



THE
MARIST
SCHOOL
ASCOT

GCSE
OPTIONS BOOKLET
2023-2024



WELCOME

The aim of this booklet is to provide information on the range of subjects The Marist offers at GCSE. This should make the decision process easier and enable you to select the subjects most suitable for you. It is important that the information is carefully considered so that you can design and plan a programme of study that will give you optimal self-motivation and enjoyment, and help you to realise your full potential.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum, leading to GCSE, comprises a broad core of subjects studied by everyone, together with optional subjects chosen and added to the core. The Marist provides a challenging and varied curriculum so before considering subjects for selection, you are advised to consider:

- What are you good at?
- What do you enjoy?
- What career options are you considering?
- Have you got a good balance of subjects?

GCSEs are important, as you will need them to study A Levels and go on to university. So...

- Read the information in this booklet carefully with your parents so that you understand what is involved.
- Discuss possibilities with your subject teachers who will advise you in the light of your assessment results and current and likely performance.
- Seek advice from your Form Tutor, Head of KS3, and your subject teachers who will advise on building a balanced and stimulating programme of study.



It is important that you study a broad and balanced range of subjects. While The Marist makes every effort to enable students to study their chosen options, teachers may recommend changes if the combination is unbalanced, overdemanding, or contains a choice that cannot be timetabled.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES:

Start of the Spring Term 2024

Careers Information and Guidance begins (delivered through a series of Tutor, PSHE and Assembly times).

February 2024:

Year 9 Parents' Evening. This will be a remote event where you can speak to subject teachers with timed appointments. Appointments with Core Subjects, which include English, Maths, RE and Science will be compulsory, as well as at least one appointment with either Spanish or French. Appointments should then be made with subjects your child is considering as potential option subjects.

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

CORE SUBJECTS:

Please read the following before filling in your Option choices. The core GCSEs and 2 core non-examination subjects are indicated in the table below.

GCSE	NON-EXAMINATION
English Language	Personal and Social Education
English Literature	Physical Education
French/Spanish	
Mathematics	
Religious Studies	
Combined Science or Separate Science	



OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION CHOICES
Other Options	Other Options	Other Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Art Textiles • Business • Classical Civilisation • Computer Science • Drama • Food Preparation & Nutrition • Geography • History • Latin • Modern Foreign Languages - • French or Spanish • Music • Photography • Physical Education • Separate Science





SUBJECTS

CORE

COURSE AIMS

Studying English at GCSE will open students to a range of fiction and non-fiction literature from British literary heritage. GCSE English consists of two qualifications: Literature and Language; however, the course is designed to be taught concurrently as many of the skills are transferable. The course has been designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible and enjoyable.

These qualifications will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and forms covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods, as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus Number:	7202
Year 10	<p>Term 1: English Language component 1: Fiction and imaginative writing</p> <p>Term 2: English Language component 2: Non-Fiction and transactional writing</p> <p>Term 3: Complete Speaking and Listening Endorsement Complete English Literature component 1: Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature</p>
Year 11	<p>Term 1: English Literature Component 2: 19th Century Novel</p> <p>Term 2: Poetry since 1789 and unseen comparison</p>

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	50%	Section A: Reading 4 questions on a literature fiction text Section B: Writing Descriptive or narrative writing. 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks
Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	50%	Section A: 2 Comparative Texts Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint. 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks
Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	40%	Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.
Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry	60%	Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text. Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster. Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem. 2 hour 15 minutes 96 marks

BEYOND GCSE

Studying English at advanced level provides you with the transferable skills necessary to train in areas such as teaching, journalism, librarianship, law, and drama.

Other career opportunities include arts administration, business, publishing, management, public relations, accountancy and social work. English graduates have also established flourishing careers in theatre, film or broadcasting.

COURSE AIMS

Studying English at GCSE will open students to a range of fiction and non-fiction literature from British literary heritage. GCSE English consists of two qualifications: Literature and Language; however, the course is designed to be taught concurrently as many of the skills are transferable. The course has been designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible and enjoyable.

These qualifications will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and forms covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods, as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

Examination Board:	AQA
Syllabus Number:	LINEAR 8300
Year 9, 10 & 11	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Number2. Algebra3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change4. Geometry and measures5. Probability6. Statistics

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	33.3%	A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination 80 marks Non-calculator
Paper 2	33.3%	A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination 80 marks Calculator
Paper 3	33.3%	A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper. 1 hour 30 minutes written examination 80 marks Calculator

BEYOND GCSE

Mathematics is the basis on which modern science is built and is used to analyse and assess almost all areas of our lives, therefore developing your ability to think logically and solve problems. Mathematics can aid you in whatever subjects you decide to study at A Level and beyond.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH & SPANISH

GCSE CORE & Option

COURSE AIMS

The Edexcel GCSE in French/Spanish allows students to develop their ability to communicate with native speakers in both speech and writing. They will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of the target language communities and countries.

