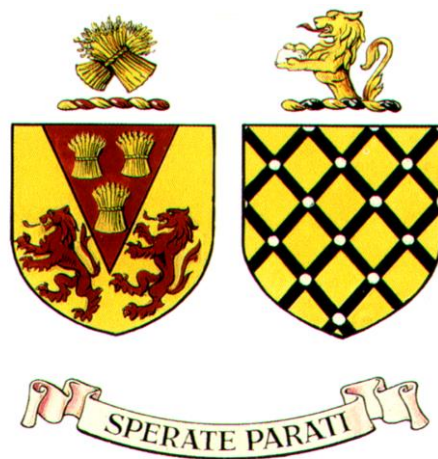
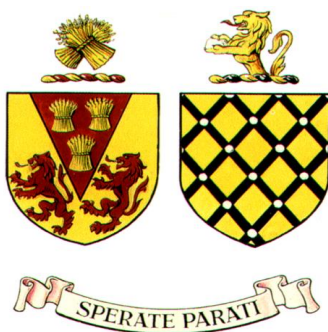


# WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



## KEY STAGE 4 BOOKLET 2017 - 2019

PLEASE SAVE, OR PRINT AND RETAIN,  
THIS BOOKLET AS A REFERENCE  
FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS



February 2017

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

At this stage in your daughter's school career, the aim of the curriculum is to give a broad-based and balanced education to each student to prepare her for the rapidly changing pace of society. In order to cope with continuous change, young people need to be flexible in their thinking and not follow an unbalanced curriculum which might restrict chances or close doors to certain aspects of life in the future.

This booklet contains details of the courses which will be available to our pupils in September 2017. The purpose of the booklet is to help you to understand the compulsory and the optional elements of the curriculum.

In September 2015 the Government began to reform GCSEs beginning with English Language and Mathematics, and all subjects will follow the new style GCSEs. The GCSEs are now

- Graded using from 1 – 9 (with 9 as the top level);
- Mainly single entry;
- Predominantly assessed by exam only.

The Year 9 Personal and Citizenship Education programme in the Spring Term includes decision making skills. Your daughter will also attend an Options Fair about GCSE courses and there will be an evening of information concerning the courses to which you have already been invited. This evening will allow parents to talk to Heads of Department about the courses outlined in this booklet.

This booklet is divided into five sections:

1. The Shape of the Curriculum
2. Guidance on Options Selection
3. Course Availability
4. The Compulsory Core Subjects
5. The Optional Subjects

Yours faithfully,

**Mrs Clare Wagner**  
**Headmistress**

# GCSE Curriculum Model

The table on the next page shows the courses that your daughter will follow.

Please note when opting for an Art and Design course you will be asked to state a preference for 2 of the 4 options. The school will then endeavour to provide one of these options.

This booklet contains outlines of all the courses on offer to Year 10 students and will be the first point of reference for any curriculum queries you may have over the next two years. It contains information from each department, some of which you will want to refer to immediately. Other particulars, such as the names of the examination boards and the assessment requirements, may be useful as your daughter progresses through Key Stage 4.

Further information regarding specifications is available on the examination board websites; all other questions should be directed to the relevant Head of Department.

# GCSE Curriculum Model

Compulsory Subjects				Optional Subjects	Compulsory Non Examination courses
Core Curriculum All students study these subjects	Science* All students will study one of these Options	Language (Choose one)	Humanity (Choose one)		
English Language	Biology Chemistry Physics	French	Geography	<b>Any <u>two</u> of the following:</b>  *Art and Design: Fine Art Graphics Photography Textiles  Classical Civilisation Computer Science Design & Technology French Geography German History Latin Music Physical Education Religious Studies Spanish  * ART ONLY – you will choose 2 options and will be allocated one	Core Religious Studies  Core Physical Education  PACE – Personal and Citizenship Education (including careers)
		German	History		
English Literature	Double Award Science	Spanish	Religious Studies		
		Latin	Classical Civilisation		
Maths	*teacher decision based on KS3 performance				

## **GUIDANCE ON OPTION SELECTION**

All girls are asked to select 4 subjects from the option section on their sheet: the two which they wish to study and two reserve choices. They may be put in order of preference but **GIRLS MUST BE PREPARED TO STUDY ANY TWO OF THEIR 4 CHOICES.**

We do encourage girls to think about a broad and balanced curriculum and advise that they consider a creative subject such as Art, Music, Design and Technology and Physical Education. However, this is NOT compulsory and there is a totally free choice for the optional subjects.

## **CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT**

In some subjects there is controlled assessment. Students have to complete their work under controlled conditions in school within timescales and designated word counts. There are strict rules about the limited help and guidance which teachers are permitted to give.

Girls are not allowed to remove their work from the classroom or save to an area on computer that can be accessed from home. This assessment comprises 25% or 60% weighting, depending on the subject.

