

EATON BANK

BELIEVE IN SUCCESS

ACADEMY

GCSE Options

Welcome to GCSE Options

We are delighted to introduce you to our Year 9 GCSE Options Booklet. The decisions that your child is about to make are extremely important. This is a crucial time in their education, where students will have a significant say over their own learning and futures. The choices that they make now will affect not just their timetable and learning for the next two years, but will also shape their pathways, opportunities and career choices open to them after they leave Eaton Bank.

As students embark on this new phase in their education, we want to ensure that they are making the choices that are right for them. It is important that students choose subjects that they will enjoy and will flourish in. As a school, we are here to support students and parents as these choices are made.

Students have more autonomy than ever before over their learning but it is important to note that there are still a number of subjects that are compulsory at GCSE level. Students will continue to study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and a form of Science, whether that be Combined or Triple Science. Students will also continue to have timetabled PSHE lessons throughout Year 10 and Year 11, as well as Core PE, to continue their Personal Development, ready for the wider world.

We appreciate that making these choices will be challenging for students and we want to make sure that each student is individually supported in this process. Students will have the opportunity to discuss their preferential subject choices and possible career aspirations with staff. This support is offered by their form tutor, their Head of Year, their Pastoral Manager, their SEND key worker or a member of Senior Leadership. We will also be hosting a GCSE Taster Day, enabling students to try out GCSE orientated sessions in a range of lessons, as well as our GCSE Options Evening for students and parents to attend.

We strongly advocate that students choose a broad and balanced range of subjects, so that they do not rule out any potential future career pathway or further and higher education courses. At this stage, students may have no clear idea of what they want to do with their futures. This is not at all unusual. For those students, having a good range of subjects leaves many possibilities open for them as they move through their education and into the world of further study and work. For those who have a possible career trajectory in mind, certain subjects may be more appropriate to choose in order to support them on their journey to that goal. Having those discussions with staff members, at home and during the opportunities available to students to explore their careers will help them make the right choices.

We must point out that when choices are first submitted, they should be regarded as provisional. Every effort will made to accommodate each student's first choices, but in certain circumstances this may not be possible. Every student will be asked to choose reserve subjects in case of such a situation. Any student who may need to choose a reserve subject will be informed and support will be offered in making that choice. All students will have final confirmation of their GCSE options later in the academic year.

We hope this booklet is useful for you as parents and students in making these choices. For further information, please do contact Mrs Knott (Head of Year for Year 9, s.knott@eatonbank.org) or Mr Washington (Assistant Head, Curriculum & Student Progress, d.washington@eatonbank.org).

Outline of KS4 Curriculum

At Key Stage 4, students will complete 9 GCSEs, comprising of five core subjects and four options subjects. At least one of these subjects must be an EBacc Subject, which will be explained on the next page.

This Academic Curriculum is supported by the wider Personal Development Curriculum, with all students completing a programme of PSHE, receiving a broad and robust Careers Programme and participating in Core PE.

All students are also strongly encouraged to partake in the wide suite of extra-curricular opportunities offered to students. These elements will not be examined, but all of these support their wider development and prepare them for life beyond GCSEs.

Core Subjects	English Language	English Literature	Maths	Science (x2)
Option Choices	EBacc Subject	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Wider Curriculum	PSHE	Careers	Core PE	Extra Curricular

Types of Qualifications

GCSE Qualifications

Currently, the majority of our Key Stage 4 subjects take the form of GCSE qualifications. All GCSEs use the 9-1 grading system, with 9 being the top grade and 1 the lowest. Candidates get a "U" where their performance is below the minimum required to access these grades.

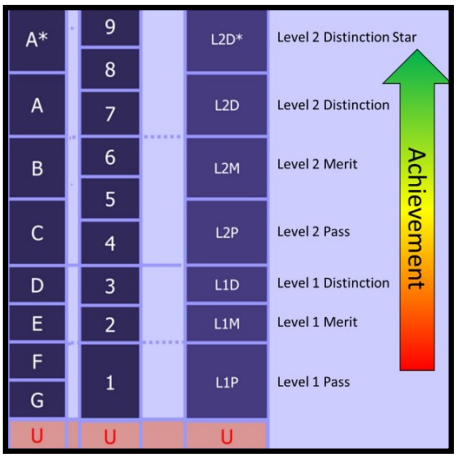
The GCSE courses are linear and run over two years. This means that in the majority of subjects, formal assessment takes place at the end of the GCSE course, in the summer of Year 11. In some subjects there are non-examined practical units.

Vocational / Technical Qualifications

You may hear of other technical or vocational qualifications. These allow students to develop their knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a practical context.

These courses may have examinations, but unlike the GCSE courses, there is also a heavy emphasis on coursework. These courses are also classed as well-recognised academic options that allow students to progress to their desired future pathways.

These are graded differently to GCSEs, as shown from the table to the right. We believe that these are an excellent alternative option for our students.



English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a combination of GCSE subjects that keeps your options open to future study and career pathways. The EBacc consists of the core subjects, along with a Humanity (Geography or History) and a Language (German or French).

Reforms to the Curriculum at a national level are seeing a move away from EBacc as a measure for schools. Schools though continue to insist that students select at least one of these EBacc Option subjects, as this gives students a strong academic background for future studies or employment.

Advice for Year 9 Students

You are about to make some very important decisions. The choices you will make affect not just the next two years of your education, but the future pathways you may decide to take once you leave Eaton Bank Academy. It is important, then, that you make informed choices that are personal and individual to you. Below is some advice to get you thinking about how to make the best choice for you!

1. Think beyond Eaton Bank Academy to post-16 pathways and future career possibilities. You will have opportunity to discuss this with a member of staff as well to get any support you may need.

2. Choose subjects that keep your future education, training and work options open as much as you can, rather than narrowing down your choices and restricting future options.

3. Find out as much as you can about the courses you are considering taking. Make sure you are clear about the content and how you would be assessed and the expectations of you.

4. Talk to as many people as possible. Speak to your teachers, your parents, your form tutor, and to current GCSE students who are studying these subjects.

5. Choose subjects that give you some balance across your timetable. Perhaps consider one that involves doing something practical or creative.

6. Choose subjects that you enjoy! You will study them for two years and that is a long time to be unhappy. If you enjoy them, you are more likely to be successful in your GCSEs.

Questions to ask yourself ...