Examination Board:

EDEXCEL IGCSE

Syllabus Number:

4FR1, 4SP1

Course Content:

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes:

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



ASSESSMENT % Details

**Listening, Reading,
Speaking and
Writing**

100%

Papers will be tiered (Foundation or Higher), with 25% assessment weightings in each of the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers. They must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.

Papers will include:

- Short translations from and into the target language
- Some target-language questions in the reading and listening paper
- Authentic stimuli in the reading paper, including literary texts

BEYOND GCSE

This qualification offers a suitable progression route to an A Level in French or Spanish. In addition, the study of one language at GCSE can facilitate and help promote the learning of other languages. The qualification may also add to an individual's employability profile. There is great demand for graduates with the ability to speak a language other than English. Students will be able to apply their knowledge, skills, and understanding to authentic, real-life contexts. They will develop transferable skills that support higher education study and the transition to employment, together with an understanding and appreciation of other countries and cultures.

COURSE AIMS

The course is made up of two papers. One is Catholic Christianity and the other is Perspectives on Faith which includes two sections; one on Judaism and one on Themes.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8063

Course Content

Year 9

Judaism

Beliefs and Teachings and Practices

Year 10

Catholic Christianity

Creation, Incarnation, The Triune God, Redemption, Church and the Kingdom of God, Eschatology

Year 11

Themes

Two of the following will be studied:

Theme A: Religion, Relationships and Families

Theme B: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Theme C: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

ASSESSMENT

	%	Details
Paper 1	50%	Students will sit two written examinations during Summer Term of Year 11. Catholic Christianity – 1 hour 45 minutes examination
Paper 2	50%	Students will sit two written examinations during Summer Term of Year 11. Perspectives on faith: Judaism and Themes – 1 hour 45 minutes examination.

BEYOND GCSE

At A Level, students may choose to study the AQA Course in Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and New Testament. This addresses interesting and important matters, which includes:

- How we decide what is right and wrong, including how different philosophers approach ethical matters
- The degree to which we can successfully apply ethical theories in practical situations
- Whether we can prove God's existence
- How far, if at all, can the existence of evil and the development of our scientific knowledge pose a challenge to religious belief
- How Biblical texts are compiled and interpreted; the person of Jesus, the political and religious context of the gospels, investigating the resurrection

Theology, Philosophy and Ethics are among the oldest academic disciplines and the A Level is highly considered by

universities today for many reasons, not least for helping students to analyse language and argument in a careful and

exacting way and for developing an enquiring mind, focused on the ultimate questions of life.

COMBINED SCIENCE TRILOGY GCSE CORE

COURSE AIMS

The Combined Science course is of equal level to the separate sciences course and students are still required to learn Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Each science covers slightly less content than the separate sciences and the results are combined so that students achieve 2 GCSEs at the end of the course. This route can also enable students to progress to A Level Science. As well as covering a wide range of topics in the three sciences, students will also learn scientific enquiry skills through a range of practical activities.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8464

Course Content

Year 10

Biology – Diseases, Hormones, transport in plants and animals, photosynthesis

Chemistry – Quantitative Chemistry – moles and calculations, Reactions of acids, Electrolysis, Energy changes in chemical reactions, Rates of reaction

Physics – Waves, Forces and motion, electrons

Year 11

Biology – Reproduction and genetics, Evolution, Biodiversity and human interaction, Classification

Chemistry – Chemical equilibria, Organic Chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources

Physics – Electricity, Electromagnetism, Radioactivity

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	16.7%	1 hour 15 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response Practical science skills will be assessed as part of the exam Students will sit a paper 1 for each science (3 papers in total)
Paper 2	16.7%	1 hour 15 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response Students will sit a paper 2 for each science (3 papers in total)

BEYOND GCSE

Students gain a variety of different transferable skills necessary for a wide range of courses and careers. Any of the three sciences can be studied further at A Level and they are regarded as a strong facilitating subject for a wide range of degree courses.

COURSE AIMS

Students learn about the body and how it works. Also included are topics on plant biology, diet and associated disorders, genetics, the control of infection, evolution and biotechnology. An assorted range of practical activities are performed which provide the students with additional skills.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8461

Course Content

Year 10 Diseases, Hormones, transport in plants and animals, photosynthesis

Year 11 Reproduction and genetics, Evolution, Biodiversity and human interaction, Classification

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	16.7%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response
Paper 2	16.7%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response

BEYOND GCSE

Biology is a pre-requisite for university courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine and highly recommended for natural sciences and biomedical courses. It is regarded as a strong facilitating subject for a wide range of degree courses.

