



Kirkby High School

Options 2017

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Introduction

Compulsory Subjects

In key stage 4, all students study:

Subject	Qualification
English Language and Literature	2 GCSEs
Science Double	2 GCSEs (core and additional)
Mathematics	1 GCSE

These subjects take up approximately ½ of the periods in the week. The remainder are given over to the options subjects.

Option Subjects

The option subjects are listed in the table below, with students free to choose any 4 from the three columns (please note: some vocational options will be available to students for whom these courses are deemed appropriate). You will spend approximately ½ of the periods in the week studying your chosen subjects.

Choose 1	Choose 3
History	PE (Boys)
Geography	PE (Girls)
French	Art and Design
Computer Science	Drama
Triple Science	Dance
	Music
	Technical award - Textiles
	Product Design Hard Materials
	Food and Nutrition
	History
	Geography
	RE
	Creative IMedia
	Art and Design - Photography
	Film Studies
	Computer Science

Please note: a pupil is not able to choose the same subject in different columns.

New GCSE Grading System

The Government introduced a new GCSE grading system in September 2015. This new system removed the A*-G grades and replaced it with the numbers 1-9, where 1 is the lowest grade and 9 the highest.

The table below shows a rough guide to the conversion for your information.

New Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Old Grades	G/F-	F/E	E+/D	C	C+/B-	B/B+	A	A*	A**

Options Interview

Every student is offered an options interview with parent(s)/carer(s) and a senior member of staff. The process for choosing subjects will be explored and the suitability of each subject choice discussed. The whole options process is about finding the right balance of subjects to get the best possible value in terms of qualifications for each student, while still ensuring a balance to the curriculum.

Advice to Students

These choices are very important because your grades at GCSE are your "passport" to future education or employment. Make sure you:-

1. **Choose the subjects you are likely to do best in.** Use your current levels and the feedback you have had from your teachers to guide you.
2. **Don't make a choice just because you like the teacher.** That teacher may well not be taking the group you end up in.
3. **Be realistic** about your strengths and weaknesses and accept realistic advice about the type of course you choose.
4. **Above all, don't choose a subject because your friend is doing it!** There is no guarantee you'll end up in the same class!

Please note: The majority of students will study the 4 subjects they choose; however, there are always some students whose choices cannot be accommodated. In these cases, students will be re-interviewed and asked to re-select one of their choices.

COMPULSORY

English

GCSE Qualification (2 GCSEs)

Qualification:

EDUQAS GCSE English language

EDUQAS GCSE English literature

Why you should study this subject.

English is essential in all areas of life. Studying English will develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills to enable you to progress to further study post-16 and the world of work. You will be encouraged to develop sensitivity and understanding in appreciating well-known works of literature, both in exploring all facets of the writer's expression and in linking your own experiences with what you have read. Ideally, you will not merely achieve two GCSE grades but will develop a broad and questioning mind that can challenge conventional ways of thinking and explore the world reasonably, independently and with confidence through command of the written and spoken word.

Content – what you will cover/study

GCSE English language:

- Descriptive writing
- Narrative writing
- Reading non-literary texts
- Writing non-literary texts
- Speaking and listening

GCSE English literature:

- A range of novels and drama texts
- Selected poetry
- A play by Shakespeare

Scheme of Assessment

GCSE English language:

100% examination

GCSE English literature:

100% examination

For further information please contact:

Ms R Littler, Head of English Faculty

Mrs W Lyons, Deputy Head of English Faculty

Why you should study this subject.

The Mathematics course provides pupils with the opportunity to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. This qualification prepares pupils to make informed decisions about the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices. Elements of mathematics are used in all careers and some fields require daily and skilled use of mathematical concepts, such as science, business and accountancy. The Mathematics faculty believes in a positive and wide ranging approach to developing a pupil's understanding of mathematics. We strive to create resilient individuals who can set goals for themselves, face challenges, and endeavor to overcome them.

All members of staff encourage pupils to maximise their full potential in the subject and aim to stimulate and enthuse pupils to pursue further studies in mathematics. Research tells us that students who study 'A' level mathematics and then go on to study a mathematics based degree at University become some of the highest earners in the country.

Content – what you will cover/study

All pupils will follow a linear GCSE scheme of work which covers all aspects of mathematics including:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Pupils will also cover the functional, real-life, aspects of mathematics and use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts.

The pupils will either follow a Foundation, or a Higher GCSE scheme of work depending on their progress in the subject.