## **COURSE AVAILABILITY**

The school will endeavour to provide all courses mentioned in this booklet. However, it is impossible to foresee the demand for specific courses in any year until after the options selection has been made. Therefore, the school cannot guarantee that all of these courses will in fact operate in the academic years 2017-2019.

From time to time, option selections result in only a very few girls requesting a specific course. For economic, staffing and time-tabling reasons such courses are not viable and might be withdrawn.

# ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

This is an interesting and enriching course, at the end of which students will possess two separate GCSEs: English Language and English Literature. There is no coursework and a large proportion of unseen material in the exam. Reading widely is essential for your success.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes: 50%

Section A: Reading

- **one** literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Written exam: 1 hour 45: 50%

Section A: Reading

- **one** non-fiction text and **one** literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

### Non-examined Speaking & Listening

Set and marked by teacher throughout course

- Separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)
- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes: 40%

Section A Shakespeare: students answer **one** question on **one** of the set plays.

This will require writing in detail about an extract and then writing about the play as a whole.

### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes: 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.

## Examination Board

AQA

## Further Information:

Miss L Sutherland, Head of English (on Maternity Leave)  
Mr C Bevan, Head of English (Acting)

# MATHEMATICS

## Mathematics

GCSE Mathematics has changed and the new GCSE course is more demanding. The subject content has increased significantly.

- The demand of that content is increasing too, with harder topics being introduced. This is true for both Foundation Tier students and Higher Tier students.
- The total time for the examinations is increasing, from 3½ hours to 4½ hours. All examinations will be taken at the end of the course.
- There are fewer marks at the lower grades and more marks at the higher grades at both Foundation Tier and Higher Tier.
- In the assessments there's a greater emphasis on problem solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks now being allocated to these higher-order skills.
- Students will be required to memorise formulae – fewer formulae will be provided in examinations.

These changes are designed to help students emerge from GCSE Maths with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

## Mathematics

At WGGGS, the girls will be put into 7 or 8 different ability sets for Year 10 based on teacher assessment and on their performance in an examination at the end of Year 9. The majority of the year group will be entered for the Higher Tier enabling them to achieve a final grade from Grade 9 down to Grade 4. A number of girls will be entered for the Foundation Tier where the available grades are from Grade 5 down to Grade 1. Grades 4 and 5 are the overlap grades between Foundation and Higher tiers, so common questions targeted at these grades will appear in the respective papers for each tier.

The decision on Tier of Entry will be made by the Department at the end of Year 10 to allow sufficient time for preparation for the GCSE.

The Mathematics examination will now comprise three 1 hour 30 min papers; one taken without a calculator and the other two with a calculator.

## GCSE Mathematics and the Sixth Form

Girls who wish to study Mathematics in the Sixth Form will need to obtain at least a Grade 7 at GCSE and those girls who wish to study Further Mathematics in the Sixth Form must achieve a Grade 8.

## Examination Board

Edexcel

**Further Information** : Head of Department, Mr M Broadwith

# SCIENCE

Reforms to GCSE Science:

- GCSEs in Combined Science or Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are available.
- There are core practicals for each Science subject.
- 15% of marks for each examination paper will be based on knowledge and understanding of practical skills.
- There is an increased emphasis on assessment of Mathematical skills in each subject.

## Science Curriculum:

Science GCSE courses are taught over three years, starting at the beginning of Year 9. All GCSE examinations are taken at the end of the course.

### Year 9

All students follow a common GCSE Science course in Year 9. Each class is taught the same topics during the year. All students are allocated new sets at the end of the year based on the outcome of internal assessments taken during Year 9.

### Years 10 and 11

Students will study either Combined Science or Separate Science courses depending on the set they are in. These courses are not option choices; the Science Department will determine which GCSE course is most appropriate for each student.

#### Combined Science

Students studying this course will gain two GCSE qualifications in Science.

Grades awarded for Combined Science will use a 17 point grading scale (from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1).

#### Separate Science

Students studying this course will gain three GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Biology, Chemistry, Physics GCSEs will be graded from 9 – 1.

All students study three lessons per week of Biology, Chemistry and Physics with a specialist member of staff. There will be one extra Science lesson to consolidate skills gained in each subject in Year 11.

## Examination Board:

Edexcel

## Further Information:

Dr S Macpherson

Head of Science

Mrs S Durward-Akhurst

Head of Biology

Mr S Burns and Dr E Simister

Heads of Chemistry

Mrs C Haines

Head of Physics



## PERSONAL & CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION (PACE)

Personal and Citizenship Education involves one lesson of active tutorial work per week with the Form Tutor and/or Head of Year. It is a course designed to help pupils develop the necessary skills and knowledge so that each girl:

- gains as much as possible from being part of the school community.
- becomes more equipped to take up her life as a citizen of the 21st Century.
- is able to make the most of her academic studies.

The course covers many aspects of life as a teenager and as an adult, including responsible citizenship, aspects of sex education, the law, care of the environment, consumer rights and money management. Careers Education is an increasingly important element of PACE from Year 10.