SEPERATE SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY GCSE CORE

COURSE AIMS

Students learn about the body and how it works. Also included are topics on plant biology, diet and associated disorders, genetics, the control of infection, evolution and biotechnology. An assorted range of practical activities are performed which provide the students with additional skills.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8462

Course Content

Year 10

- Quantitative Chemistry –
- Moles and calculations
 - Reactions of acids
 - Electrolysis
 - Energy changes in chemical reactions
 - Rates of reaction

Year 11

- Chemical equilibria
- Organic Chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources



ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	50%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response
Paper 2	50%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response

BEYOND GCSE

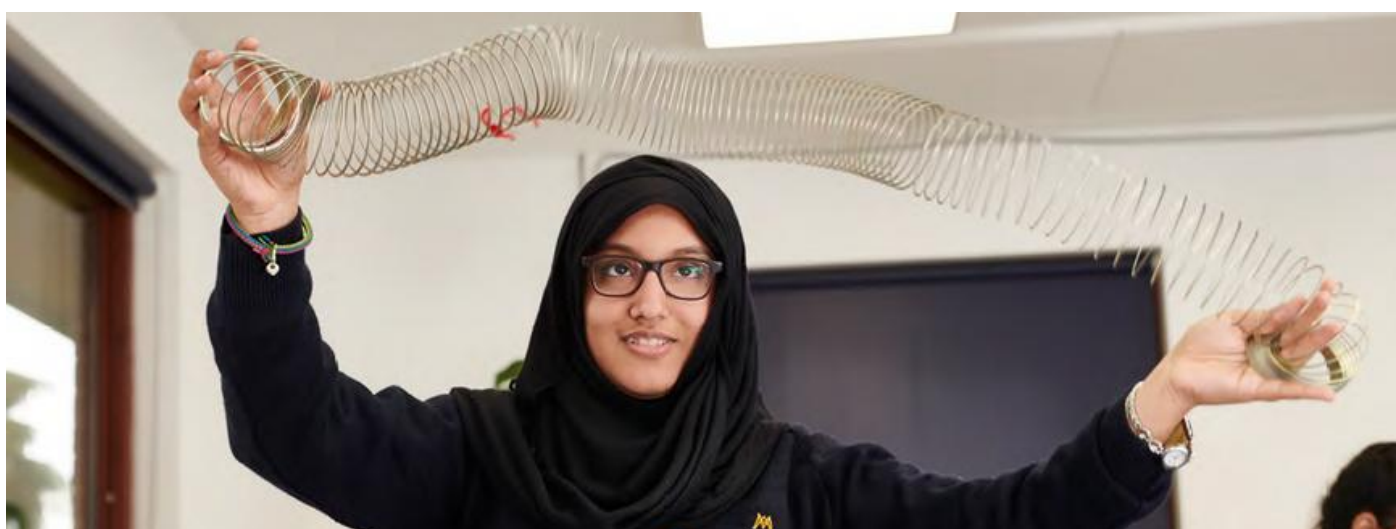
Chemistry is a pre-requisite for university courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine. It is highly recommended for natural sciences and biomedical science courses. It is regarded as a strong facilitating subject for a wide range of degree courses including engineering and law.

COURSE AIMS

The study of Physics gives an understanding of the technological world. The specification follows a concept based approach with practical real life application. It also develops a strong foundation for the other branches of science as well as the various fields of engineering. Magnetism and radioactivity are just two of the topics studied. As in the other science subjects, a wide array of practical activities are carried out.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8463



Course Content

Year 10 Waves, forces and motion, space physics, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism

Year 11 Particle model of matter, atomic structure and space physics

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	50%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response
Paper 2	50%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response

BEYOND GCSE

Physics is a strong facilitating subject for a wide range of university courses. For example, physics is an essential subject for application to university courses in pure physics, astrophysics, and a number of engineering courses. Materials science courses normally require physics as well.



SUBJECTS

OPTIONAL

COURSE AIMS

GCSE Art and Design is a course suitable for students who have an interest in being creative. It is a contemporary course that encourages inquisitive questioning and a risk-taking approach to creative problem solving.

A passion for creativity will allow students to explore traditional methods of painting and drawing, alongside an exploration of a wider variety of unfamiliar materials and techniques. Students will experiment and work with a range of different media in 2D and 3D, including: etching, ceramics, photography and printing. The course will harness and cultivate a creative imagination, developing practical skills coupled with an understanding of different artists and their techniques. Students will need to research artists through gallery and exhibition visits, appreciating art history and theory in context. Students will be able to apply creative, analytical, and critical thinking to any subject they choose to study. Coursework projects provide the opportunity to explore personal imagery and for students to express themselves through their own work.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8202

Course Content Project themes aim to stretch potential, develop technical skills, and encourage personal interpretation, whilst refining understanding of art disciplines and techniques. A unit may be one large piece of work with preparatory studies, or it may be several pieces of development. The use of sketchbooks for gathering source material and working through ideas for projects is an essential part of the GCSE course.

