4 day trip.

In year 11 students start to look at the human world and study the following topics;

Section A: Urban issues and challenges	Section B: Economic world	Section C: Resource management
Urbanisation	The development gap	Resource management
UK urban change	Nigeria – Newly-Emerging Economy	Water management
Urban sustainability	Changing UK economy	

Students will also carry out one piece of compulsory HUMAN fieldwork which will be based on urban environments in Oxford.

Unit 3 teaching prepares the students for Geographical Applications, a paper based on their fieldwork experiences and a decision making paper based on a pre-release document. Physical fieldwork is completed in Y10, human fieldwork in Y11, while the pre-release material will be available in the March of Year 11.

Assessment

Unit 1: Physical exam – 35%, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks available

Unit 2: Human exam – 35%, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks available

Unit 3: Geographical applications – 30%, 1 hour, 76 marks available

On all three papers students are awarded marks for their SPaG.

Assessments within the year take on a variety of formats, including mock exams, in class tests, homework activities etc.

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

There are now no longer tiers for geography and all students sit the same paper.



Special Equipment Required/Special Requirements

While there is no special equipment required other than ensuring students have pens and pencils etc. When students take part in field trips there is requirement to have appropriate clothing, whether this be sturdy shoes, a waterproof coat, or a change of warm clothes. (For the rivers trip we provide waders, although wellington boots can be useful too).

What sort of homework will I get?

You will get 1 hour per week, although we also recommend that students read around the subject area and keep their eyes out for programmes or articles that could relate to the course. Homework activities will involve a mixture of; research tasks, case study development, news articles, exam questions, note taking from videos.

What will GCSE Geography be like?

Myths	Truths
There is a lot of writing.	It is a written subject so, yes, there is writing involved but we encourage students to make useful notes that select key information. By improving notetaking skills and writing style quality writing can reduce the need for a large quantity of writing.
There is a time consuming controlled assessment to complete.	Controlled Assessment has been replaced with a fieldwork exam. A major benefit of this for students is that they now complete two pieces of fieldwork, not one.
Geography is a dry, 'traditional' subject.	Not true! Geography is a subject that is always updating itself and, in particular, we study recent case studies, not ones from the past. Students who keep abreast of current affairs tend to have a more sophisticated understanding of geography and we encourage students to follow the news and make links with geography.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

In further education you can study a wide range of subjects which link to the skills and knowledge you will have started to develop at KS4. For example; environmental studies, geology, sociology, anthropology, law, psychology and let's not forget GEOGRAPHY! Geography compliments other subjects in both the arts and sciences.

With regards to careers students who study geography at GCSE and higher open themselves to a wealth of job opportunities. Knowledge of the world around you and how different aspects interact mean that you are able to take on whatever role you'd like to! Here are some jobs that people with geography degrees have gone on to do; Transport for London- designing new road and rail systems, lawyer, teacher, designer, charity work, disaster management, cartographer, surveyor, environmental consultant, GIS, planning and development, town planner, working for big companies like Apple and Microsoft in various different capacities. The world is your oyster.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Examination Course Title: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care

Examination Board: Edexcel (Pearson)

Final Examination Percentage: 40%

Number of Papers: 1 set task taking 2 hours

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 60%

Brief Course Outline

About 3 million people in the UK work in health and social care and many more in careers that involve aspects of health and social care such as teaching or childcare. The demand for care in these areas is likely to continue to rise and therefore the demand for people to fill these vital jobs will increase. The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care is for students who are interested in a career in healthcare, social care or are curious about human development and health and want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills that will enable them to work more effectively in other contexts such as teaching or childcare.

The course is split into 3 components:

1. Human Lifespan Development - how we grow and develop through our lives from infancy to old age.
2. Health and Social Care Services and Values - how the Health and Social Care sector works and the care values that lie at the core of it.
3. Health and Wellbeing - how to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for an individual to allow them to improve their health and wellbeing.