The structure of PACE means that themes can be covered when appropriate. The content of each unit may vary from year to year, but typical features include:

### 1. **Study Skills**

Essential for pupils embarking on GCSE courses: e.g. planning homework, organising study, using resources, note-taking, projects, revision and examination techniques, time management, use of the library, critical thinking skills.

### 2. **Health**

Essential factual knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases (including AIDS), contraception, drugs, alcohol, smoking, healthy living, food, diet and exercise.

### 3. **Relationships**

Discussing and examining such issues as friendships, peer group pressure, assertiveness, girl:boy and child:parent relationships, the family, rights and responsibilities, the influence of the media.

### 4. **Career Preparation**

Pupils learn how to research information for themselves by exploration of the extensive resources in the Connexions Library. These include *Kudos*, *CID*, *Career Gym*, *Key Clips* and *Fast Tomato* on computers, plus a complete range of indexed information in book or pamphlet form.

The Working World, Trade Unions, Health and Safety in the Workplace, Equal Opportunities, Responsibilities at Work and the Differences between Work and School are all discussed. Pupils are guided through their Options at 16+ with support from the school's Personal Advisor (Careers). Careers Action Plans are written.

**Further Information:**

Mrs J Smith, PACE Co-ordinator

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)**

### **Course Content**

#### **Year 10**

In Year 10 all pupils follow the Sports Leaders Level 1 Award with the option to pay for certification at the end of the course. This is a nationally recognised award scheme administered by Sports Leaders UK. The scheme is delivered through the single and double lesson per week and involves an element of theory and practical. The emphasis of the award is to develop leadership, communication and organisational skills. It is also an excellent stepping stone to the Level 2 Award – Community Sports Leadership which is run in Year 12.

Part of this course will involve teaching peers, younger pupils and pupils at local Junior Schools. Girls will receive a certificate and badge on completion of the course.

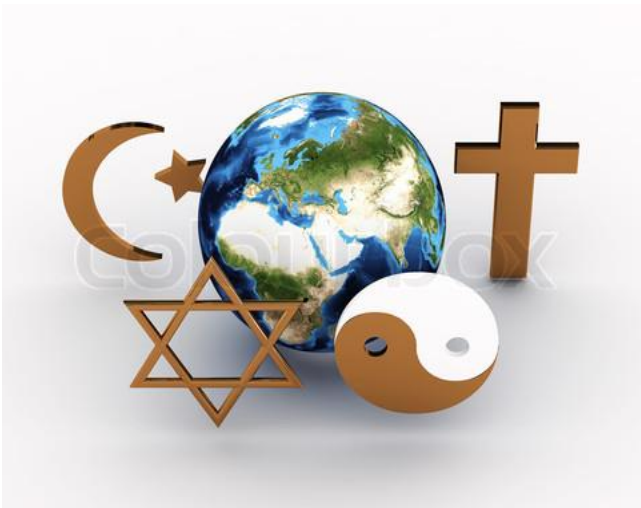
#### **Year 11**

In Year 11 all pupils follow a wide range of activities with an emphasis on participation and enjoyment. The aim also is to increase pupil awareness of activities in the local community and to create links with clubs and coaches. This is to try to increase pupil participation in sport and physical activities outside school in order to maintain a healthy active lifestyle.

#### **Other Information**

Core PE is for all pupils and is assessed throughout the course.

**Further Information:** Miss K Holes    PE Department



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES (CORE)

A single lesson each week for every pupil, RS Core involves the study of many religious traditions including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Sikhism.

In our school and communities, members of these religious groups work and live. Personal opinions should be founded on fact, not prejudice.

This course does not have an examination. **It complements and expands, rather than repeats, work done in the Religious Studies GCSE option.**

Every girl follows the Core Religious Studies Course because in everyday life we are all faced with difficult questions and issues:

Do we want Designer Babies?

Does God exist?

How can we comfort someone who is bereaved?

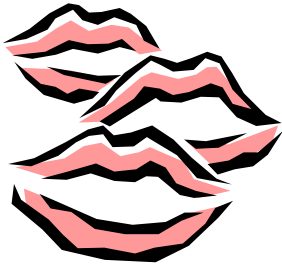
- Skills**
- gathering and selecting relevant information
  - understanding someone else's point of view
  - forming opinions and being able to support them with logical reasoning

- Techniques**
- expressing ideas orally and in writing
  - informed discussion
  - creative expression of ideas

**Course Content**

- different religious ways of life in Britain today
- religious, social and moral issues such as relationships, Human Rights, you and the law, prejudice and discrimination, marriage, family life, sexual responsibilities, bereavement, capital punishment, developments in medical ethics

**Further information:** Miss K McDougal





# Optional Subjects

# ART AND DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE PHOTOGRAPHY?

This course is an exciting opportunity for pupils to explore the world of Photography, through a wide range of creative projects. The course places a strong emphasis on pupil's personal response to topics, in a photographic medium. The GCSE will mainly concentrate on digital photography, although there will be an opportunity to explore dark room approaches. Girls will be taught Adobe Photoshop, which will allow them to confidently control and manipulate their photographs to make them appear experimental and eye-catching. Further experimentation is explored using the projector, creative lighting, the scanner, stitching, drawing skills and the light box.



## WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

Students who are experimental and willing to take risks with the way they work, alongside someone who is happy to work on the computer and learn new skills. A good understanding of composition and lighting is useful.

## WHAT THEMES AND SKILLS WILL I EXPLORE?

Projects will be based on themes such as viewpoints, movement, distortion and illusion. Girls will study the History of photography, the use of photography in graphic design and art, and analyse examples of contemporary photography. This will require concise written notes and analysis to be developed in their coursework and exam projects. The presentation of their photographs will involve consideration of layout skills. Overall pupils will be able to generate mature and skilful photographic outcomes, and will have developed strong independent working skills.



## WHAT FURTHER COURSES AND CAREERS CAN THIS LEAD TO?

Girls will be able to complement their skills further by progressing on to A level Photography, and then through exciting Degree options including Fashion Photography, Graphic Design, Creative editorial design, Illustration and Photographic Journalism.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED ?

There will be a large coursework unit from day one; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from your teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of your grade will be achieved over the two year course, which reduces last minute stress. All work will ultimately be marked by five members of the Art Department, and externally moderated by the exam board. You are marked on your ability to generate creative ideas, your willingness to experiment broadly, development of concise written evaluation on different artists and your ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

**Exam Board:** EdExcel

**Further Information:** Miss Georgiou, Mrs Sweeney

# ART AND DESIGN: GRAPHICS

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE GRAPHICS?

Graphic Design is a dynamic course, centred on developing bold designs, that convey strong and visually exciting messages to the audience. Students will work in a range of media, and will be taught new skills in printing, drawing, illustration, lettering, collage and photography. Girls will learn about the importance of combining strong messages, lettering and slogans in effective compositions, to produce really snazzy graphic artwork. Throughout the course their ideas and opinions are important to developing artwork with a clear message.



## WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

Students with strong ideas and opinions, on a range of topics; who are happy to experiment and take risks whilst working in a range of media. Commercial examples of Graphic Design include magazine covers and packaging, and pupils will be expected to interpret design approaches and messages in real examples.



## WHAT THEMES AND SKILLS WILL I EXPLORE?

Work is broken up into mini design briefs, including Banksy Protesting Creatures, Menacing Magazine concepts, Horror health packaging campaigns, Shocking dog food re-design and re-evaluating a CD cover for a contemporary band. Girls will also study the History of design and art, and analyse examples of contemporary design. Opportunities to submit design entries to public competitions, will also be explored. Pupils will develop their ability to generate forceful and original artwork which speaks to an audience, as well as refining time management, independent working approaches and skill confidence.

## WHAT FURTHER COURSES AND CAREERS CAN THIS LEAD TO ?

Graphics provides an essential foundation of knowledge and skills, especially for girls wishing to study any of the Art A levels, and it could lead to Foundation courses in Art & Design and any creative Degree including Animation, Graphic Design and Marketing, Creative Editing for publications.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED ?

There will be a large coursework unit; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from your teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of your grade will be achieved over the two year course, which reduces last minute stress. All work will ultimately be marked by five members of the Art Department, and externally moderated by the exam board. You are marked on your ability to generate creative ideas, your willingness to experiment broadly, development of concise written evaluation on different artists and your ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

**Exam Board:** EdExcel

**Further Information:** Miss Wheeler



# **ART AND DESIGN: FINE ART**

## **WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE FINE ART?**

This exciting and creative course offers opportunities to explore lots of different processes through open assignments in painting, drawing, collage, installations, ceramic work, sculpture and mixed media. Your existing skills will be developed massively, and you will be taught how to confidently paint in oils, acrylics and watercolour, print make, sculpt in clay and manipulate Textiles; enabling you to develop your ideas creatively and effectively. Work is explored within a sketchbook initially, and then larger outcomes are produced outside of this. The course is fun, varied and challenging and will really expand your current skills and mind set on traditional and contemporary art.



## **WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?**

Students who are experimental and willing to take risks with the way they work, alongside sound drawing skills and an understanding of form and accurate proportions. Pupils will need to purchase a range of drawing and painting materials throughout the two year course to support their learning. Their teacher will advise what is required.