Year 10 Students will be introduced to a range of exciting media through their Year 10 project natural forms. Students will investigate and experiment with ceramics, printing, expressive drawing techniques, textiles and oil painting.

Year 11 Students will be introduced to cubist compositional methods through the reflection and distortion project.

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Portfolio	60%	No time limit, 96 marks 2 units of coursework Response to all assessment objectives required in coursework as a whole
Externally set assignment	40%	10 hours, 96 marks Candidates must respond to one starting point Preparatory period and 10 hours of supervised time Response to all assessment objectives required

BEYOND GCSE

Art GCSE offers students the chance to think creatively, work collaboratively, build confidence, and develop reflective and analytical skills. The combination of theory and practise means that it will challenge and excite in equal measures.

A Level Art opens up further study opportunities in fine art, graphics, fashion, film, and architecture as a degree or for those wishing to do an art foundation course first. This course is useful for anyone thinking of a career within the creative industry.

COURSE AIMS

Business will provide you with an insight into how businesses are established, how they grow and how they are organised. It will also explain how wider economic, social and technological changes affect businesses. You will then be in a better position to understand what it takes to start up and manage a business. The course is designed to give students a sound understanding of business concepts and the ability to use knowledge, analytical skill, and problem solving techniques to contemporary business issues in a local and national context.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Syllabus Number: 1BSO

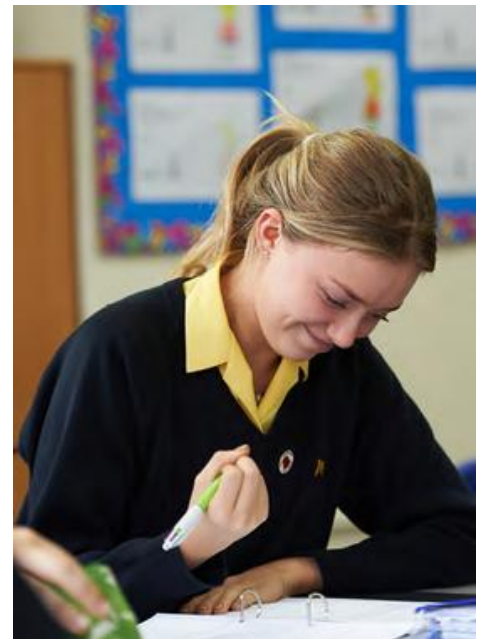
Course Content

Year 10

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

Year 11

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making HR decisions



ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Theme 1	50%	1 hour 30 minutes examination. Questions consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple-choice• Calculations• Short answer• Extended answers
Theme 2	50%	1 hour 30 minutes examination. Questions consist of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multiple-choice• Calculations• Short answer• Extended answers

BEYOND GCSE

There is the opportunity to study Business at A Level. The course gives an insight into some areas of Economics, which is also available to study at A Level. Business can be useful when combined with a wide range of other subjects including Geography, Maths, History, and Foreign Languages. In terms of careers, Business is very useful for all aspects of Business and General Management, including Marketing, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Banking, Hospitality and Media, as well as in a wide range of public sector jobs such as Health, Education and Transport.

CLASSICAL CIVILISATION GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

GCSE Classical Civilisation allows students to explore the ancient societies of Greece and Rome and enjoy some of the best literature of the Western world, whilst delving into the ancients' views on topics that societies still deal with today: life and death, religion and morality, love, family, the nature of the world and our origins and development, friendship and enemies, power, patriotism, politics, law, crime and justice, empire and war. Students will study material from both of these worlds, drawn from the time period 3000 BC to 500 AD. This material will encompass aspects of literature and visual/material culture in their social, historical and cultural contexts. Throughout the course, students will actively engage in a process of enquiry into the classical world and closely analyse primary sources from the time. Consequently, they develop as effective, independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers who can offer informed, personal responses to thought-provoking questions.

Examination Board: OCR

Syllabus Number: J199

Course Content

Year 10

Women in the Ancient World:

In this unit, we study Ancient Greek and Roman women. Starting with legendary women such as Pandora and Helen of Troy, we uncover the stories of women throughout these two fascinating cultures, culminating in the influence that Cleopatra was able to exert over Julius Caesar and Mark Anthony to become one of the most powerful people in the world.