- **What is the subject about?** Is it something that I am genuinely interested in and will enjoy doing for two years?
- **Am I playing to my strengths?** Do I have the skills and abilities to do well in that subject?
- **What kind of work is involved?** What sorts of assignments are set? Is it the kind of work that I enjoy?
- **How is the subject assessed?** Is it all by examination at the end of the course, or is there also a courseworkelement?

And one thing NOT to do ...

- Don't pick a subject just because your friends are choosing it, because you like the teacher, or because you feel under pressure to choose it.

Options Evening

Thursday 5th March 2026

Advice from Students

Advice from Year 10 Students

"Choose subjects that you already like and don't expect every lesson to be about fun."

"Don't just pick what your friends pick, choose the subjects that you enjoy the most."

"Think carefully about the decisions you make. Don't just choose something for the sake of it or because someone tells you to."

"Some subjects may not be what you expect, so make sure you find out as much as you can before you make your decisions."

"Pick what you enjoy. GCSEs can be a lot of work and have a lot of writing, so it is much better when you enjoy that subject."

Advice from Year 11 Students

"Don't worry about what your close friends are choosing. See this as a great opportunity to make new friends who share your interests."

"Make sure you are really clear on what you will be studying and ask teachers if you are unsure."

"If you think you know what you want to do in the future, then work backwards, work out what type of qualifications you need or would be helpful for you to achieve your goal."

"Have an odd one out. This may end up being the subject you love, even if it does not fit the mould of your other subjects."

"Choose subjects that you are willing to put the work and effort into."

Advice from Sixth Form Students

"Consider the assessments. Think about whether you will manage all exams at the end of year 11 or whether doing a subject with coursework and practical assessments would help you get the best grades."

"Balance your subjects. Choose from a broad range of subject areas and a variety of learning styles e.g. practical subjects as well as literacy-heavy subjects."

"Don't pick something purely based on a job you think you might want to do in the future. You might change your mind."

"Read the booklet and fully understand the subject content for GCSE. Make sure it is what you want and know what you are opting for."

"Choose something that gives you open options in the future- don't narrow your horizons."

"Listen to the advice of teachers and parents. They want what is best for you and will give you the right guidance."

Core Subjects

All students will study these Core Subjects, along with a thorough programme in Personal Development and Core PE.







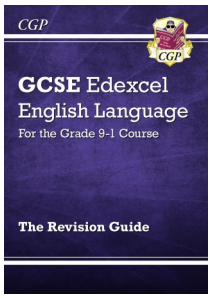


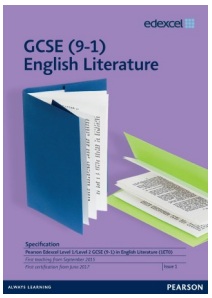
GCSE English

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: English Literature (1ET0), English Language 2.0 (1EN2)

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Lewis





What will I study in English?

Through English, you can explore the world, experience a broad range of perspectives and read stories that will help you understand other people. You will read a broad range of texts including non-fiction, novels, plays and poetry. Added to this, you will have the opportunity to enhance your writing skills as you develop both your imaginative and transactional writing. You will prepare for two separate GCSEs: English Literature and English Language.

In English Literature, you will read a modern text, a 19th century novel, a Shakespearean Play and a poetry anthology. You will learn to analyse the key themes and characters within the text and explore the writer's craft.

In English Language, you will analyse a broad range of extracts from both fiction and non-fiction. You will also complete a piece of your own fiction and non-fiction writing.

How will English help me in the future?

Studying English will allow you to develop your important empathy and communication skills. In a world that is becoming increasingly divided, it is crucial that we can understand the experiences of others and empathise with people whose experiences we can read about in the texts we study.

Good written skills are vitally important in most future pathways. In English, you will learn to communicate effectively through your writing. Additionally, there will numerous be opportunities to improve your speaking skills to provide you with confidence for the future.

English is also crucial in helping you to successfully progress to your next steps, whether that be A-Levels at Eaton Bank, attending College or entering a wide range of careers.

What do our students say?

'I have really enjoyed studying our first text, Blood Brothers, as it has helped me to think properly about other people's situations'- Year 10 student

'I have most enjoyed writing my war story as it allowed me to be creative'- Year 11 student.

How will I be assessed?

English is assessed through a series of examinations, which will take place at the end of Year 11. There are two papers for both English Literature and English Language.

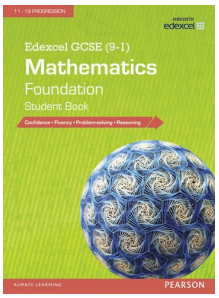
You will be awarded two separate GCSE grades, one for English Language and one for English Literature.

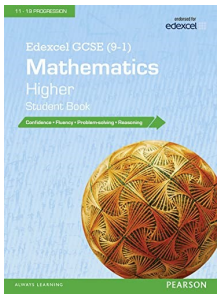
GCSE Maths

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: 1MA1

Head of Faculty: Mr D Moult





What will I study in Maths?

At GCSE, you will build upon the knowledge and understanding that you have developed in Key stage 3. You will study a wide range of topics across the key areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics.

During your time in Key stage 4, you will learn a range of skills, starting with numeracy such as percentages and ratio to support you in understanding loans and mortgages; and moving into the abstract, using the skills of algebra to solve problems quickly and efficiently and giving you the building blocks for science and computing based subjects.

You will also have the opportunity to study areas such as statistics to give you the tools to interpret the vast amounts of data that are readily available to us all in this digital age.

How will Maths help me in the future?

Mathematics has many benefits, it develops our analytical and reasoning skills that enable us to become more practical and supports us in developing our understanding in subjects such as Science, Technology and Engineering. In turn, this can lead into a wide range of future career paths.

By studying Mathematics, it enables us to express our ideas and thoughts articulately, and to face problems that test our resolve and force us to become more solution-oriented; this will allow you to make an impact in whatever career you choose later in life.

Passing GCSE Maths is also crucial in terms of progressing on to Sixth Form or College courses, so this is a very important subject for everyone at Key Stage 4.

What do our students say?

“Without Maths, I’d struggle in my other subjects. It’s not just the maths itself but learning how to approach a problem in a logical way.”

“The Maths department are really welcoming; the teachers always have time for you and want to see you succeed and do the very best you can.”

How will I be assessed?