Scheme of Assessment

Pupils follow a three year GCSE course commencing in Year 9. This allows the more confident pupils to be encouraged to maximise their full potential and achieve or exceeded their targets. The remaining pupils are placed in smaller classes until year 11 giving them more time to build their skills and confidence.

Pupils in all year groups are closely monitored and are formally assessed with three mock exams each year; the results of which allow movement between classes and enable pupils to receive the best possible support.

Mathematics

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Coursework and/or Examination

There is no coursework in the mathematics GCSE; pupils sit a written exam at the end of the course consisting of three papers. All of the pupils will sit their mathematics GCSE at the end of Year 11.

Final Assessment

The mathematics GCSE is assessed using three separate examinations, two with the use of a calculator and one without. Each exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes. There are two tiers of assessment: Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4 -9). Students are entered at the tier appropriate to their attainment and the school will recommend the level of entry.

For further information please contact: Mrs C Frodsham, Head of Mathematics Faculty

This course is completed over 2 years with the content being examined at the end of year 11. It contains 2 papers for each component of the sciences (biology, chemistry and physics) with a total of 6 examinations. This course will be studied by all GCSE classes apart from those choosing Biology (Triple Science).

Assessment:

The course contains 6 individual exams each lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. This counts as 16.7% of the course. There are 70 marks available and contains multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

The papers are both at foundation and higher level and lead to 2 qualifications.

Overview of content includes:

Biology:

Unit 1: Information studied is about the body and the environment including cell structures and functions. Organ systems such as the digestive and circulatory, Diseases and how we fight them, photosynthesis and respiration.

Unit 2: Information studied includes how the body controls itself, hormones and reproduction, inheritance and cloning as well as adaptations, evolution and biodiversity.

Chemistry:

Unit 1 is about atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and properties of various substances, conservation of mass and reactivity. Also includes energy changes and rates of reactions.

Unit 2 is about rate of chemical change, crude oils, alkene, alkane and alcohols. Also, methods of chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics:

Unit 1 is about energy and electricity, magnetism, particle and atomic theory.

Unit 2 is about forces, moments, speed and stopping distances, Newton's Laws, momentum, space, the life cycle of a star, waves and radiation.

For further information please contact: Mrs Chang, Head of Science Faculty

OPTIONS CHOICES

Music

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Please note that in order to study GCSE Music, you MUST be able to play an instrument (including voice and rapping) to at least a basic level. In addition to this, you must also be committed to developing your musical skills through instrumental lessons, either during or outside of school hours.

Why you should study this subject.

If you have a keen interest in music, and would like to develop your performing, composing and listening skills, then you should consider opting for GCSE music. This demanding course focuses on practical music making, whilst developing self-discipline, confidence, independent learning and creative skills. It is an ideal course for anybody considering a career or further study in music and/or the music industry.

Content – what you will cover/study

Performing (30%) – Coursework

- Students may either sing **or** select an instrument of their choice on which to develop their performance skills.
- Students will prepare and record several performances throughout the course, and then select one solo and one ensemble performance (of between 4 and 7 minutes combined duration) from their recorded portfolio for assessment and submission.

Composing (30%) – Coursework

- All students will develop their composing skills in a variety of musical styles, and make use of music technology to record and develop their work.
- Students must submit two contrasting compositions (of between 3 and 4½ minutes combined duration) for assessment, each completed under controlled classroom supervision. Compositions could be as diverse as a piece for solo flute, a full-on rock song or a piece of film music. One composition is a 'free-choice', and the other is prescribed by the exam board.
- Students will be expected to appraise and evaluate their compositions.

Understanding Music (40%) – Examination (90 minutes)

- Students learn to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language in relation to the following 4 'Areas of Study':
 1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910
 2. Popular music
 3. Traditional music
 4. Western classical tradition since 1910
- Students must be able to listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study to identify and accurately describe musical elements and use musical language (including staff notation).

The flexibility of the course allows students to submit work throughout the course so that they can continuously improve assessment marks and potential grades.

It is expected that ALL GCSE music pupils will take part or lead extra-curricular musical activities. This will develop your musical skills and help you in the performance, composition and understanding music components.

For further information please contact: Mr Shaw, Head of Music

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why study History?

History is a popular GCSE subject which many students do very well in. It is also a subject which is highly respected and valued by colleges and universities. You will study history through the eyes of people who lived at the time and express your own opinions. You will cover history from different time periods and from different parts of the world.