- Women of legend
- Young women
- Women in the home
- Improper women
- Warrior women
- Women to be feared
- Women in power

Year 11

The Homeric World:

For our second GCSE unit, we study the Mycenaean Greek culture. We support this by reading Homer's *Odyssey*, following the journey of the Greek hero Odysseus as he returns from the Trojan War after 10 years. The following areas are studied:

- Key sites
- Life in the Mycenaean Age
- Decorative arts
- Tombs, graves and burial
- Homer's *Odyssey*

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Unit 1	50%	1 hour 30 minutes examination Students have short questions and extended questions to answer on a choice of topics
Unit 2	50%	1 hour 30 minutes examination Students must choose one essay question to answer from a choice of topics

BEYOND GCSE

Classical Civilisation provides students with a range of skills. They develop the ability to critically analyse archaeological evidence and literature in order to construct well-written and evaluated responses to questions. Classical Civilisation is currently a popular A Level choice as it combines easily with a wide variety of other subjects, such as English, History, Government and Politics, Art, Philosophy, Theatre Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, and Psychology. It is highly regarded by Oxbridge and Russell Group Universities. Furthermore, it is common for students to continue studying it at university since it is such a broad and interesting subject which helps develop a wide range of skills and can lead on to almost any career. Many Classicists have gone on to successful careers in Law, Journalism, Writing, Accountancy and Finance, Business and Politics and Teaching and Research. Additionally, information from UCAS shows that students who studied Classical Civilisation went on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science, and Chemistry.

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

The core of Computing is Computer Science, in which you are taught the principles of information and computation, how digital systems work, and how to put this knowledge to use through programming. Building on this knowledge and understanding, you will be equipped to use information technology to create programs, systems and a wide range of content. Computing also ensures digital literacy; to be able to use and express ourselves and develop our ideas through technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in an increasingly digital world.

Examination Board: CIE

Syllabus Number: 0984

Course Content

Year 10

- An Introduction to Computer Systems
- Numbers, Processors and Operating Systems
- Data Communications and Networking
- Practical Problem Solving: structure diagrams, algorithms and flowcharts
- Practical Problem Solving: Pseudocode Programming Concepts

Year 11

- Data Integrity and Security
- Binary Logic
- Databases
- Use of Pre-release Materials



ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1: Theory	60%	1 hour 45 minutes examination. 75 marks Written examination Short answer and structured questions No calculators permitted
Paper 2: Problem-Solving and Programming	40%	1 hour 45 minutes examination. 50 marks Written examination Short answer and structured questions 20 marks based on pre-release material No calculators permitted

BEYOND GCSE

A GCSE in Computer Science will equip you with all of the fundamental knowledge of computer systems and programming to be able to study the subject at A Level or degree standard. It is an introduction to a wide range of topics that underpin the theory of digital technology.

In addition, technology companies are increasingly recognising the importance of practical skills and work experience. Therefore, the number of apprenticeships and work placements is on the rise and provide very realistic alternatives to a formal University education. A Computer Science qualification can open many doors and is really just the start for any student with an interest in technology and for those who wish to learn more about the digital world we live in.

COURSE AIMS

The course promises to engage and encourage students to become confident performers and designers with the skills they need for a bright and successful future. Students will gain invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, needed to expand their horizons.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8261

Course Content

Subject Content for GCSE is divided into three components:

- 1) Understanding Drama: Written exam. Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre. Study of one set play. Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.
- 2) Devising Drama: Practical work. Process of creating devised drama performance of devised drama (performance or design). Analysis and evaluation of own work.
- 3) Texts in practice: Practical work. Performance of two extracts from one play (performance or design).

Year 10

Written exam preparation

Theatre trips and review skills, study of set play

Practical work

Exploring contemporary Theatre practice

Devising drama

Year 11

Written exam preparation

The roles and responsibilities of theatre makers in contemporary professional practice

Theatre trips and review skills, study of set play

Practical work

Detailed study of influential practitioners

Preparation and performance of two extracts from a play

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Written Exam	40%	1 hour and 45 minutes examination Open book 80 marks
Practical 1	40%	Devising log (60 marks) Devised performance (20 marks) 80 marks in total
Practical 2	20%	Performance of extract 1 (20 marks) and extract 2 (20 marks) 40 marks in total

BEYOND GCSE

Drama GCSE offers students the chance to think creatively, work collaboratively, build confidence and develop the ability to reflect and analyse. The combination of theory and practise means that it will challenge and excite in equa measures. Drama students gain many transferable skills and go on to train in a wide range of subjects and pursue a variety of careers: law, education, business management, and the creative industries are just some of these. Universities and employers are looking for young people who are able to think independently but also work as part of a team; the transferable skills learnt in Drama will be beneficial to any future career choice.