Final exams at the end of year 11. Students will sit 1 non-Calculator exam, and two Calculator. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

Students will sit either the Higher or Foundation papers, this will be decided based on prior attainment and progression through year 10.

GCSE Combined Science

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8464 Combined Science, Trilogy

Head of Faculty: Mrs L Carter



What will I study in Combined Science?

Biology

Paper 1: Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics

Paper 2: Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution, Ecology

Chemistry

Paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes

Paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources

Physics

Paper 1: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure

Paper 2: Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism

How will Science help me in the future?

Science is a subject that develops a wide range of skills, including, practical work, problem solving, teamwork, literacy, mathematical skills, independent thinking and many more.

All of these are easily transferable to a number of different careers, such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science, Engineering, Environmental Scientists and many more careers that may not involve that much Science! Students studying Combined Science can go on to study A levels in Science.

What do our students say?

"I like Science because we study such a wide range of interesting topics and each lesson is different. It has made me want to have a career in a scientific field"

"In Science, the teachers are really supportive and offer lots of different strategies to help us to revise"

How will I be assessed?

There will be two exams per subject, so six exams in total. Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

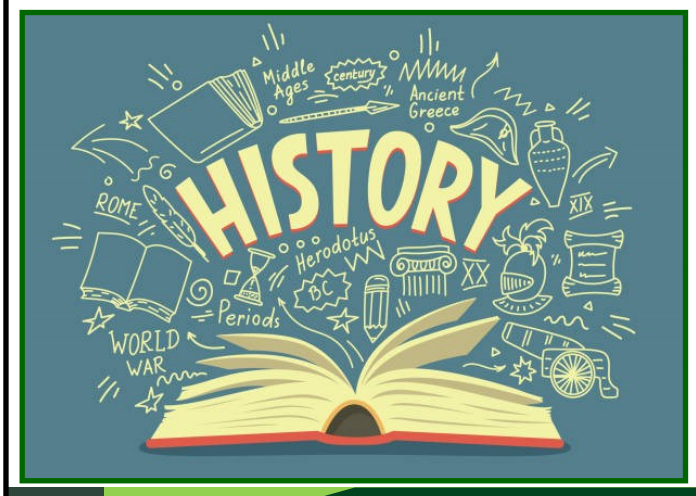
You will be awarded 2 GCSE grades for Combined Science.

EBacc Subjects

Students must study at least one of French, Geography, History or Spanish. Students can study multiple options from these subjects if they wish to.









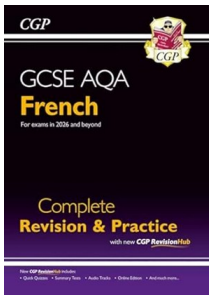
GCSE French

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8652

Head of Faculty: Mr L. Bretag

Subject Specialist: Miss E Nelson





Why study French?

French is spoken by over 300 million people worldwide across five continents, making it one of the most important global languages. It is an official language of international organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union, and France itself is one of the world's largest economies with strong influence in business, culture and international relations. Learning French allows you to experience new cultures and ways of life and opens up a wide range of opportunities for future study, travel and careers. A GCSE in French is a valuable qualification that can broaden your horizons and give you skills for life.

What will I study in French?

GCSE French is taught over two years, with three themes split into individual topics, taught over eight half terms. The themes are the broad units of content and are as follows:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

What can I do with French?

Studying French can of course lead to future language study. However, there are also a range of careers where speaking another language will be beneficial; with several of them being based in Cheshire or nearby.

Careers such as travel and tourism, publishing, journalism, banking, sporting companies, fashion design, European law, and international companies. What's more, many red brick universities favour students with a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language. Stand out from the crowd and bolster your confidence and communication skills on a global level.

What do our students say?

"I chose French as it is a language spoken all over the world and it will give me opportunities to travel and experience different places in the future."

"I chose French as it is a practical subject which I really enjoy."

How will I be assessed?

There are four formal assessments at the end of the course, all weighted at 25% each:

Paper 1: Listening, Paper 2: Speaking, Paper 3: Reading, Paper 4: Writing

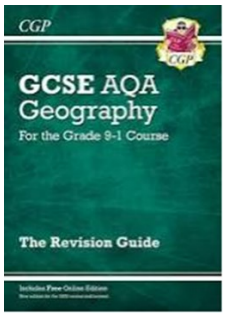
GCSE Geography

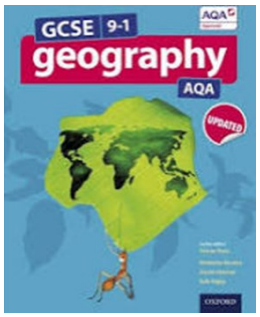
Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8037

Head of Faculty: Mrs A Wright

Subject Specialist: Mrs A Wright





Why study Geography?

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With continually growing interest in issues such as climate change, international migration, environmental damage and social change, Geography is one of the most relevant courses you can study. Whatever your passion for the world, fascination with landscapes or concerns about how people are treated, Geography will provide you with knowledge and transferable skills that you will enjoy studying and can help you achieve your goals. Our students enjoy studying topical issues and debating global events. Decision making is at the core of what we do, so this is a course that can be shaped by your own passions and beliefs!

What will I study in Geography?

- Natural Hazards (including Climate Change)
- The Living World (Including Hot Deserts and Tropical Rainforests)
- Rivers and Coasts
- The Urban World (issues in cities)
- The Economic World (the difference between rich and poor countries)
- Resources (Energy, Food & Water)

What can I do with Geography?

Not all Geography students become Geography teachers or weather presenters on the television. GCSE Geography leads to A-Level courses or even Geography based courses at university.

Geography graduates have diverse career destinations from those directly linked to the subject and those that use skills such as analysis and evaluation, whilst the subject has one of the highest rates of graduate employability.

What do our students say?

"The teachers are all very knowledgeable and passionate about geography. The lessons area always enjoyable and you can find guidance if you are struggling."

"It is challenging yet very interesting. It improves your general knowledge. The teachers are helpful and make it easy to understand. The Friday songs help me to remember the lessons' topic."