At the end of year 11 you will sit three exams.

You will enjoy history if you are interested in:

- Finding out how people's lives have changed and how people in the past may have thought differently from us.
- Understanding how different people can have different opinions on the same event.
- Forming opinions of my own on important historical issues.
- Developing your own understanding of the world around you.

If you want to develop further:

- Your ability to think independently so that you can interpret the past, present and future critically.
- Your ability to describe and explain the causes, results and effects of people and events.
- Your research skills and information handling skills appropriate for further study and the world of work. Studying history can lead to many different careers.
- Your presentation skills. You would be expected to verbalise your ideas as well as communicate them in different ways, often using ICT and multi-media facilities.

What course would I be following in GCSE history?

Pearson/Edexcel history syllabus (see below)

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1 - 1 hour 15 min exam - 30%

Thematic Study (Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000 to present day) and study of an Historic Environment (Whitechapel c1870-c1900)

Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 min exam - 40%

Period Study (The American West) and British Depth Study (Anglo Saxon & Norman England)

Paper 3 - 1 hour 20 min exam - 30%

Modern Depth Study (The USA, 1954-75)

For further details about GCSE History, see Mr J Woods, Head of Humanities.

Geography

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Are you interested in the world around you? Do you want to be able to make informed decisions about where to work, where to live and where to go on holiday? Are you concerned about the environment? Do you want to develop skills you will find useful long after you have left school?

There has never been a better time to study geography. It leads to a qualification that links with many other subjects and is **highly valued** by employers.

We will be following a new syllabus from 2016, entitled '**WJEC Eduqas GCSE Geography B**'. It has been designed to extend students' knowledge of locations, places, processes and environments at a variety of different scales. The syllabus adopts a distinctive problem-solving approach to the study of interactions between people and the environment, enabling learners to develop skills of interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Strong emphasis is also placed on learners becoming informed and reflective citizens, as they consider the points of view of groups in society affected by geographical change.

You will study:

Theme 1: Changing Places, Changing Economies

We study the growth and character of world cities, including London and Mexico City. We analyse the problems they face, such as poverty and deprivation, and providing adequate housing, transport and shopping facilities for their inhabitants. We investigate how UK cities, such as Manchester and Liverpool, have improved their environments. Furthermore, we study why some countries enjoy high levels of development, whilst others struggle.

Theme 2: Changing Environments

We examine weather patterns and events around the world such as hurricanes, tornadoes and drought, and we investigate the increasingly worrying phenomenon of climate change. We look at how the UK's beautiful coastline has been shaped and how the threats to its stability are being managed. Furthermore, we investigate rivers in The UK and look at recent examples of flooding.

Theme 3: Environmental Challenges

Planet Earth has so many fascinating environments, such as the tropical rainforests, the deserts and Antarctica. We investigate how these ecosystems work, how they are used by people and how they should be protected. Water is essential to life on Earth but the supply across the globe is uneven. We look at how water is managed globally and study issues such as land turning into desert.

Assessment:

- Component 1: **Investigating Geographical Issues**
Three structured data response questions based on Themes 1, 2 and 3.
1 hour 45 minute examination, worth 40% of total grade.
- Component 2: **Problem Solving Geography**
A cross-theme paper on a geographical issue, in which students answer a variety of structured data response questions and propose solutions.
1 hour 30 minute examination, worth 30% of total grade.
- Component 3: **Applied Fieldwork Enquiry**
A three-part question paper, assessing fieldwork knowledge and application skills.
1 hour 30 minute examination, worth 30% of total grade.
To prepare for this component, students will undertake two fieldwork enquiries outside the classroom in contrasting environments.

Skills you will develop and learn

Data-collection	Decision-making
Internet use	Photograph interpretation
DVD and film analysis	Working as a group
Atlas work	Working independently
Research	Problem-solving
Sketch maps	Interpreting satellite images
Map work	Graph construction
ICT	Producing your own questionnaires
Literacy	Interviewing the public
Numeracy	Presentations

Our new syllabus has much more emphasis on developing and reinforcing students' mathematical skills, through regular use of data, statistics, graphs, cartography and much more.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Haggan Head of Geography or Mr. Woods Head of Humanities

Religious Studies

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject.

Besides gaining knowledge, studying RE can help you develop a range of skills that are relevant to many different careers. These include:

- Developing a greater understanding of different cultures and religions.
- Forming an opinion on important worldly ethical and philosophical issues and supporting your opinion with evidence and clear justification.
- Improving and developing essay writing skills and presenting well balanced arguments.