## **WHAT THEMES AND SKILLS WILL I EXPLORE?**

Previous projects include Decadence and Decay and Squashed and Strange. Practical work will be supported and enriched by research into some of the contemporary and historical aspects of art and design aided by trips to exhibitions and galleries. Workshops are offered to support learning and inspire new ideas and artistic approaches. The two year course will develop your creative thinking skills, independent working approach and effectiveness with time management. A broad range of technical skills will be developed including painting in oils, acrylics and mixed media

## **WHAT FURTHER COURSES AND CAREERS CAN THIS LEAD TO?**

Fine Art provides an essential foundation of knowledge and skills, especially for girls wishing to study the subject at A Level. Past students have gone on to do degrees in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Computer Animation, Architecture, Costume, Theatre Design, Dentistry, Shoe design, Art History, Computer Aided Design and a whole host of humanities (most of which accept Fine Art as an A level qualification).

## **HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED ?**

There will be a large coursework unit from day one; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from your teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of your grade will be achieved over the two year course, which reduces last minute stress. All work will ultimately be marked by five members of the Art Department, and externally moderated by the exam board. You are marked on your ability to generate creative ideas, your willingness to experiment broadly, development of concise written evaluation on different artists and your ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

**Exam Board:** EdExcel

**Further Information:** Mrs Morgan, Miss Georgiou, Mrs Rock

# ART AND DESIGN: TEXTILES

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE TEXTILES?

This exciting, practical course will develop and enhance your existing skills and knowledge of traditional textiles by experimenting with new and emerging techniques in fabric, stitch and mixed media. Skills explored include, hand embroidery, batik, wet felting, needle felting, weaving, paper dyeing, monoprinting, stamp and stencil, screen printing, applique, needle felting, pattern construction, fabric manipulation, quilting, machine embroidery, plastic melting. All skills are taught within the lesson and samples are created with direction and encouragement from your teacher. It is a very exciting and creative option, with a wide range of tactile and original outcomes.



## WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

All textiles skills are taught and learnt within lesson time. You do not need a sewing machine at home, however this is useful. The course focusses on a practical approach by using personal and thought provoking themes and modern art influences. Textiles artists, designers, fashion designers and costume makers are researched to identify new and emerging techniques and methods of creating their work. An important emphasis is placed on researching themes using presentation techniques to express an understanding of colour, texture and composition. This is communicated in Research Pages within a sketchbook. Photoshoots are also an important element providing a starting point for samples and themes.



## WHAT THEMES AND SKILLS WILL I EXPLORE?

Projects throughout the course are based on topics such as Magnification, Identity and Forces. Pupils develop highly personal responses to themes and generate outcomes including altered garments, vibrant wall hangings, textile adorned objects and abstract artworks.

## WHAT FURTHER COURSES AND CAREERS CAN THIS LEAD TO ?

Art Textiles A level is a direct continuation of GCSE, which will provide you with a portfolio of work to apply to complete a Foundation Diploma in Art or a Degree within the Art and design field including Textiles and Fashion areas. Careers can include: Fashion buying, Textile fabric design, costume designing and making, fashion merchandising and journalism.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED ?

There will be a large coursework unit from day one; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from your teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of your grade will be achieved over the two year course, which reduces last minute stress. All work will ultimately be marked by five members of the Art Department, and externally moderated by the exam board. You are marked on your ability to generate creative ideas, your willingness to experiment broadly, development of concise written evaluation on different artists and your ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

**Exam Board:** EdExcel

**Further information :** Miss A Naalchigar



# **CLASSICAL CIVILISATION**

## **Why study Classical Civilisation at GCSE?**

Classical Civilisation is one of the most wide-ranging and multi-disciplinary subjects available at GCSE and suitable for ALL students. In reflecting upon the literature, history and cultures of Ancient Greece and Rome, you will develop a more reflective understanding of your own society as well as many highly transferable skills. Students can opt to study Classical Civilisation as either their Humanity or as one of their two additional subject choices.

## **What skills or knowledge do you need?**

No previous knowledge or study of the ancient world is required. You simply need an open mind and to enjoy learning and writing about literature and culture.

## **What further courses and careers can this lead to?**

Classical Civilisation is a respected course, valued by colleges and universities for the breadth of academic disciplines it incorporates. It is suitable for all manner of further study options, including journalism, creative writing and work in media and advertising. You will develop many transferable skills, such as literary analysis, evaluation and interpretation, all of which will be useful for your study of English Literature. You will also develop your research skills, skills of argumentation and your ability to write articulately. This subject will help you stand out from the crowd and demonstrate that you are an independently minded and academically curious individual.

## **What topics will you study?**

### **Component 1: Thematic Study - Myth and Religion**

You will study myths regarding the role of the gods and heroes in the founding of Athens and Rome and learn about the importance of Heracles/Hercules to both the Greek and Roman world. You will also look at the role of religion in the everyday life of the ancient Greeks and Romans by studying sacrifices, festivals and beliefs in the afterlife. This component also provides opportunity for the study of a wide variety of material remains, including temples and works of art.

### **Component 2: Literature and Culture - The Homeric World**

This section involves the study of material culture from the Mycenaean times; particular sites, archaeology and the valuable role they play in our understanding of the age. The Mycenaean Age is rich in sculpture, frescos, jewellery, tombs and treasure. You can consider what life was like for real people in this period. You will also study Homer's *Odyssey*, a fantastical and enchanting tale of Odysseus' journey home. The final books focus on the battle between Odysseus and the suitors, which are exciting and pose interesting questions about revenge and punishment.