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: LIVING WITH THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (35% GCSE, Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2: CHALLENGES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (35% GCSE, Written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 3: GEOGRAPHICAL APPLICATIONS (30% GSCE, Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes)

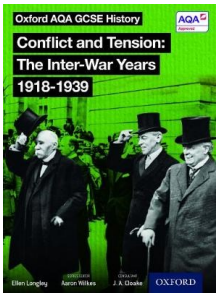
GCSE History

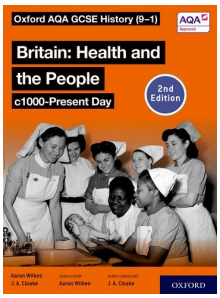
Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8145

Head of Faculty: Mrs A Wright

Subject Specialist: Mr C Hickey





Why study History?

Studying GCSE History is a brilliant opportunity to deepen your understanding of the world around you. At GCSE you can immerse yourself in far greater depth in the topics that we study, learning about both Medieval and Modern History within England and across the wider world.

History helps you to develop a wide range of academic skills, including source analysis, extended writing, evaluation and knowledge recall. In addition, this significantly supports your understanding of current affairs, providing you with a grasp of the world we live in today.

What will I study in History?

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Conflict & Tension: 1918-1939

Germany: Democracy and Dictatorship, 1890-1945

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

Health and the People: c.1000 to the Present Day

Norman England: 1066 - 1100

What can I do with History?

History is seen as a facilitating subject, recognised as a highly academic subject by colleges, universities and employers that opens up a wide range of future pathways. History supports your skills in English and compliments a wide range of other subjects, including the fellow humanities subjects. Many students continue to study History at A-Level, and then pursue pathways in areas including law, politics, journalism and many other fields.

What do our students say?

“Studying history helps me to understand more about the world and the events that have shaped it. I really enjoy the range of topics we study and especially Germany.

“History is a really enjoyable subject and one that I am considering taking to A-Level and beyond. I really enjoy lessons and the resources we have are very useful.”

How will I be assessed?

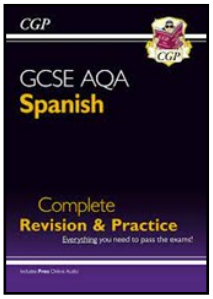
You will complete two, 2 hour exam papers at the end of Year 11. All of the questions will involve extended writing, with a mixture of source, explain and essay style questions.

GCSE Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8692

Head of Faculty: Mr L Bretag





Why study Spanish?

Spanish is the second-most spoken native language worldwide and is the official language of over 20 countries. Spain itself is perceived globally as a hugely popular destination for quality of life, outperforming other countries in relation to work-life balance, health and social connections.

Having a GCSE in Spanish allows you to experience a new way of life and opens up so many new pathways for your future career.

What will I study in Spanish?

GCSE Spanish is taught over two years, with three themes split into individual topics, taught over eight half terms. The themes are the broad units of content and are as follows:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

What can I do with Spanish?

Studying Spanish can of course lead to future language study. However, there are also a range of careers where speaking another language will be beneficial; with several of them being based in Cheshire or nearby.

Careers such as travel and tourism, publishing, journalism, banking, sporting companies, fashion design, European law, and international companies. What's more, many red brick universities favour students with a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language. Stand out from the crowd and bolster your confidence and communication skills on a global level.

What do our students say?

"I chose Spanish as it is a language spoken all over the world and it will give me opportunities to travel and experience different places in the future."

"I chose Spanish as it is a unique subject and it is enjoyable to do something different. I find it really interesting."

How will I be assessed?

There are four formal assessments at the end of the course, all weighted at 25% each:

Paper 1: Listening

Paper 2: Speaking

Paper 3: Reading

Paper 4: Writing

Option Subjects

Students can select to study up to three of these subjects.

The following subjects are offered as Options, in addition to those offered as EBACC Subjects:

⇒ 3D Design

⇒ Art

⇒ Art Textiles

⇒ Business Studies

⇒ Computer Science

⇒ Creative Media Production (BTEC)

⇒ Dance

⇒ Digital IT (BTEC)

⇒ Drama

⇒ Food & Nutrition

⇒ Music

⇒ Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)

⇒ Physical Education

⇒ Triple Science

Remember you can also choose more subjects from the EBacc list of options

⇒ French

⇒ Geography

⇒ History

⇒ Spanish

GCSE 3D Design

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: Three-Dimensional Design

Head of Faculty: Mr A Moulding

Subject Specialist: Miss L Smith





Why study 3D Design?

3D-Design is an exciting and creative course, which combines an understanding of materials and manufacturing with your own creative visions by taking charge of the design process. In this course you will investigate the historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put your learning in to practice by producing prototypes, models and two-dimensional development studies.

You will also gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, experiencing all elements of the design process using a range of materials including paper, card, wood, metal, plastic. You will also develop an awareness of aesthetics and ergonomics and the relationship between form and function.

What will I study in 3D Design?

The 3D Design specialism is made up of two components- Component One is the coursework which accounts for 60% of the total GCSE Level. Component Two is the externally set exam assignment worth the remaining 40%.

Within Component one we will aim to cover two in depth projects which will allow you to fully immerse yourself into design, learning a range of skills and techniques supported by critical and contextual studies.

What can I do with 3D Design?

Most students who want to follow a pathway into a 3D Design related career continue with A Level or College based courses which then lead to degree or other higher education study options.

All of the following are career options following the study of 3D Design:

Product Design, Industrial Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Jewellery Design, Set Design, Computer Aided Design and Manufacture, Engineering, Theatre or Film Prop Design.

What do our students say?

“I really enjoy the practical, hands-on nature of the course and the skills that it develops. I think these will be very helpful in my future career plans.”

“The teachers are really supportive and they make sure lessons are engaging and fun.”

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed on how well they have met the 4 assessment objectives which each contribute 25% to your GCSE. AO1: Developing Ideas AO2: Designing, refining, experimenting and testing AO3: Recording AO4: Final Pieces of Work.

All work is assessed by your teachers, including the examination unit, and then moderated by an external examiner.

GCSE Art

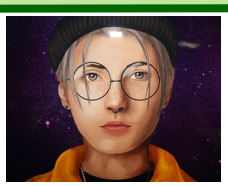
Exam Board: AQA

Specification: Fine Art

Head of Faculty: Mr A Moulding

Subject Specialist: Mrs F Nixon







Why study Art?

Art and Design provides you with the knowledge and means to analyse and respond to visual imagery. It allows you to express yourself and develop creative abilities grounded on decision making, problem solving and resourcefulness. It helps you think outside of the box to develop your own ideas, make improvements, record for a purpose, and realise intentions. Art and Design helps you to learn how to problem solve effectively and develop a positive attitude towards risk taking, embracing exploration and experimentation. It is one of the few GCSE subjects left with a large amount of practical coursework contributing towards the final grade which suits most learners. Studying this subject allows access to the fastest growing industry in the UK.