Content – what you will cover/study

There are 3 components:

- Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.
- Study of Christianity
- Study of a World Faith

As part of the first component (Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies in the modern world) you will study 4 themes.

Theme 1 - Issues of Relationships

Theme 2 - Issues of Life and Death

Theme 3 - Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 4 - Issues of Human Rights

Assessment

50% - Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World. 2 hour exam

25% - Study of Christianity. 1 hour exam

25% - Study of a World Faith. 1 hour exam

For further information please contact: Mrs Maloret, Teacher i/c R.E. or Miss J Smith

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Key features of GCSE Drama:

The course provides students with the opportunity to develop previous learning whilst exploring drama and developing a love for the theatre. Learners are able to demonstrate their skills as performers, and analyse drama in writing.

This is a performance based subject – all students are required to perform and will be filmed for examination.

This new specification has a greater emphasis on written response than in previous years.

GCSE Drama aims to give students the opportunities to develop:

- Creative and imaginative powers and the practical skills for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings in drama
- Knowledge and understanding of drama within a social, cultural and historical context.
- Inter-personal and group working skills
- Creative and performance skills
- Improvisation skills
- Communication and evaluative skills
- A wider understanding of the performing arts, including the technical aspects of sound, lighting, makeup, costume and set design.

Structure of the course:

The course consists of units of work especially created to enhance and develop performance skills and prepare the learners for practical examinations. Over the course, learners will take part in two performances as an actor.

Unit 1 is a devised performance and internally assessed (30%).

Unit 2 is the performance of two extracts of a script for an outside examiner (30%).

Unit 3 is a written exam (40%)

Units of work that the learners will study include:

- Exploring play texts
- Theatre in education
- Actors workshops
- Devising workshops.
- Exploration of key practitioners.

Students are expected to attend at least one live theatre performance throughout the two year course as they have to write a theatre review as part of their written examination.

If you need any more information about the course and what to expect, please speak to Mr Walker, Teacher i/c Drama or Miss Gill in the Drama Department.

French

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject.

French is one of the world's most widely spoken languages and is spoken in over 30 countries worldwide. The GCSE French course covers many of the necessary skills for the global workplace as well as essential French for when you are on holiday. More and more companies are looking for people with a qualification in a foreign language. A recent survey by the Confederation of British Industry confirmed that European languages, French being one language in particular, are highly sought after by employers. The CBI's survey reported that 36% of employers recruit employees specifically for their language skills. Knowing a foreign tongue and applying it tastefully is undeniably attractive. It implies education, good taste and refinement, and it will certainly make you stand out against the competition.

GCSE French

GCSE French is a two year course leading to one GCSE grade. Topics include: personal details, free time, healthy living, home town, work and education, future careers, technology, travel and holidays, social issues and cultural awareness.

Scheme of Assessment

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Pupils must take final exams at the end of year 11 in listening, reading and writing. Each paper is worth 25% of the final GCSE grade. Speaking is in the form of a non-exam assessment which will take place towards the end of year 11. Again, it is worth 25% of the final grade. Pupils have to take part in a role play, photo card and a general conversation with their class teacher.

For more information about this course please see Miss Suthers (Head of MFL) or speak to your current French teacher.

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject.

"Great dancers are not great because of their technique; they are great because of their passion"
Martha Graham.

If you have a passion for dance you should consider studying it at GCSE level. You will need to be committed and enthusiastic about dance and prepared to invest time and effort to independent rehearsal at lunchtimes and after school. In lessons you will need to be confident to explore your ideas and work both on your own and with others. You will need to regularly share your work with, and perform to, the rest of the class.

Studying GCSE dance will help you to develop your confidence in performance and choreography as well as your dance technique. You do not have to have studied dance outside of school but this would be helpful.

Those studying GCSE dance may consider going on to study A Level dance at college or continuing on to do a further qualification in Performing Arts. Some may choose to study it purely for their love of dance.

Content – what you will cover/study

The course consists of practical and theoretical work. The 3 main elements are; Performance, Choreography and the Appreciation of professional works.

Performance

You will be required to learn a series of set phrases which you will perform as a solo lasting around 1 minute. You will also work, with others in the class, on learning a duet/trio piece that will last for 3 to 3 ½ minutes. You will gain marks for the accuracy of your movements, timing and sense of style as well as how engaging you are to the audience. You must learn about and demonstrate safe working practice and will focus heavily on performance skills, technique and expressive skills.