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

This exciting new course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills, and encouragement they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways and develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8585

Course Content

Year 10

Through practical cooking skills, scientific experiments and theoretical work, students will learn about:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food Science
- Food Safety
- Food Choice

Year 11

- Food Investigation
- Food Preparation Assessment
- Food Provenance
- Revision programme

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Food Investigation	15%	Autumn Term Year 11 Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients will be assessed
Food Preparation Assessment	35%	Autumn / Spring Term Year 11 Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of 3 complete dishes within a single period of no more than 3 hours, planning how this will be achieved in advance
Written Exam	50%	Summer Term Year 11 1 hour 45 minutes examination Multiple choice questions (20 marks) Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

BEYOND GCSE

Future careers that would be enhanced by studying Food Preparation and Nutrition include: Food Research, Hospitality Management, Food Technology, Nutritional and Sports Science, Consumer Protection, Nursing and Medicine, Social Work, Environmental Health, to name but a few.

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power, and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values, and attitudes.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8035

Course Content

Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

Section C: The living world

Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

Including GIS and Map Skills

“ The study of Geography is about more than just memorising places on a maps, it's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.

-Barak Obama

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ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	40%	Living with the physical environment 1 hour 30 minutes examination. 88 marks including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST)
Paper 2	40%	Challenges in the human environment 1 hour 30 minutes examination, 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPGST)
Paper 3	20%	Geographical applications 1 hour examination. 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPGST) Pre-release resources made available from 15 March in the year of the exam.

BEYOND GCSE

Geography is flexible and easily combines with a wide variety of other subjects at A Level. It is a popular choice in the Vi Form. In Higher Education, depending on the modular mix, a degree can be awarded as a BA or BSc. It is recommended as ideal preparation for careers in Planning, Marketing Production and Management. Key skill developments are data analysis, interpretation, decision making and evaluation. In essence, it is an ideal standalone academic subject, and one that really complements others in an A Level package.

COURSE AIMS

The study of History equips students for life. They acquire a sound understanding of the modern world and of the merits and demerits of political philosophies and styles of government. The skills acquired through the study of History have application in all areas; from the ability to absorb a considerable body of knowledge and to deploy that information in a sustained and analytical format. The ability to critically examine facts and evaluate the accuracy of written, pictorial, and oral sources of information, detecting possible bias and propaganda, to being able to present a clear analysis of problems, institutions, regimes and issues.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Syllabus Number: 8261

Course Content

Year 10

Paper 1 – British Thematic Study

Medicine in Britain c.1250 to present day with

Historical Environment

The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18:

Surgery and treatment

Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

Paper 2 (start) – British Depth Study

Early Elizabethan England

Year 11

Paper 2 – Continue British Depth Study

Early Elizabethan England

Paper 2 – Modern Depth Study

American West 1835 – 1895

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	30%	1 hour 15 minutes examination Thematic Study 20% Historic Environment 10% (sources)
Paper 2	40%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Period Study 20% British Depth Study 20%
Paper 3	30%	1 hour 15 minutes examination Modern Depth Study

BEYOND GCSE

History can be studied at A Level.

A qualification in History is particularly useful for careers in Law, Politics, Journalism, Publishing and Editing, Education, Archive work, Archaeology, Museum Work, Art and Antiques, Business Management, and Media. There are a wide range of university choices in relation to History and numerous modules are offered, normally with students being able to pick their own areas of interest. The skills gained studying History are also favourably looked upon by potential employers.

COURSE AIMS

The Latin course involves the study of a whole culture, not just a language, and even at GCSE, half the marks are for literature, studied in the context of Roman civilisation. However, a major aim of the course is to develop a love of the clarity and intricacy of the language. Latin puts into ten words thoughts, which other languages take twenty words to express, and this is one of the reasons for its fascination and its survival. It is also the reason for its continued use in the coining of new vocabulary, particularly in the world of science and technology.

Because Latin was, for centuries, the chosen vehicle for education and for intellectual thought in many countries of the world, it has left its mark on almost all academic disciplines. It therefore broadens knowledge and develops ability in many areas of study, particularly Languages, English, and History but also subjects such as Science, Art, Music, Drama, Religious Studies, Medicine and Law. In addition, a traditional Latin course develops the ability to think clearly and to analyse and manipulate data, so the skills it develops are of recognised value to areas such as Mathematics, Computer Studies and Business.

Examination Board: OCR

Syllabus Number: J282

Course Content

Year 10

Students will greatly develop their knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar. They will start to translate more complex Latin sentences, making use of subjunctive clauses. Students will also begin their prose and verse set texts, reading original works by Roman Authors.

Year 11

In Year 11 students continue to develop their translation accuracy through practising their grammar and translating Latin stories. These allow students to read a vast array of different mythological and historical stories, enhancing their knowledge of the Ancient World. Study of the GCSE set texts is completed, as well as targeted preparation for the GCSE exam.