What will I study in Art?

We follow the AQA GCSE Art and Design course structure and deliver the specification option titled 'Fine Art'. This option promotes learning across a variety of experiences and through multiple different processes, tools, techniques, materials, and resources to generate different kinds of evidence of working and outcomes. Students complete two units of work in the coursework for this specialism.

The course is made up of two Components – Component One is the coursework which accounts for 60% of the total GCSE Level. Component Two is the externally set exam assignment worth the remaining 40%.

What can I do with Art?

Most students who want to follow a pathway into an Art related career continue with A Level or College based courses which then lead to degree or other higher education study options. All of the following are career options following the study of Art and Design:

App Design, Architect, Art Therapist, Book Illustrator, Cake Decorator, Ceramics Designer. Comic Book Creator, Costume Designer, Digital Imaging, Fashion Designer, Film Producer, Florist, Graphic Designer, Hairdressing, Product Designer, Interior Designer, Jewellery Designer, Make-up Artist, Model Maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Production Designer, Prop Maker, Street Artist, Stylist, Textile Designer, Set Designer, Software Designer.

What do our students say?

"Art allows me to express myself! I have really enjoyed all the units we have covered. Taking Art GCSE has allowed me to develop skills I never would have done by myself." - Kaylee Eddy (Y11)

"Art is a subject which is enjoyable regardless of your ability level. You gain really useful skills and it is a creative break from many of my other subjects, I find it very rewarding." - Samantha Todd (Y11)

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed on how well they have met the 4 assessment objectives which each contribute 25%.

AO1: Developing Ideas AO2: Designing, refining, experimenting and testing AO3: Recording AO4: Final Pieces of Work.

GCSE Art Textiles

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: Textile Design

Head of Faculty: Mr A Moulding

Subject Specialist: Mrs A Barter





Why study Art Textiles?

During the course you will have an opportunity to learn new and exciting Textile skills exploring current Fashion, Textile and Art trends. This vibrant and dynamic course will provide you with many transferable skills including those of project management, research skills, analysis of artists and designers work, explore the design process producing completed Textile products.

You will have the opportunity to express yourself and think outside the box. It is one of the few GCSE subjects left with a large amount of practical coursework contributing towards the final grade which suits most learners.

What will I study in Art Textiles?

You will experience a very wide range of techniques and media. At GCSE, students will explore paint, collage and drawing media, photography and digital processing. This will include the dye sublimation process, hand and machine embroidery, weaving, knitting, felting, fabric dyeing processes and garment construction.

The course is made up of two Components – Component One is the coursework which accounts for 60% of the total GCSE Level. Component Two is the externally set exam assignment worth the remaining 40%.

What can I do with Art Textiles?

Most students who want to follow a pathway into an Art or Textile related career continue with A Level or College based courses which then lead to degree or other higher education study options. All of the following are career options as a result of the study of Textile Design:

Art Therapist, Book Illustrator, Cake Decorator, Ceramics Designer, Costume Designer, Clothing and Colour Technologist, Digital Imaging, Fashion Buyer, Fashion Designer, Film Producer, Florist, Graphic Designer, Hairdressing, Interior Design, Jewellery Designer, Make-up Artist, Merchandiser, Model Maker, Photographer, Printmaker, Production Designer, Prop Maker, Street Artist, Stylist, Surface Pattern Designer Textile Designer, Set Designer.

What do our students say?

"Textile Design is my favourite subject. I love learning new techniques every lesson and improving my skills"

"A perfect mix of hard work and pleasing results!"

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed on how well they have met the 4 assessment objectives which each contribute 25% to your GCSE. AO1: Developing Ideas AO2: Designing, refining, experimenting and testing AO3: Recording AO4: Final Pieces of Work.

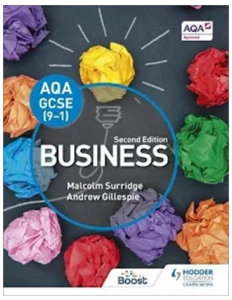
All work is assessed by your teachers, including the examination unit, and then moderated by an external examiner.

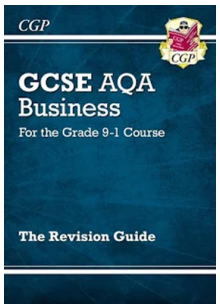
GCSE Business Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8132

Head of Faculty: Mrs L Berry





Why study Business Studies?

GCSE Business Studies is a dynamic subject that allows for students to develop terminology alongside real life examples from the Business world. The course covers a wide range of important Business areas such as Finance and Operations, providing you with an understanding of the workings of businesses. Throughout the two year course you will analyse a variety of scenarios which are relevant and applicable to situations that occur in the business world.

What will I study in Business Studies?

Within GCSE Business you study six units over two years. These units allow for a broad understanding of the subject and importantly allow students to see the variety of business sectors that are available to them. These units consist of:

1) Business in the real world
2) Influences on Business
3) Business Operations
4) Human Resources
5) Marketing
6) Finance

What can I do with Business Studies?

By taking GCSE Business you open a variety of opportunities. In an average company there are up to fifteen different business-related departments, that offer a selection of roles for individuals of all capabilities. Due to the versatility of the subject if you are unsure what you would like to do as a career or in the future, by choosing GCSE Business you allow for a wide scope of jobs to become available to you due to the range of skills you attain within this course.

What do our students say?

"Business is one of my favourite subjects due to the level of discussions and interactions we have in classes, allowing us to state our opinions on different matters" – Euan Year 10

"I enjoy that in Business I can learn new content and apply it to the real world through items I see on the News"- Jacob Year 10

How will I be assessed?

You will complete two, 1hr 45 minute exam papers at the end of Year 11. The content for Paper 1 will be studied in Year 10 and the content for Paper 2 in Year 11. These consist of a wide range of different types of exam questions.

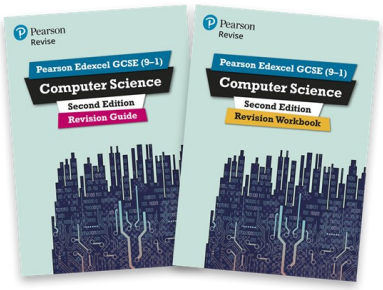
GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification:

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Lewis

Subject Specialist: Mr J Rawson



Why study Computer Science?