## **How will you be assessed?**

Both components are equally weighted and will be assessed through a written examination. Each examination is worth 90 marks and lasts 1 hour and 30 minutes. Each paper will consist of short answer and extended response questions.

**Exam Board :** OCR

**Further information :** Mr. F. J. Wynne & Ms. Y. Bateson.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Why study Computer Science at GCSE?

Computer Science is relevant to the modern and changing world. It is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. It promotes computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

## What skills or knowledge do you need?

You will be taught one or more programming languages as part of the course. Any prior knowledge of programming in any language would be a distinct advantage. Interest and ability in problem solving is essential.

## What further courses and careers can this lead to?

This course will be the best preparation for learners who want to go on to study Computer Science at AS and A Level and beyond. The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

## What topics will you study?

Computer Systems - systems architecture; memory ; storage; wired and wireless networks; network topologies, protocols and layers; network security; system software; moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming - translators and facilities of languages; algorithms; high- and low-level programming; computational logic; data representation.

Programming Project - programming techniques; design; development; effectiveness and efficiency; technical understanding; testing, evaluation and conclusions.

## How will you be assessed?

Computer Systems - The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming - This component is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles.

Programming Project (non-exam assessment) - This component is the non-exam assessment where candidates will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.

**Exam Board :** OCR

**Further information :** Dr P Cosgrove or see [ocr.org.uk/gcsecomputerscience](http://ocr.org.uk/gcsecomputerscience)

# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

## Why study Design and Technology at GCSE?

*Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject.* Students will acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and learn from wider influences including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. They will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, using a variety of materials and technologies, and apply their technical and practical expertise to create products that solve real and relevant problems. They will learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens and consider their own and others' needs, wants and values. Through the evaluation of past and present Design and Technology, they will develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. Design and Technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.

## What skills or knowledge do you need?

In Key Stage 3, students are given the opportunity to develop their research, analytical, designing, evaluation and making skills to prepare them for the D&T GCSE course. Students complete project work using Resistant Materials and Textiles Technology to help them gain knowledge and understanding about the different material areas and technologies.

## What further courses and careers can this lead to?

Students have the opportunity to progress from the GCSE course to further education and a successful and rewarding career in design:

- **A-level courses** - include D&T: Fashion and Textiles, D&T: Product Design and D&T: Systems and Control Technology.
- **Degrees** (Bachelors and Masters) - include Architecture, Costume Design, Digital Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design and Special Effects.
- **Career opportunities** - include design fields such as Automotive Design, Furniture Design, Jewellery Design, Medical Design, Robotics, Set Design and Web Design.

## What topics will you study?

The three topics covered during the D&T GCSE course will include the following:

1. **Core technical principles** - includes new and emerging technologies, modern and smart materials, mechanical devices, and materials and their working properties.
2. **Specialist technical principles** - includes the selection of materials or components, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, and surface treatments and finishes.
3. **Designing and making principles** - includes the communication of design ideas, prototype development, and specialist tools and equipment.

## How will you be assessed?

Students will be assessed through completing a 2 hour written exam paper, and a design and make task both focusing on the three topics.

- **Paper 1** - Written exam will include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended response questions.
- **Non-exam assessment (NEA)** - A substantial design and make task. Students will produce a prototype and portfolio, which must take no more than 30–35 hours to complete.

Both assessments are worth 100 marks and 50% of the final GCSE.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Further information:** Mr A Cattini

# GEOGRAPHY

## Why Geography GCSE?

*“Geography is important because understanding our planet, its people, and its processes, will enable us to preserve and protect it for future generations. What is more important than that?”*

The world we live in is likely to change more in the next 50 years, than it ever has done before – the population will grow, the climate will warm and technology will rapidly advance. Geography helps explain why, how and what we can possibly do when faced with these challenges.



## What skills or knowledge do you need?

You will enjoy Geography if you like to question and understand how things work, solve problems and explore new environments. Over the two years, you will build on the knowledge you gained in Years 7-9. The materials used will deepen your understanding of the world around you, as we look at case studies both in the UK and abroad. The content will be studied in a way that allows you to discuss and analyse real life issues. Also, you will have the opportunity to develop your investigative, map and graph skills through fieldwork, decision-making and resource-based activities. Such skills help you think creatively and many are transferrable to other subjects and future careers, making geography an asset in your options block.

## What further courses and careers can this lead to?

Subjects that work well with Geography include: History, as it uses many similar skills; English language, as you take written exams; Maths, which you use when carrying out fieldwork; the Sciences, particularly Biology which links well to the study of ecosystems.