The Award gives students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in a more practical and vocational way. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance:

- Development of key skills that prove aptitude in health and social care such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health
- Processes that underpin effective ways of working in health and social care, such as designing a plan to improve an individual's health and wellbeing
- Attitudes that are considered most important in health and social care, including the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

This Award complements the learning in GCSE programmes such as GCSE English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by GCSE Biology, GCSE PE or GCSE Food and Nutrition by allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

Assessment

The course is made up of 3 units. Units 1 and 2 are assessed internally through a number of assignments completed in class and assessed against a set framework. Unit 3 is externally assessed through a synoptic set task that students have 2 hours to complete.

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (30% internally assessed)

Unit 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values (30% internally assessed)

Unit 3: Health and Wellbeing (40% externally assessed)



Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

The externally set task is at one level. Students work throughout the 3 units are graded and the grades combined to award either a level 1 Pass, a level 2 Pass or a level 2 Distinction. A level 2 Pass or Distinction is equivalent to a GCSE grade 4+ and a level 1 pass is equivalent to a GCSE grade 1-3.

What sort of homework will I get?

Homework will involve private study and revision in preparation for assessments, completing some aspects of assignments, preparatory reading and independent research.

What will BTEC Health & Social Care be like?

Myths	Truths
BTEC qualifications are not as valued as GCSEs	BTEC qualifications offer a different route into higher education or employment. You will learn in a more vocational context and develop skills that will be valuable in the workplace. A level 2 pass is equivalent to a GCSE grade 4 or above.
This is only for people that want to be a Nurse or a Social Worker	Of course, this would be a great qualification to have if you are keen to work as a Nurse or become a Social Worker but it also offers a different approach to learning and invaluable vocational skills that would be useful in any context including teaching, childcare and many other careers.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Students could consider progression to A-levels or a Level 3 BTEC National to gain entry to higher education. Alternatively, this course would give a good basis for a whole host of other technical routes leading onto apprenticeships or employment.

Future related careers available in the healthcare and education sectors could include; Nurse, Midwife, Social Worker, Mental Health Worker, Counsellor, Educational Psychologist, Personal Assistant, Early Years Teacher, Primary Teacher, Secondary Teacher, Play Therapist or Nursery Nurse.



HISTORY

Examination Course Title: GCSE History

Examination Board: Edexcel

Final Examination Percentage: 100%

Number of Papers: 3

Controlled Assessment Percentage: None

Brief Course Outline

Paper 1: British Thematic Study with Historic Environment (30%)

- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present
- The British sector of the Western Front: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (40%)

- The American West, c1835–c1895
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (30%)

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

Fieldwork

To tie in with your study of the historic environment for Paper 1, there will be a day trip to Ypres in Belgium.

Assessment

Students' work will be assessed regularly through completing practice exam questions. These will form part of the normal classroom activities. In addition there will be a more formal assessment at the end of every completed unit.

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

All students take the same examinations. There are no tiered papers.

What sort of homework will I get?

You will get homework once a week. This will be a mixture of research, revision and answering practice questions.

What will GCSE History be like?

Myths	Truths
The past has no relevance for today	Most of the news today relates to events from the past
History is all about learning dates	As with all subjects, you will need to learn some information but History is also about developing your skills
There is a lot of writing	Assessment in History is in written format with a range of questions, some short and some longer essay questions



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What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Not only is History hugely interesting in itself, it also helps you to develop many useful skills. You will become much more critical about what you read and hear on the news. It will develop your ability to reason and argue your point of view with supporting information. It is a subject that develops your skills in thinking about the motivations people might have behind what they actually say. This is a useful skill in most work places. GCSE History has always been highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. There are more directors of multinational companies with History degrees than any other subject!



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Examination Course Title: Cambridge Nationals in Information Technologies

Examination Board: OCR

Final Examination Percentage: 50% in one paper

Number of Papers: 1

Controlled Assessment Percentage: Developing Technological Solutions - 50% of overall Level 2 Technical Award

Brief Course Outline

This course is split into two main components. Component 1: Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions, Component 2: Developing Technological Solutions

Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions

Students will study:

- The tools and techniques that can be used to initiate and plan solutions.
- How data and information can be collected, stored and used.
- The factors to be considered when collecting and processing data and storing data.
- The different methods of processing data and presenting information.