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. Students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. Since computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science.

In Computer Science you will develop the ability to see a problem and understand how to deal with this effectively, therefore possessing a good problem-solving attitude will help massively in this subject. You will understand the basics of all things computing and develop this understanding going forward.

What will I study in Computer Science?

The theory topics will cover the basics of everything surrounding computers.

Theory: Abstraction, decomposition, algorithms, data representation, hardware, software, binary, data storage, network security, cyber security, networks, environmental, ethical and legal impacts.

The programming topics will allow you to get an understanding to how programs are built and allow you to develop your own skills to create your own programs.

Programming: Developing code, constructs (sequence, selection, iteration etc), data types, input, output, operators, structures and subprograms.

What can I do with Computer Science?

There is a multitude of job opportunities surrounding computers these days. Most jobs incorporate computers into their day-to-day activities which means any avenue you want to go down will have some sort of computing aspect that will suit you. You might want to simply be a computer programmer and develop software or go down the cyber security route and become an ethical hacker. The main benefit of computer science is we cover a range of topics which means after you finish this course you can choose to specialise in the topic you enjoyed the most during your time with us.

What do our students say?

'Studying computing at Eaton Bank has improved my knowledge of how computers work'

'I have enjoyed the coding that we do as part of the course. I feel I have learned a new skill that will help me to get a better job'

How will I be assessed?

You will sit one theory exam that will last two hours and is to be done on paper. (50%) You will then complete a two hour programming exam assessed on the computers using an Integrated Development Environment (IDE). (50%)

Creative Media Production (BTEC)

Exam Board: Pearson

Specification: 603/7053/1

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Lewis

Subject Specialist: Miss S Rushton

Why study Creative Media Production?

The average consumer spends approximately 474 minutes a day using digital media. In a world shaped by media, this subject will allow you to better understand the culture behind a range of media platforms, as well as the impact and the relationship media has on us.

Not only will your studies further your understanding of the digital world we live in, but you will also develop academic and practical skills that are highly desirable within the modern workplace. This will include a range of media skills that are applicable to different forms of media production, both written and visual. This is a practical based subject that is highly relevant to the modern world that we live in.

What will I study in Creative Media Production?

There are three components:

Component 1: Exploring Media Products

Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production Skills

Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief

The components are interlinked and will build upon one another to enable students to have a greater understanding of the Media Sector as a whole.

What can I do with Creative Media Production

This is a career focused subject that supports excellently compliments other subjects. This subject not only gives you a comprehensive understanding of the digital world, but also prepares you for media focused careers such as: film and TV, radio, social media, copywriting, PR, advertising, and research sectors.

This course could then lead on to you studying either A-Level Media Studies or a BTEC Level 3 in Creative Media. In turn this provides you with an excellent background if you are considering a career linked to Media in the future. The skills that you will develop are also highly transferable.

How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed differently to most GCSE subjects. Rather than completing final exams at the end of Year 11, you will complete ongoing projects.

The first two of these are assessed internally and then moderated externally, whilst the third is externally assessed. All of these focus on applying the knowledge, skills and practices developed throughout the course.

There is also some opportunity to retake earlier components to improve marks.

GCSE Dance

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8268

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Sheard

Subject Specialist: Mrs V Sheard



Why study Dance?

Pupils study GCSE Dance because they want to pursue a career in performing arts, because they value creativity, due to the practical nature of the course, because it is 40% final written exam and the rest is practical work assessed throughout year 11 and most importantly, because they enjoy it. Dance makes a clear contribution to the education of all students, in that it uses movement as its mode of expression and communication; engages the physical, emotional and intellectual dimensions of the human being in artistic and aesthetic experiences. The course seeks to promote knowledge, skill and understanding of dance through performance, composition and appreciation of each candidate's own work and those of others, including peers and professionals.

What will I study in Dance?

Component 1: Performance & Choreography

Performance (30%): Set phrases through a solo performance (1 minute) & Duet / trio performance (3 ½ minutes)

Choreography (30%): Solo or group choreography (2 – 3 ½ minutes)

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

Written exam: 80 marks (1 hour 30 minutes), 40% of total marks

This includes knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills. Critical appreciation of own and professional works.

What can I do with Dance

GCSE Dance can aid your development as an individual, it does not have to just be taken because you wish to pursue a career in performing arts. GCSE Dance helps to build confidence, allows you to stand up in front of people and develops teamwork. GCSE Dance prepares you for any career in performing arts such as performer, director, choreographer, teacher, therapist, community worker, cruise ship or theatre worker, youth worker, dance photographer, costume/set designer, dance journalist, lecturer. There are so many opportunities!

What do our students say?

"I took GCSE Dance because dance has always been something I have been passionate about, that I've enjoyed and is something I have wanted to stick at and will continue to stick at and it's boosted my confidence loads."

"The reason I chose GCSE dance as one of my options was because I felt like it was a great way to express myself and help with mental health, connect with people that you might not have done before and the support is amazing."

How will I be assessed?

Two practical examination days, one in October of Year 11 (performance) and one in March of Year 11 (choreography). 1hr 30 minute written exam at the end of year 11.

Digital IT (BTEC)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: 603/7050/6

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Lewis

Subject Specialist: Mr M Mills



Why study Digital IT?

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 90,000 jobs advertised per week. This course is ideal if you want to move away from just "using" computers to understanding how they are used in the business world. Unlike Computer Science, which focuses on coding, Digital IT focuses on the practical application of technology. You will develop sector-specific skills such as project planning, designing user interfaces, and manipulating data to make business decisions. It is a modern qualification where you will learn not just technical skills, but the professional working practices required in the industry today.

What will I study in Digital IT?

The course is split into three key components:

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles: You will learn how to manage a project and design effective user interfaces (apps and websites) that meet specific audience needs, including accessibility for those with disabilities.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data: You will discover how organisations use data to make decisions. You will learn to use spreadsheet software to create "Dashboards" that present data clearly using charts and graphs.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices: You will explore how modern organisations operate, including cyber security, cloud computing, and the legal and ethical issues involved in digital systems.

What can I do with Digital IT?