Finally, choosing Geography now will keep your door open for options at A-level, as it works well not only with the subjects above, but also: Stats, Economics and Politics. If you went on to study Geography at degree level, you might find that you are highly sought after when looking for employment, as Geography has one of the best graduate employment records in the country! Many careers are in business management, finance, law, government, marketing and conservation to name but a few.

## What topics will you study?

You will be studying the Eduqas GCSE (9-1) Geography A Specification, which is made up of 3 components:

**Component 1** – covering rivers and coasts; population and global cities.

**Component 2** – climate change, weather and ecosystems; global inequalities and development .

**Component 3** – applied fieldwork, where you will undertake 2 fieldwork enquiries in a residential setting over the course of 3 days, the cost will be approximately £150.

## How will you be assessed?

You will have 3 written exams that all last 1 hour and 30 minutes. This will assess your knowledge and understanding of the above topics. For more information on the specification go to:

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-a/>

**Exam Board** : Eduqas

**Further information:** Miss Fish, Head of Geography



## HISTORY

### Why study history at GCSE?

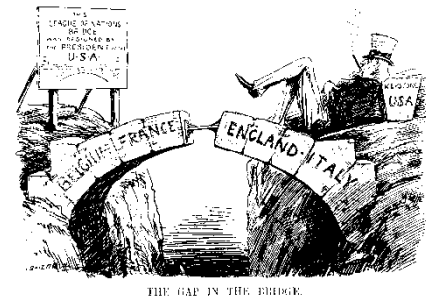
- **Because** History is a subject which increases our understanding of people, their motives, ideas and behaviour.
- **Because** our lessons are varied and interesting. Knowledge and skills are developed in a variety of ways: discussions, group work, role-play, source based investigations and extended writing.
- **Because** you are interested in asking a lot of questions and have an enquiring mind.



### What skills or knowledge do you need?

**Studying History** develops important skills for life:

- ✓ The ability to **research** from a variety of sources
- ✓ **Evaluating** the reliability and usefulness of evidence
- ✓ Thinking **analytically** and making balanced decisions
- ✓ **Communicating** knowledge effectively
- ✓ Developing, discussing and defending **opinions**
- ✓ **Listening** to the point of views of others
- ✓ **Understanding** people



### What further courses and careers can this lead to?

History is **highly regarded** by **universities** and **employers** because the skills above are perfect for academic studies and the world of work.

Studying History helps prepare you well for further study and for careers in areas such as law, journalism, politics, management and, of course, teaching, research and museum work.

### What topics will you study?

The topics we cover are;

- ✓ **Period study-** Conflict and tension 1918-1939
- ✓ **Wider world depth study-** Germany 1890-1945; Rise of Hitler and the Nazis
- ✓ **A thematic study-** Britain: health and the people c.1000 to the present day
- ✓ **A British depth study-** Elizabethan England c1568-1603. This will include a study of **the historic environment** which involves examining a historical site (hopefully visiting it on a trip!) and answering a question on it in one of the exams.

### How will you be assessed?

- ⇒ Written exams, consisting of questions based around factual recall, explanation and use of source skills such as usefulness, purpose etc. There will be no coursework.

### Exam Board

AQA, link to specification details;

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

### Further Information

Speak to your History teacher or Mr Thompson, Head of History & Politics.

## **LATIN**

### **Why study Latin at GCSE?**

Latin is the foundation of academic endeavour. The GCSE course will introduce you to some of the nuances and complexities of the language and develop your ability to translate with sophistication and fluency. In addition, you will study some of the truly great works of Roman literature in the original language; a unique opportunity that will both intellectually empower and delight you. If you would like to sharpen your analytical skills and enrich your appreciation of humanity, then this is the subject for you.

### **What skills or knowledge do you need?**

All linguistic content covered in KS3 Latin is directly relevant to the GCSE course and therefore you must have studied the subject in Years 8-9.

### **What further courses and careers can this lead to?**

Latin is highly respected by universities, demonstrated by its inclusion as a 'facilitating subject' by the Russell Group. It is suitable for all manner of further study options, including medicine, law and finance, because it equips you with a broad range of transferable skills. Latinists stand out as highly analytical individuals with a keen eye for detail and the ability to write fluently. Opting to study Latin will immediately demonstrate to admissions officers and employers that you are an intellectually curious person who is unafraid of challenge.

### **What topics will you study?**

You have already met most of the Latin grammar necessary for the course in Years 8 and 9. Our focus in Year 10 will therefore be on syntax (how to form complex sentences) and revising the grammar that is already familiar to you. We will continue to use the 'Cambridge Latin Course' (Books III and IV) and read about Quintus' exciting adventures in Britain. In Year 11, you will put your linguistic skills to the test by studying extracts of authentic Latin written over two thousand years ago! You will develop skills of literary analysis and be able to comment meaningfully on the way a piece of poetry or prose has been written. The content of our set texts will give you great insight into Roman culture and is sure to leave a lasting impression on you.