Choreography

You will use actions, dynamics, space and relationships to learn how to develop motifs and how to use them to choreograph effective and creative pieces. You will be required to choreograph, using your own ideas, both a solo or a group piece based on your own ideas and research.

Critical Appreciation of Dance

You will study, in detail, 6 professional dance works. You will look at the styles of dance used, the movement material, production features, costume, music and the context of the piece. You will need to describe, evaluate, analyse and compare the pieces studied.

Dance

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Scheme of Assessment

The assessment of this course is split into 2 components

Component 1: Performance and Choreography (60% of final grade)

Performance	Solo performance of set phrases	1 minute	30 % of GCSE (40 marks)	15 marks	Performed on moderation day to external moderator
	Duet/Trio performance	3-3 ½ minutes		25 marks	
Choreography	Solo or group choreography	Solo 2-2 ½ minutes	30% of final mark (40 marks)	40 marks	Performed on moderation day to external moderator
		Group 3-3 ½ minutes			

Component 2: Dance appreciation

Dance appreciation	Written exam paper	1 hour 30 minutes	40% of GCSE (80 marks)	Questions based on students own practice in performance and choreography components and the 8 professional dance works studied
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Coursework and/or Examination

See above

Final Assessment

All tasks within component 1 will be assessed in practical lessons throughout year 10 and 11. These will then be revisited towards the end of year 11 where they will perform live to an external moderator for final assessment.

Component 2 will be assessed by a written exam at the end of year 11.

For further information please contact: Miss K Soper, Assistant Headteacher, Miss Hamer, Deputy HOD or Mr P Johnson, HOD.

Physical Education

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject.

You should choose GCSE PE if you enjoy taking part in, coaching or leading sport.

Taking part in and leading sport promotes confidence, teamwork, cooperation and independence; skills that potential employers, educators and trainers will be looking for when you leave Kirkby High School.

You should consider studying PE if you wish to study PE further at A' Level or BTEC. GCSE PE can assist with careers in the sport and leisure industry, police and emergency services, the armed forces (Army, Navy, RAF), sports coaching, physiotherapy, nursing and teaching.

Following the OCR syllabus, GCSE PE offers you the chance to develop your practical skill in a wide range of sporting activities. In theory lessons you will study how to promote and maintain an active, healthy lifestyle and explore the principles behind exceptional sporting performance.

		Marks	Duration	Weighting
Component 1	Physical Factors Affecting Performance Anatomy and Physiology Physical Training	60	1 hour	30%
	Section A 30 marks, 20 questions ranging in size/mark allocation across the topics	30		
	Section B 3x 10 mark questions, 2 on A&P and 1 on Physical Training; broken down into part questions. Including the use of extended response and use of data	30		
Component 2	Socio-cultural Issues And Sports Psychology Sports Psychology Socio-cultural Influences Health, Fitness and Wellbeing	60	1 hour	30%
	Section A 30 marks, 20 questions ranging in size/mark allocation across the topics	30		
	Section B 3x 10 mark questions, one on each topic, broken down into part questions. Including the use of extended response and use of data	30		
Component 3	Performance with Physical Education	80	NEA	40%
	1) Performance practical in three activities, equally weighted at 20 marks each	60		
	2) Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP)	20		

For further information please see Mr Johnson, HOD or Miss Hamer, Deputy HOD

Food and Nutrition

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

GCSE Food and Nutrition

This GCSE course builds on work introduced in Years 7, 8 and 9. The course involves the following key principles: nutrition and health, food commodities, meal planning, food preparation and cooking, food safety and preservation.

Why should I study Food and Nutrition?

Do you enjoy preparing, cooking and tasting food? Are you interested in learning about different ingredients and food products? Do you want to know where our food comes from? Well this could be the subject for you. Work in Food and Nutrition also provides opportunities to develop research, ICT, analytical, design and practical skills. Practical work plays an integral part in class work and coursework - which is a bonus!

What will I do in Food and Nutrition?

The theory side to the subject will be based on the main principles of Food and Nutrition. A lot of the content is learnt through practical lessons. Students will need to provide their own ingredients and will be cooking on a regular basis. For the controlled assessment tasks, students will be given a title by the exam board. First they will do some appropriate research linked to the title in order to help them decide on what to cook. Students will then plan their practical assessment; cook it; evaluate the sensory attributes and finally conclude the task.

How will I be assessed?

50% Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% Coursework: Making and written tasks

What will I gain from studying Food and Nutrition?