Developing Technological Solutions

Students will study:

- How to initiate and plan a solution to meet an identified need.
- How to import data and manipulate data to develop a solution to meet an identified need.
- How to select and present information in the development of the solution to meet an identified need.
- How to iteratively review and evaluate the development of the solution.

Assessment

R012 Exam Paper – 50%, 1 hour and 45 minutes written examination, 80 marks available

R013 – Controlled Assessment – 50%, 20 hours, 80 marks available

This qualification is not graded like the traditional 9-1 GCSE method. Instead pupils are awarded either Level 2 Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass, Level 1 Distinction, Merit, Pass and Unclassified.

Despite this difference this is still a recognised Level 2 Technical Award and can be used for higher education courses.

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

All students take the same examinations. There are no tiered papers.

What sort of homework will I get?

You will get 1 hour of homework per week. Having access to a computer is essential and access to Microsoft Office applications is beneficial. Homework will include answering exam questions, researching a new topic or designing a programme on the computer. Each student should have a USB stick for this subject.



What will the Level 2 IT course be like?

Myths	Truths
<p>I like spending time on my computer and playing games and this course will allow me to do that</p>	<p>This course will be evenly split between written work and using software on the computer. This course is based around the idea of using computer software in everyday use, discussing and playing computer games will not happen. This course is about using computer systems to improve our everyday life.</p>
<p>I will spend all my time on the computer in these lessons and not have to write.</p>	<p>As mentioned, this course will be split between using the computer and using text books. A lot of the planning of computer programs can happen without the need to turn a computer on so be prepared for that.</p>

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

There are many technical awards within Information Technology available at post-16 that this course can lead to. Student may wish to go onto study and work in areas such as IT support, database management and engineers, computer researchers and apprenticeships in computer and digital industries.



MEDIA STUDIES

Examination Course Title: Media Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas

Final Examination Percentage: 70%

Number of Papers: 2

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 30%

Brief Course Outline

The mass media shapes the way in which we see the world today. It is an ever changing phenomena that is impossible to avoid: TV, radio, magazines, newspapers, films, the internet and social media all dominate the way in which we perceive the world that we live in. How they do that, and the effect that has on individuals, communities and cultures, are issues at the heart of Media Studies.

The new specification for media will enable students to study an array of media texts from a variety of forms and platforms. In Media Studies you will assess and analyse a range of media products, across the worlds of print, online and audio/visual mediums. You will investigate how media language is used to create meaning; the role of the audience and how this shapes the construction of a text; the representation of social groups and the various institutions that control and monitor the mass media.

You will learn not only how texts are created, but also experiment with different tools to produce your own, original and unique media product. Media studies is part English, part sociology, part psychology, with a smattering of art, economics, politics, and business studies thrown in for good measure.

GCSE Media Studies is not a course designed to prepare you for a career in film-making any more than English prepares you for a career as a novelist. Only talent and determination will win you that prize!

Assessment

Paper 1- Written Exam Paper worth 40% of overall GCSE

Paper 2 – Written Exam Paper worth 30% of overall GCSE

Non exam assessment (creating a media product) 30% of overall GCSE

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

There are no differentiated examination papers in Media.

What sort of homework will I get?

- Quizzes
- Practice questions
- Practice NEA tasks where you will design a specific media form
- Revision of our set texts
- Extended projects where you explore a media form in lots of detail
- Research for our set texts

What will GCSE Media Studies be like?

Myths	Truths
Media is an easy subject because there is not as much writing.	The new media specification means that, more than ever, students will be expected to write in an extended way on a variety of different topics.