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Unit 1 - Language	30%	1 hour 15 minutes examination Thematic Study 20% Historic Environment 10% (sources)
Unit 2 or 3 - Prose Literature	40%	1 hour 45 minutes examination Period Study 20% British Depth Study 20%
Unit 4 or 5 - Verse Literature	30%	1 hour 15 minutes examination Modern Depth Study

BEYOND GCSE

Latin A Level is particularly useful for those taking A Levels in Modern Languages, History, or English and for those considering a career in Medicine, Law, Computing or Business. At University, it is often taken in combination with another subject, for example French and Latin, English and Latin, History and Latin or Latin and ancient Greek (Classics).

Universities usually offer beginners' courses in Greek, but an introductory course can be offered to potential Classics students in the Vi Form.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES: FRENCH & SPANISH

GCSE CORE & OPTION

COURSE AIMS

The Edexcel GCSE in French/Spanish allows students to develop their ability to communicate with native speakers in both speech and writing. They will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of the target language communities and countries.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL IGCSE

Syllabus Number: 4FR1, 4SP1

Course Content

Assessments with a weighting of 25% test each of the four skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing. Students are all entered for the same exam. They must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.

The paper will include:

- A picture card discussion and general questions for the speaking exam
- Extracts and audio target-language questions in the reading and listening paper
- Authentic stimuli in the reading paper, including literary texts
- Extended writing on core themes
- Gap fill grammar section on writing paper

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Listening Reading Writing Speaking	100%	<p>Papers will be tiered (Foundation or Higher), with 25% assessment weightings in each of the four skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers. They must complete their speaking assessment in April/May and all other assessments in May/June in any single year.</p> <p>Paper will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short translations from and into the target language• Some target-language questions in the reading and listening paper• Authentic stimuli in the reading paper, including literary texts

BEYOND GCSE

This qualification offers a suitable progression route to an A Level in French or Spanish. In addition, the study of one language at GCSE can facilitate and help promote the learning of other languages. The qualification may also add to an individual's employability profile. There is great demand for graduates with the ability to speak a language other than English. Students will be able to apply their knowledge, skills, and understanding to authentic, real-life contexts. They will develop transferable skills that support higher education study and the transition to employment, together with an understanding and appreciation of other countries and cultures.

COURSE AIMS

The GCSE course supports and inspires students to develop creativity and personal expression through music. It requires a passion for performing music and develops self-discipline, stamina, and determination in both rehearsal time and performance. The qualification encourages students to engage critically and creatively in a wide range of music and musical contexts. This is all demonstrated through the strands of performing, composing and appraising.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Syllabus Number: 1MUO

Course Content

Performing

Students will perform one solo and one ensemble piece on voice or instrument.

Composing

Students will produce 2 compositions. One to a set brief and one free composition.

Appraising

Students will answer questions from set works and unfamiliar pieces in the following areas: Instrumental Music, Voice Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusion.

Year 10

Students will cover 6 of the set works alongside working on general listening skills. They will perform in practise recitals and start work on one of the composition tasks after building general composition skills.

In Year 11, students will appraise the remaining 2 set works and start preparing for mocks. They will finalise their performance pieces and complete work on their second composition by Easter.

ASSESSMENT

	%	Details
Performing	30%	Combined total minimum of 4 minutes across two pieces. Minimum of 1 minute per piece. Internally marked. Externally moderated
Composing	30%	Combined total minimum of 3 minutes across 2 compositions. Each composition must be at least 1 minute long. Internally marked. Externally moderated
Appraising	40%	2 hour written examination. Listening tracks for short questions on set works and unfamiliar pieces. An extended essay question comparing set work with an unfamiliar piece

BEYOND GCSE

Music is an exciting, creative, challenging, and versatile subject: one which universities and employers regard highly.

Studying Music supports holistic cognitive development and therefore drives academic achievement. It is unique in being both a highly creative and academic subject. A musician tends to be a creative problem solver as well as an analytical and logical thinker who works with determination and drive.

Music is an Arts subject which combines well with other subjects both at A Level or university, as well as offering opportunities to contribute to the musical life on campus. Music lends itself to careers such as Performance, Music Therapy, Sound Engineering, Publishing, Journalism or Arts Administration, and Events Management.

PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

Photography is highly relevant to current and future visual communication trends. It is an exciting medium that is as important for printed and web published communication as it is to the fine artist. The creative potential stimulated in this course will enable students to apply creative, analytical, and critical thinking to any subject they choose to study. Students will learn about a variety of photographic and lens based media, techniques and processes, including hands-on experimentation with traditional and digital media. This course focuses largely on creation of still images, but may also include use of all types of lens based media, including a short intro to DSLR film. Students will develop an awareness of critical analyses of artists' and photographers' work, helping to develop their own ideas through awareness, practical application, and written reflections. Coursework projects give the opportunity to explore personal imagery and for students to express themselves through their own work. Photography develops a wide range of highly transferable skills, which will be useful in university applications and future careers.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8206

Course Content

Year 10

Year 10 Introduction to camera use and Photoshop. The first project is based on storytelling and is linked to fashion photography.