This qualification provides a strong foundation for a wide range of pathways. If you achieve at Level 2, you can progress to:

- A Levels in preparation for university.
- Vocational Qualifications at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT.
- Apprenticeships in the digital sector.

Potential careers include IT Project Management, Technical Support, Digital Marketing, and Data Analysis. The project planning and data skills you develop are also highly transferable to other subjects and careers outside of IT.

How will I be assessed?

- **Component 1:** Internal Assessment (Pearson-set Assignment) – **30% of grade**.
- **Component 2:** Internal Assessment (Pearson-set Assignment) – **30% of grade**.
- **Component 3:** External Exam (1 hour 30 minutes) – **40% of grade**.

You will have the opportunity to resit the external exam once, and you can resubmit internal evidence to improve your grade.

GCSE Drama

Exam Board: Edexcel

Specification: 1DR0

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Sheard

Subject Specialist: Miss V Porter



Why study Drama?

Drama GCSE will give you the opportunity to develop practical skills for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings. You will also develop an understanding of dramatic forms and the context in which they are used, greater understanding of drama and its social, cultural and historical context, as well as 21st century theatre practice.

What will I study in Drama?

Component 1: Devising (40%)

In groups, you will have to create an original piece of theatre for a live audience. You will work as a playwright, director, designer and actor during the process. You will then have to write a portfolio, analysing and evaluating the creating and developing process.

Component 2: Performance from Text (20%)

You will perform two extracts, one in a group and one as a monologue / duologue to a live audience.

Component 3: Written Paper, Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)

The written paper involves a section on 'A: Bringing Texts to Life' and a section on 'B: Live Theatre Evaluation'. Section A gets you to answer questions from the perspective of an actor, director and designer. Section B sees you evaluate a live theatre performance that you have seen.

What can I do with Drama?

Drama helps you to develop your capacity for creative thinking. Training your brain not to think in boring straight lines can bring plenty of positive results which have benefits beyond the acting space. Drama is about developing you as a person and helping to give you skills and techniques, which will benefit you, in whatever career you choose. The skills of presentation and communication are relevant to almost all careers, whilst drama also builds self-esteem and confidence. Teamwork is at the centre of everything we do in drama, encouraging you to be reliable, organised, tactful and always welcoming of other opinions. You also gain and understanding of important aspects of psychology.

What do our students say?

'Drama allows you to explore your inner creativity whilst also creating an interactive community of pupils with similar interests' Constance Ward (Year 11)

'Drama enables me to experience a range of things. It opens doors to joy and friendships I've never felt before. I love Drama!' Kaylee Eddy (Year 11)

How will I be assessed?

Components 1 & 2 are practical assessments, whilst component 3 is an external written paper at the end of Year 11. Component 1 will be internally assessed and externally moderated, component 2 will be externally assessed.

GCSE Food & Nutrition

Exam Board: Eduqas

Specification: 601/8093/6

Head of Faculty: Mr A Moulding

Subject Specialist: Mrs L Neil



Why study Food & Nutrition?

This course will give you essential life skills for now and later. GCSE Food and Nutrition give you an understanding about diet, health and food related issues, which will support positive decision making and healthy lifestyles in the future. Working with food will develop skills in organisation, creativity and scientific skills, which can then be used in a wide range of fields in the future.

What will I study in Food & Nutrition?

In year 10 you will student a broad range of topics which cover nutrition, diet & good health, food commodities, food provenance and the science of food. Your lessons will comprise of a combination of theory and practical lessons.

You will cook each week to develop your practical skills so that you can prepare a range of complex and high skill dishes. Consequently, you need to commit to bringing in ingredients to develop practical skills. You will learn how to carry out food investigations and write reports. This course has a significant science knowledge base.

In year 11 lessons, you will complete a science based investigation in the Autumn term and a Food Preparation project in the Spring term making up 50% of the final assessment. Good IT skills are needed for the NEA component.

What can I do with Food & Nutrition?

This course is valuable and relevant because it develops important skills that you will use every day through your whole life. There are a very wide range of career options related to Food. For example, the hospitality industry is a significant employment sector, and you can study Catering at college or take an apprenticeship. Nutrition related careers such as dietetics and community roles usually require A levels in science subjects.

What do our students say?

"I like the practicality of Food & Nutrition and how it gives you important skills that you can use later in life. The practical lessons in particular are really enjoyable."

"Food & Nutrition teaches you lots of really good skills that can be used in everyday life and it also teaches you about the importance of time management."

How will I be assessed?

50% on a written exam paper of 1 hr 45 mins. This includes a range of short response and essay questions.

50% on two pieces of coursework completed in Year 11. This splits as follows: 15% on Scientific Investigation + 35% Food Preparation Assessment. Coursework is marked by your teacher and externally moderated.

GCSE Music

Exam Board: Eduqas

Specification: 601/8131/X

Head of Faculty: Mrs V Sheard

Subject Specialist: Mrs C Travis



Why study Music?

Music compliments many other subjects within the curriculum and is a combination of the creative and academic. Music is a highly regard subject at GCSE: Employers and universities see it as a subject that fosters a number of transferable and life-long skills: teamwork and communication, self-motivation, discipline, and creative thinking to name but a few. Music will challenge you to think creatively, build empathy and understanding of cultures and traditions of past and present and will encourage you to develop your perception and analysis skills. There is evidence that learning an instrument or singing can change the neurophysiology of the brain. In short, music makes you smarter!

What will I study in Music?

Performance (30%)

Students are required to perform a minimum of two pieces. At least one must be as part of an ensemble performance lasting at least one minute. (Standard level – grade 3)

Composition (30%)

Students must submit two compositions with a total playing time of between 3-6 minutes. One from a set brief and one free choice.

Listening Paper (40%)

This includes; Western Classical Traditions & Musical Devices, Music for Ensemble (chamber, musical theatre, Jazz), Film Music & Popular Music.

What can I do with Music?

The subject at GCSE is academically rigorous. It is a facilitating subject that helps your presentation skills, your ability to analyse and communicate and increases your confidence. Being able to perform musically will set you up for your future career and not just a career in music!

What do our students say?

"GCSE Music is really great. It means you can express your love for the subject by listening, playing or creating music. The course is so varied you can have the opportunity to make a song and listen to all different genres of music."

"I love every part of GCSE Music. The performance work is great fun. I didn't know much theory previously or how to compose but the teachers are so helpful and I have learnt lots. They make it so much fun."