<p>By doing Media, I will be able to come a film director, make magazines and run newspapers.</p>	<p>Whilst Media Studies will certainly help you on the path to this, it does not mean that you will be automatically qualified to do this. In the new specification, you will be required to know and understand Media theory and how this shapes our understanding of the mass media; you will not simply be making film trailers and running newspaper prints for the entire course.</p>
<p>Media is really easy because we just watch films.</p>	<p>There is actually only one unit (over a two year course) where the exam board recommends we watch a film! Also, we don't just watch the film, we are required to analyse it in lots of detail.</p>
<p>There's lots of coursework in Media.</p>	<p>On the legacy specification, the majority of the course was dedicated to coursework as it made up 60% of the final grade. On the current specification, it makes up 30% of your overall grade with the remaining 70% for examinations.</p>

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Studying Media Studies A Level or B-Tec Diplomas. Working in publishing, marketing, advertising, journalism, creative writing, teaching or PR are just some of the possibilities.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Examination Course Title:	GCSE (9-1) in French
Examination Board:	AQA
Final Examination Percentage:	Listening (25%), Speaking (25%), Reading (25%), Writing (25%)
Number of Papers:	4 (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)
Controlled Assessment Percentage:	N/A

Brief Course Outline

This course allows you to develop your ability to communicate with French native speakers in both speech and writing. You will study across a variety of contexts relevant to your age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of culture of French-speaking communities and countries.

The course builds and extends on learning from Key Stage 3, and also enables you explore other topics and themes of interest to young people. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, education & work
- International and global dimension.

You will have the opportunity to discuss how young people use modern technology, what social issues we currently face, how French speakers celebrate different cultural events.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Listening and understanding in French

You are assessed on your understanding of spoken French by one or more speakers. You will respond to multiple-response and short-answer open response questions based on a recording featuring male and female French speakers.

Foundation tier

- Section A is set in English. The instructions and answers are in English.
- Section B is set in French. The instructions and answers are in French.

Higher tier

- Section A is set in French. The instructions and answers are in French.
- Section B is set in English. The instructions and answers are in English.

Paper 2 – Speaking in French

You are assessed on your ability to communicate and interact effectively in spoken French for different purposes and in different settings. There are three tasks which must be conducted in the following order:

Task 1 – a role play based on one of the topics learned

Task 2 – questions based on a picture stimulus related to one of the topics learned

Task 3 – conversation based on two themes. The first theme is chosen by you before the assessment. The second theme is allocated by the exam board.

Paper 3 – Reading and understanding in French

You are assessed on their understanding of written French across a range of different types of texts, including advertisements, emails, letters, articles and literary texts. You will respond to multiple-response and short-answer questions.

Section A is set in English. The instructions are in English.



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Section B is set in French. The instructions are in French.

Section C includes a translation passage from French into English with instructions in English.

Paper 4 – Writing in French

You are assessed on your ability to communicate effectively through writing in French for different purposes and audiences. You are required to produce responses of varying lengths and types to express ideas and opinions in French. The instructions are in French.

Foundation tier – three open response questions and one translation into French.

Higher tier – two open response questions and one translation into French.

Levels Available (differentiated examination papers)

Higher and Foundation papers are available in French.

Special Equipment Required

A bilingual dictionary or word reference app on mobile device.

What sort of homework will I get?

Expect to complete about 2 hours of home learning per week. This would include vocabulary learning using a variety of applications, other online tasks and activities to widen reading and listening skills.

What will GCSE French be like?

Myths	Truths
I don't need a language, everyone speaks English.	Only 5% of the world population speaks English, while 95% speak another language.
Learning a language is just about grammar and vocabulary.	Learning another language is about communicating with others. By learning French you could gain friends in different countries, go travelling with ease and work in a company with offices abroad. You will also become a more confident speaker in English.
Language learning is unnecessary with modern translation technologies.	Translation technology has a place in the modern world, but it does not replace the value of personal communication. In a global society, linguists will always be needed.
But I've never been to France, I won't need a language.	Nobody knows what the future holds! Many countries have French as their official language. Miss Morton volunteered in Senegal for 6 months to improve her French during a gap year. Many other teachers did something similar.
Not everyone can learn a foreign language.	We welcome students of all levels into GCSE languages! Lessons are fun and interactive. You will get the opportunity to learn using modern technology in class and at home. Language games you played in KS3 still happen at GCSE!