Year 11

The final project studies abstract imagery in photography looking at reflection, distortion and light play through still photography and film.



ASSESSMENT

% Details

Portfolio	60%	No time limit, 96 marks
		2 units of coursework Response to all assessment objectives required in coursework as a whole Centre assessed and moderated by AQA
Externally Set Assignment	40%	10 hours, 96 marks
		Candidates must respond to one starting point Preparatory period and 10 hours of supervised time Response to all assessment objectives required, Set by AQA, centre assessed and moderated by AQA

BEYOND GCSE

Photography can be studied at A Level in a similar way to GCSE. The work is set in units, the students can interpret this in their own way, exploring wide ranging personal interpretations whilst developing their own personal style. A Level Photography opens up further study opportunities in Photography, film, video production, animation, graphic design, fine art or media as a degree or for those wishing to do an art foundation course first. This course is useful for anyone thinking of a career within the creative industry. Photography is a highly marketable skill in the workplace. Photography can lead to careers in fashion, press and photo journalism, advertising and editorial, marketing, corporate and industrial, scientific, and medical.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques, selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness, and wellbeing
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement

We hope to help create confident, independent thinkers and effective decision makers who can operate effectively as individuals or as part of a team – all skills will enable them to stand out and effectively promote themselves as they progress through life.

Examination Board: OCR

Syllabus Number: (9-1) - J587

Course Content

Year 10

Component 1.0 – Physical factors affecting performance
Component 1.1 – Applied anatomy and physiology
Component 1.2 – Physical training

Year 11

Component 2.0 – Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology
Component 2.1 – Socio-cultural influences
Component 2.2 – Sports psychology
Component 2.3 – Health, fitness and wellbeing

Practical Content

Component 3.0 – Performance in physical education (NEA)
Component 3.1 – Performance of 3 activities taken from the 2 approved lists*
Component 3.2 – Analysing and evaluating performance (AEP), task-based NEA
*Found in section 2d of OCR's GCSE (9-1) Physical Education guide to (NEA)

ASSESSMENT	%	Details
Paper 1	30%	1 hour written examination, 60 marks Physical factors affecting performance (01) Applied anatomy and physiology Physical training
Paper 2	30%	1 hour written examination, 60 marks Socio-cultural issues and Sports Psychology (02) Socio-cultural influences Sports psychology Health, fitness and wellbeing
Non-exam	40%	Non-exam assessment. 80 marks (60:20) Performance in Physical Education (03) Practical activity assessment (3 x 20 marks) Evaluating and analysing performance (20 marks)

BEYOND GCSE

Feeds into the OCR A Level course delivered in VI Form. This course will extend your knowledge in the areas of Sports Psychology, Anatomy and Physiology, Skill Acquisition, and Social, Cultural, and Historical issues. Former students are now studying Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Sport and Leisure Management, Physical Education Teaching, Coaching and Personal Training.

TEXTILES

GCSE OPTION

COURSE AIMS

In Art Textiles, you will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of textile media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. You will also be encouraged to explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to textiles from the past and from recent times. Response to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities which will demonstrate your understanding of different styles, genres, and traditions. The drawing and recording of your ideas and research in sketchbooks and journals is an essential part of your investigation and portfolio.

Examination Board: AQA

Syllabus Number: 8204

Course Content

Year 10

- Introduction to a range of materials, experimental techniques, and processes.
- Giving the opportunity to make connections with the work of textile artists, craftspeople and designers.
- Integrating the use of drawing and written annotation into working practice.
- Develop and present work in any appropriate format such as sketchbooks, worksheets or through sample and design journals.

Year 11

Select from a range of starting points to produce independent research and sampling of ideas that conclude with a final piece. This project should address all the assessment objectives with evidence of drawing and written annotation along with a wide range of textile techniques.



ASSESSMENT

	%	Details
Component 1 Portfolio	60%	No time limit, 96 marks Selected from work undertaken during the course to include more than one extended collection of work. This should demonstrate working from a project brief, through the research and investigation stages to a final realisation
Externally Set Assignment	40%	10 hours, 96 marks Candidates must respond to a starting point set by AQA. Preparatory period and 10 hours of supervised time. Response to all assessment objectives required

BEYOND GCSE

Art Textiles can then be studied at A Level with the work set in units, there is freedom of choice regarding the design and making of the major project. Choosing Art Textiles can lead to a wide range of university places and careers as it uses a variety of transferable skills that could be used not only in the creative industries but also within project management, science, medicine, buying and merchandising, theatre, business, and teaching.



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