In addition to developing the organisational and practical skills we all need in everyday life, this subject would obviously be useful for those who want to progress to careers within the food industry. It also appeals to those who are interested in working in careers linked to food and nutrition, such as sports nutrition, health related jobs and possibly even marketing and advertising.

For further information please contact Miss Adcock, Food Teacher

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject.

If you have enjoyed your art lessons in KS3, have a genuine interest in art and design, are self-motivated, and prepared to work independently in your own time, then you should consider opting for art and design.

Careers in this industry include Graphic Design, Fine Art, Computer Game Design, Crafts, Fashion, Publishing, Photography, Video, Film, TV, Illustration, Comic Art, Animation, Interior Design, Art History and advertising.

Content – what you will cover/study

Art is very successful at Kirkby High School with a high percentage of students achieving good GCSE results. This is down to the effort and commitment students put in and exciting, creative, engaging projects such as fashion illustration, graphic design, illustration, large scale oil pastel, watercolour and acrylic compositions, still life studies and photography with Photoshop.

Scheme of Assessment

You will be assessed on four areas of study:-

- Artist reference and cultural connections.
- Experimenting with media and equipment.
- Exploring ideas, recording and annotating ideas.
- Your personal response, including the final piece.

Coursework and/or Examination

The course follows the AQA syllabus which will require a portfolio of work that consists of coursework representing 60% of the final grade. You will also be required to sit a timed, (10 hour) externally set task that represents the other 40%.

Pupils should be aware that within the new 2016 syllabus there is a strong emphasis on drawing and written work.

Externally set task

In year 11 pupils receive an externally set task by the exam board, AQA. They are given several weeks of preparation time to independently develop ideas in preparation for a ten hour exam where they produce a personal response to their chosen starting point. The ten hours are spread over two days.

Examination and coursework are both assessed in Year 11 and moderated by an External Examiner.

For further information please contact: Miss Young, Head of Creative Arts or Mr Williams.

Art and Design - Photography

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject.

If you have enjoyed your art lessons in KS3, have a genuine interest in photography and digital image manipulation using Photoshop, you are self-motivated, and prepared to take photographs at weekends and evenings, and then you should consider opting for art– photography.

Careers in this industry include Graphic Design, Fine Art, Computer Game Design, Fashion, Publishing, Video, Film, TV, Illustration, Animation, Interior Design, Art History and advertising.

Content – what you will cover/study

If you are thinking of opting for this course you should, have a genuine interest in Photography, in particular using digital software such as Adobe Photoshop as a large proportion of this course is computer based. It is also essential that you are prepared to take your own photographs and work independently, in your own time in order to develop your assignments.

Areas you can expect to cover include experimental photography, portrait photography, Still Life, Close up (macro), Architecture, Landscape, joiner and digital montage.

Pupils should be aware that within the new 2016 syllabus there is a strong emphasis on written work and photographs taken in pupils own time outside of school. Therefore it is vital that pupils should have access to their own camera.

Scheme of Assessment

You will be assessed on four areas of study:-

- Artist reference and cultural connections.
- Experimenting with media and equipment.
- Exploring, recording and annotating ideas.
- Your personal response, including the final piece.

Coursework and/or Examination

The course follows the AQA syllabus which will require a portfolio of work that consists of coursework representing 60% of the final grade. You will also be required to sit a timed, (10 hour) externally set task that represents the other 40%. Pupils should be aware that within the new 2016 syllabus there is a written element.

Year 11 and moderated by an External Examiner.

Externally set task

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Examination and coursework are both assessed in Year 11 and moderated by an External Examiner.

For further information please contact: Mr Williams.

Technical Award in Fashion and Textiles

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

What will I study?

This new and exciting technical award qualification in Fashion and Textiles has been developed for young learners who want to study textiles in a practical way. It replaces the out-going GCSE in Textiles Technology. Technical awards will be equivalent to a GCSE qualification and will count towards performance tables. They will be considered as equal to a GCSE in fulfilling the entry requirements for post 16 study.

Exam Board: AQA Examination: 40% Non- Examined Assessment (NEA): 60%

WHY CHOOSE FASHION AND TEXTILES

You will have the opportunity to develop and experiment with your creative approach to fashion and textiles.

You will learn and develop the technical skills involved in making basic garments and will learn about the fashion industry.