How will I be assessed?

Performances are recorded and compositions are exported as audio files with an annotation or score. Both are internally marked and externally standardised. The listening exam paper is 1hr 15 mins and takes place at the end of Year 11.

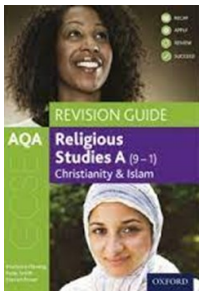
GCSE Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

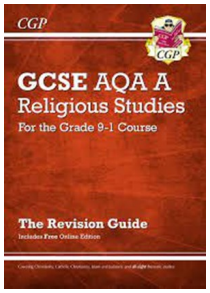
Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8062/MA AQA A

Head of Faculty: Mrs A Wright

Subject Specialist: Miss B Callister





Why study PRE?

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is a dynamic and evolving subject that has real world applications. The course covers a wide range of issues that reflects some of the big philosophical discussions in the world today and involves the study of the important moral issues facing modern society. You will be supported to explore, address and challenge these issues through serious consideration and analysis of a variety of viewpoints, in an open-minded environment, fuelled by mutual respect and tolerance. As well as understanding a wealth of differing viewpoints, you will be supported to articulate your own perspectives on the issues we cover. The study of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is excellent preparation for life in a multi-cultural and diverse global society, developing you as global citizens, regardless of faith or ethical standpoints.

What will I study in PRE?

Paper 1: Christianity & Islam

You will learn about the foundations of two major world religions: Christianity and Islam. This will include the diversity of beliefs, how this impacts an individual's behaviour, practices and attitudes and their influence on society today.

Paper 2: Philosophy & Ethics

You will study four themes: Theme B: Religion and Life, Theme C: God and Revelation, Theme D: Peace and Conflict and Theme E: Crime and Punishment.

What can I do with PRE?

Nobody is expecting you to become a priest just because you have studied PRE! The skills you will gain such as the ability to analyse and evaluate, articulate your opinions, debate and discuss viewpoints and be compassionate, respectful and tolerant, are ones that are useful in a wide range of career choices. This is a highly valued qualification, particularly for careers involving working with people and communities. The subject prepares you for the wider world of work or further education in a wide variety of disciplines, and leads to studying this, Psychology or Sociology at A-Level.

What do our students say?

"For me, religious studies is a subject where the environment is very supportive, so you feel comfortable contributing to lessons without being afraid! It's also so interesting as there is always something new to learn about!"

"RE is a warm, welcoming, friendly environment for everyone to learn. The subject is different to other subjects in the right ways, teaching you things about the world and cultures you may not even know existed."

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two, 1 hour 45 minute exam papers at the end of Year 11, each consisting of 20 questions. These questions are a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answers and essays.

Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8582

Head of Faculty: Mr M McDonald





Why study Physical Education?

Our Physical Education course will appeal to you if you have a keen interest in sport & physical activity and always look forward to your PE lessons. If you take part in sport outside of school, this course will help to improve your performance and studying PE will develop your knowledge and understanding of sport through a combination of practical and theory lessons. This course is ideal for you if you are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/higher education course linked in any way to sport or physical activity.

What will I study in GCSE PE?

Paper 1: The Human Body and Movement

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Physical Training

Paper 2: Socio-Cultural Influences and Well-being

- Sports Psychology
- Socio-cultural Influences

Note: You will still have three lessons per fortnight of Core PE in Year 10, regardless of whether or not you do GCSE PE. In Year 11 that reduces to two hours of Core PE per fortnight.

What can I do with Physical Education?

Physical Education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries. This could include anything from a sports coach to a physiotherapist to a nutritionist to a PE teacher! Whilst studying PE you will learn about keeping fit and healthy as well as the systems within the body that are used and developed when exercising. Through studying PE you will also learn about the socio-cultural factors affecting sport as well as sports psychology.

What do our students say?

"PE is my favourite subject, I really like the amount of depth we go into in theory lessons."

"We don't just focus on practical PE, we learn about how the body works during exercise, it is really interesting."

How will I be assessed?

GCSE PE is assessed through 2 x 1hr 15 minute exam papers (30% of course each) and externally moderated practical assignments (40% of the course). CNAT PE is assessed through a combination of assignments, exams and practicals.

GCSE Triple Science

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8461 Biology, 8462 Chemistry, 8463 Physics

Head of Faculty: Mrs L Carter







Why study Triple Science?

Triple Science is a fantastic route for students who really love science! This is because it allows you to study the topics in much greater depth and develop your scientific skills. Some students study Triple Science because they wish to pursue a career in a scientific field, whilst others simply really enjoy the subject. You don't have to study Triple Science if you want to study Science at A-Level.

What will I study in Triple Science?

Students will cover all of the content covered in Combined Science, but these topics will be covered in greater detail.

Biology Paper 1: Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics

Biology Paper 2: Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution, Ecology

Chemistry Paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table, Bonding, structure, the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes

Chemistry Paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Chemical Analysis, Using resources

Physics Paper 1: Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter, Atomic structure

Physics Paper 2: Forces, Waves, Magnetism and electromagnetism

What can I do with Triple Science?

Science is a subject that develops a wide range of skills, including, practical work, problem solving, mathematical skills, teamwork, literacy, independent thinking and many more. All of these are easily transferable to a number of different careers, such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science, Engineering, Environmental Science and many more careers that may not involve that much Science!

What do our students say?

"Studying Triple Science means I get to do a lot more Science lessons, which is great because I love learning about many different and interesting topics"

"Science lessons really help us to understand how things work and how new discoveries are made"

How will I be assessed?

There will be **two** exams **per subject,** so six exams in total. Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

You will be awarded **3 GCSE grades**; 1 for Biology, 1 for Chemistry and 1 for Physics.

Useful Activities

Options Evening Questions

What do I want to ask and to who?	Answer




10A
(AMO & ABA)
– A2 Thu Wk1, P1
– A4 Wed Wk1 3
– A2 Fri Wk1, P3
– A2Thu Wk2, P4
– A2 Fri Wk2, P2
9X2
(AMO & FNI)
7Y4
7x1 Art
Wk1 Tue Period 2 (LSM-A2)
Wk2 Mon Period 4 (SRI- A2)
8Y2
(AMO)
R1 - Wed Wk1, P4
A2 - Thur Wk1, P1
A2 - Wed Wk2, P1