We won't need languages after Brexit

Once we exit the EU, it will be more urgent than ever for us to learn European languages. UK business will need to make an extra effort to build relationships with European businesses and organisations, as well as those in other countries. Languages will always be needed.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

After taking a GCSE in French, you could continue onto A Level. If you go to university, it is possible to do a module in a different language, including Chinese, Italian or even a refresher in French, even if your main degree is nothing to do with languages. A modern language can be combined with other subjects such as Law, History or Geography.

Many universities look favourably on candidates with a GCSE in a language, as do all types of employers. Language learning develops a wide range of skills that appeal to employers, such as effective communication, problem solving skills, confidence and active listening skills.

Recent surveys have shown that the five business languages most in demand in the UK are, in this order: **French**, German, Spanish, Italian and Dutch.



MUSIC

Examination Course Title: GCSE Music

Examination Board: Edexcel

Final Examination Percentage: 40%

Number of Papers: 1

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 60%

Brief Course Outline

The qualification is broken down into three units:

Unit 1: Performing Music (30%)

- You will produce both a solo and an ensemble performance recorded during Year 11. Each performance must be at least one minute in length. The two performances should total at least 4 minutes.
- Performances may be on any instrument and in any style.

Unit 2: Composing Music (30%)

- You will produce two compositions.
- The combined length of the two pieces should total four minutes. Each composition must be at least one minute in length.
- One of the compositions will be to a brief set by the exam board, the other is a free composition to a brief created by the student.

Unit 3: Listening & Appraising (40%)

- A 1 hour 45 minutes examination which is externally set and marked by Edexcel.
- You will respond to questions based around the 8 set works for the unit.
- In Section A, you will respond to questions based on recorded extracts of set work.
- In Section B, you will answer a more in-depth question on a chosen set work(s) and a previously unheard piece of music where you are assessed on quality of written communication as well as musical understanding.

Assessment

Controlled assessment is marked internally and then moderated externally. The listening exam is marked externally.

Special Requirements

You should be currently taking instrumental lessons, either in school or privately, in order to take GCSE Music. **You should be of at least a Grade 3 standard on your instrument.** You do not have to have taken the grade exam, but you must be able to play pieces of that standard fluently and with confidence. Singing is counted as an instrument.

What sort of homework will I get?

Homework is varied and will consist of tasks towards your practical portfolio of coursework and other tasks based around listening and appraising for the exam. There will be lots of wider listening for you to undertake as homework.



What will GCSE Music be like?

Myths	Truths
GCSE music is all practical work.	There is a lot of listening to and appraising music during the course. You will need to have a good understanding of music theory and be happy to work hard to improve it.
GCSE music is easy and there is no homework for Music at KS4.	Music is very challenging – there are homework tasks set each week in addition to the consistent instrumental practice that you should be doing every night.
I don't need to be able to play an instrument to Grade 3 standard in order to take Music.	It will not be possible to get a good grade on the composing and performing aspects of the course if you do not play an instrument or sing to a Grade 3 standard.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

A GCSE in Music can lead onto further study at A-Level of either Music, Music Theatre or Music Technology. At university level it can lead to degrees such as Musicology, Audio Engineering or Music Business. It could also give you an excellent foundation for performance studies at the world's top Music Colleges, such as the Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and The Royal Northern College of Music.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Examination Course Title: GCSE Physical Education

Examination Board: AQA

Final Examination Percentage: 60%

Number of Papers: 2

Practical Assessments: 30% which will be assessed in three sporting activities

Coursework Percentage: 10% which is gained through the analysis and evaluation of student performance and the implementation of a training programme

Brief Course Outline

This course aims to provide you with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of key concepts that are important for a healthy and active lifestyle. The theoretical element of this course covers a wide range of topics including applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, sports psychology and data analysis. All topics will be assessed through two papers taken at the end of Year 11. Many of the topics covered will be brand new to you providing an exciting opportunity to learn.

The practical element of this course is aimed to demonstrate excellence within both team and individual sports such as football, netball, rugby and hockey as well as less mainstream sports such as rock climbing and golf. You are expected to excel within a number of sports both in and out of school and commit to attending extra-curricular clubs.