You will also develop a range of skills and knowledge including:

- A greater understanding of the fashion industry and design related areas
- Work with fashion design briefs
- Learn basic pattern cutting skills
- Research and learn about relevant fashion designers and textiles artists
- Develop fabric and surface decoration techniques and garment construction techniques
- Learn the basics of fashion drawing and interpreting your designs and ideas on paper
- Be given the opportunity to design and make a range of textile products

Assessment Objectives (AQA Examining Board)

Unit 1: Skills Demonstration (30%)

Learners have the chance to carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competency in the core skills outlined in the specification. They'll record their work in a portfolio.

Unit 2: Extended making project (30%)

For this unit, learners will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1.

Unit 3: External assessment (written exam – 40%)

Where will this lead me?

This Technical Award is designed to equip learners with the practical skills in Fashion & Textiles they need to progress to further general or vocational study. They'll develop a broad understanding of the sector so they can make informed decisions about their career opportunities. Learners will also develop valuable transferable skills including communication and collaboration. Technical Awards count equally alongside GCSEs when applying to do further study in either A Level or vocational qualifications.

Career Paths

Designers shape our modern lifestyles. A technical award in fashion and Textiles could lead you to an exciting career such as: fashion design, fashion retail, fashion buying, interior design, costume design for film or theatre, fashion journalism, pattern cutting, tailoring and teaching.

For further information contact Mrs Adamson Head of design Technology

For further information please contact: Mrs Adamson, Head of Design Technology

Computer Science

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why you should study this subject

The world is changing and with that there is an increased dependency on computers. GCSE computer science is a great choice for students who want a challenge. This GCSE in computer science encompasses programming skills and theory about how a computer operates.

Aims of the course:

Computer science should encourage candidates to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. They should help students to gain an insight into related sectors such as the programming industry. It is here skills will be ignited that with further study could open up excellent career opportunities with some of the world's leading technology companies such as Google and Apple.

Paper 1: Computational thinking & problem solving – 40% of the GCSE qualification
Computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing as well as theoretical knowledge of computer science in topics ranging fundamentals of algorithms, programming, fundamentals of data representation and computer systems.

Paper 2: Written assessment – 40% of the GCSE qualification
This is an exam where your theoretical understanding is assessed and you will answer a mix of multiple choice, short-answer, longer-answer and extended response questions assessing a student's theoretical knowledge. This assessment will be 1 hour 30 minutes long.

Non-exam assessment: 20% of the GCSE

The non-exam assessment (NEA) assesses a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical programming problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving using consistent skills. You will be asked to develop a computer program along with the computer programming code itself, which has been designed, written and tested by a student to solve a problem. Students will produce an original report outlining this development.

What do we study?

1. Acquire and apply knowledge, technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming.
2. Develop computer programs to solve problems.
3. Develop the skills to work collaboratively to write code.
4. Understand the mechanics of a computer and how they operate.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to, the use of computer technology in society.

For more information please contact:
Mr Hughes, Head of Computing
Mrs Carroll

Why you should study this subject.

The Cambridge National qualification in Creative iMedia is a media sector focussed qualification. If you have an interest in film, television, web development, gaming or animation then this is a suitable qualification for you.

Content – what you will cover/study

Pre-Production Skills; this unit allows learners to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector. Students will understand the purpose and uses for mood boards, storyboards, mind maps and visualisation diagrams. The knowledge and skills learnt in this unit will be applied to all other units.

Creating digital graphics; digital graphics feature in many areas of our lives and play an important part in today's world. The digital media sector relies on these visual stimulants within the products it produces to communicate products effectively. In this unit you will be asked to create a digital graphic.

Two other units will be selected to study in depth. These can be chosen from creating 2D and 3D characters, storytelling with a comic strip, creating a website, creating animation, creating multimedia products, creating digital sound, creating digital video, photography or developing digital games.

Scheme of Assessment

Pre-Production Skills is assessed through a written paper of 1 hour 15 mins. This is set and marked by the examination board. This unit is worth 25% of the total qualification.

Creating digital graphics is assessed through a controlled assessment task. This is a practical unit that is completed in class. This is marked by your class teacher and then sent to the exam board for verification. This unit is compulsory and is worth 25% of the total qualification.

A further two units must be completed these can be selected from creating 2D and 3D characters, storytelling with a comic strip, creating a website, creating animation, creating multimedia products, creating digital sound, creating digital video, photography or developing digital games. These are practical units and are worth 25% each of the total qualification.

Coursework and/or Examination

1 Exam and 3 Controlled Assessments

Final Assessment

Examination 25%

3 Controlled Assignment units 25% each

For further information please contact:

Mr Hughes, Head of Computing

Mrs Carroll

Film Studies

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Film is an important part of many people's lives. Those who choose to study it characteristically bring with them a huge enthusiasm and excitement for film which constantly motivates them in their studies. They experience a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as they are drawn into characters, their narratives and the issues films raise. The root of that power is the immersive audio-visual experience film offers – one which can exploit striking cinematography, composition and locations as well as powerful music and sound. It is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years and that many feel it important to study a medium which has such a significant influence on the way people think and feel.

Content – what you will study:

- how films are constructed – through cinematography (camerawork and lighting), mise-en-scène (how sets, locations, props and costume are used in film), editing and sound
- how films are organised into structures – genre (the different kinds of film) and narrative (how films tell their stories)
- how films can be used – artistically (the aesthetic qualities of film) and as a way of communicating ideas and issues (representation)
- how learners make sense of film through exploring a film's relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional), through an awareness of key aspects of the history of film and through specialist writing on film.
- the key elements of film form (cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing and sound)
- the contexts of film (social, cultural, historical, technological, institutional and, where relevant, political).

Scheme of Assessment

Examination 70%

Component 1: You will display your knowledge and understanding of **three** US films that you will study during the two-year course.

Component 2: You will display your knowledge of **three** global films that you will study during the two-year course.

Production (non-exam assessment) 30%

1. Screenplay extract
2. Evaluation of screenplay extract

**For further information, please contact:
Ms F Harrison, Teacher i/c of film studies
Ms R Littler, Head of English Faculty**

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (3 GCSEs)

This course is studied across Years 10 and 11 and is split into 3 discrete GCSEs consisting of biology, chemistry and physics. This leads to **3 different GCSEs with 3 separate grades**. The course studies in-depth concepts of biology, chemistry and physics to develop a fuller understanding of the sciences.

Triple science allows you to study 3 GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology over two years to a greater depth than the double award pathway. All the courses are examined at the end of Year 11. This course is aimed at those who are looking to study science to a higher level and also those who enjoy all of the sciences. The triple course consists of the same information as the double award pathway but there is extra information in each module specific to the triple pathway. Each GCSE consists of two exams worth 50% each.

Assessment

This consists of two externally examined papers with extended answer questions, practical skill questions, data interpretation and information recall questions.

Each exam lasts 1hour 45 minutes and has multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. There are 100 marks available and each unit counts for 50% of the overall grade.

There are two exams per GCSE leading to a total of 6 exams. There is no controlled assessment.

Overview of content:

The core content of these courses are the same as the double pathway (see page 9) with additional study sections, which include:

Biology: Culturing micro-organisms, plant diseases and hormones, the brain and the eye, DNA structure and cloning. Also includes the theory of evolution and the impact of environmental change.

Chemistry: Properties of transition metals, Nanoparticles, calculations of yield and concentrations of solutions. Also included are fuel cells, reactions of alkenes and alcohols, polymers and the Haber process.

Physics: Moments, levers and gears, pressure, changes of momentum and sound waves, reflection, waves uses in everyday life and lenses, Also included is static electricity, loudspeakers, radioactivity and it's uses as well as nuclear fission and fusion.

For further information please contact: Mrs Chang, Head of Science

Product Design – Hard Materials

1 Option Choice, GCSE Qualification (1 GCSE)

Why should you study this subject?

GCSE Product Design - Hard Materials is about having a creative approach to designing and making products using a range of materials, processes, tools and techniques.

Designing Skills;

- Be creative and innovative when designing.
- Design products to meet the needs of clients and consumers.
- Consider environmental and sustainability issues when designing products.
- Research the work of Designers past and present.

Making Skills;

- Use a range of tools and equipment.
- Explore materials such as wood, plastics and metals.
- Computer Aided Design – Using programs such as Google Sketchup and 2D Design to make products using the Laser cutter.
- Model prototypes of your design ideas.

Designing and Making

Working from a theme set by the exam board, students will undertake research leading to the making and testing of a final product.

Technical aspects of Designing and Making

This focuses on the knowledge, skills and understanding underpinning the design and manufacture of products. This unit is assessed through an externally set exam.

How will I be assessed?

60% Design folder and practical making task.

40% Written exam.

For further information please contact Mrs Adamson, Head of Design Technology or Mr Gibson, Assistant Head of Design Technology



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