Assessment

Practical Assessment

This element of the course is supported by 1 practical lesson per fortnight (in addition to the compulsory 4 core lessons of PE) and is split into 3 key processes:

Skills during progressive drills

You will need to demonstrate your ability to develop and apply your skills within controlled situations showing precision and fluency across both team and individual sports.

Skills within competitive situations

You will be assessed in your ability to select and use tactics and strategies in increasingly complex and demanding situations. You will be able to respond effectively and imaginatively to changing circumstances during your performance across both team and individual sports.

Analysis and evaluation (coursework)

You will be required to use your sporting knowledge and understanding to analyse your own and others performances, identifying key strengths and areas for improvement. You will be expected to devise extensive training programmes in the aim to develop various components of fitness and skills.

Theory Assessment

You will attend 4 classroom based theory lessons per fortnight in preparation for the 2 written papers at the end of the course which comprises of both multiple choice questions and long answer exam questions. The papers are split into 2 areas; - 'The human body and movement in physical activity' and 'Sport and Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport'.

Special Equipment Required

Appropriate sports clothing (Icknield PE kit) and footwear plus football boots, gum shield and shin pads.



What sort of homework will I get?

You will be expected to complete a variety of different homework from researching topics, to application of knowledge learnt in lessons. It is expected that you will have an interest in sports and will be up to date with current sporting events. You are expected to be taking part in sport outside of school hours (this could be an extra-curricular school club) to further your practical ability

What will GCSE Physical Education be like?

Myths	Truths
GCSE PE isn't a very academic subject	The changes to GCSE PE mean that 60% of your grade will come from 2 exam papers. They cover a wide variety of topics from the structure of the heart to information processing, from understanding levers and axis to being able to interpret graphs and statistics. Strengths in maths and science are advantageous in this subject.
Being very good at one sport will mean I will get a high grade	The practical element of this course requires you to be assessed in 3 different sports, so you need to be a versatile sportsperson to get the very best marks. You need to be willing to try new sports and work hard to develop your skills in them.
I can do well in this subject, even though I don't really like sport	As well as your GCSE PE lessons (5 lessons per fortnight), you will also still be taking part in core PE (5 lessons per fortnight). This will mean that in some cases you will be doing PE every day. You will also need a good knowledge and understanding of a wide range of sports and sports performers so you really need to love sport and PE.

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

This course will provide a foundation for you to progress in a number of different areas within sports such as coaching, officiating, physiotherapy and sporting injuries, sports development, nutrition and teaching. A love of sport is essential!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Examination Course Title: Religious Studies B - Beliefs in Action

Examination Board: Edexcel

Final Examination Percentage: 2 papers weighted 50% each

Number of Papers: 2

Controlled Assessment Percentage: 0%

Brief Course Outline

Area of study 1: Christianity

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Christianity as a lived religion within the United Kingdom and throughout the world; its beliefs and teachings on life specifically within families and with regard to matters of life and death.

There are four sections: Christian Beliefs, Marriage and the Family, Living the Christian life and Matters of Life and Death

Area of study 2: Islam

This area of study comprises a study in depth of Islam, its beliefs and teachings on life specifically about the issues of peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. This approach encourages students to reflect upon the links between beliefs and teachings of Islam and the issues of crime and punishment which are part of life today.

There are four sections: Muslim beliefs, Crime and Punishment, Living the Muslim life and Peace and Conflict

Assessment

Final examination sat in Year 11 and marked externally.

What sort of homework will I get?

Exam questions, online research, revision, past papers, sample assessment material exam questions.

What will GCSE Religious Education be like?

Myths	Truths
You have to be religious to get a good grade.	No you do not! In fact not being religious and open minded is an added bonus!
RE lessons are just about God	No they are not! In fact you cover a vast amount of moral and ethical issues and although belief in God is a part of the course it is only a small amount

What sort of further education opportunities or careers could this lead to?

Any career path will accept a Religious Education qualification. In particular teaching, services, philosophy, law and even doctors and nurses.