### **How will you be assessed?**

We will study the OCR syllabus. The assessment consists of three written examinations, taken at the end of Year 11:

1. **Latin Language:** You will be required to answer comprehension questions and translate an unseen passage of Latin. This exam is worth 50% of the qualification.
2. **Latin Prose Literature:** You will be required to answer questions focusing on literary style and characterisation in our prose set text. This unit is worth 25%.
3. **Latin Verse Literature:** You will be required to answer questions focusing on literary style and characterisation in our verse set text. This unit is worth 25%.

**Exam Board :** OCR

**Further information:** Mr. F. J. Wynne

## MODERN LANGUAGES



### **Why study Modern Languages at GCSE?**

A foreign language at GCSE shows a real breadth of knowledge and develops skills of communication and critical thinking, which are readily transferable and highly sought-after in further education and employment. You will develop a wide set of skills, including, but not limited to:

- presenting written and spoken ideas
- communicating, developing, justifying points of view

### **What skills or knowledge do I need?**

You will need to have studied the Language at KS3 to be able to take it at GCSE. For example, if you started with German in Year 7 and then started Spanish in Year 8, you could do German, Spanish or both.

### **What further courses and careers can this lead to?**

After completing a GCSE in Languages, you can continue to study it at A level, where you learn more about countries that speak the language - about culture, history, art and literature.

As well as traditional language-based careers such as interpreting, translating and teaching, languages open up careers in international companies or anywhere in the world... Airbus Group, Médecins sans Frontières, Deutsche Bank, Bayer, Zara, SEAT, L'Oréal...

### **What topics will I study?**

Theme 1: Identity and culture (me and my friends, activities, technology, customs and festivals)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global issues (home, environment, travel, tourism, poverty, marriage)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are exams in all four skill areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing at the end of the course in Year 11. There is **no** coursework or controlled assessment element, though you will have plenty of opportunity to practise before the real thing!

Exam Board : AQA

**Further information :** Miss K Clark



# MUSIC



## Why study Music GCSE?

Music is an integral part of each and every person's life. In addition to the sheer joy of music there are so many additional benefits: it improves reading and verbal skills, strengthens the motor cortex, improves working memory, helps manage anxiety, and enhances self-confidence, self-esteem, social and personal skills. It encourages creativity, discipline, patience, flexibility, understanding, teamwork and the ability to maintain concentration and really listen. These skills are vital in a multitude of potential careers including maths, gaming, engineering, architecture and working with computers. It is fair to say that young musicians can succeed in any field they decide to pursue.

## What skills or knowledge do you need?

GCSE Music builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at Key Stage 3. You will form a meaningful relationship with music through the development of musical knowledge, composition and performance. If you enjoy attending choirs, orchestras and bands then GCSE Music could be for you. You need to be at least grade 3 standard on your instrument or voice when you begin this course. Please discuss this with both your music and instrumental teacher if you are unsure.

## What further courses and careers can this lead to?

Music GCSE gives a solid grounding for any subjects you may wish to do in the sixth form and many different careers (see above)

## Qualification at a glance

Performing	30%	two performances	One solo and one ensemble
Composing	30%	two compositions	One free composition One set to a brief
Written Examination	40%	Eight set works	Instrumental music Vocal music Music for stage and screen Fusions

## How will you be assessed?

We will be studying Edexcel GCSE Music.

Performances must be at least one minute in duration and a total of four minutes for both pieces.

Compositions will be completed under controlled conditions in school. Each composition must be at least one minute in duration and both compositions should be no less than three minutes.

There will be a written examination assessing the knowledge of set works as well as questions on unfamiliar music.

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Further information:** Miss J Bridges



# GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION



## Why study PE at GCSE ?

If you enjoy participating in sport and PE in lessons and in your own time then this is a good subject to choose. You will get the opportunity to learn and participate in a range of sporting activities. You will be assessed in a range of individual and team sports. You will also learn a range of theoretical concepts linked to sport; Anatomy and Physiology, Psychology and Sociological factors that influence performance and participation.

## What skills or knowledge do you need?

It is advantageous to have participated in a range of sports and have competed at school level or above. You will be expected to attend regular training in the sports you are being assessed in. You will need to have an interest in sport.

## What further courses and careers can this lead to ?

A Level Physical Education, Biology, Social Sciences.

Careers in Sports science, journalism, teaching and coaching, physiotherapy, PR and Marketing, nutritionist, fitness industry.

## What topics will you study?

- Anatomy and Physiology: Body Systems and energy systems,
- Psychological factors which affect sporting performance
- The sociology of sport
- Analysing movement
- Health and wellbeing
- Fitness and training

## 5. How will you be assessed ?

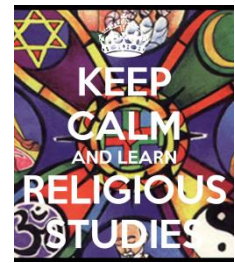
The course is split 40% practical assessment and 60% theory assessment. The practical assessment is made up of 3 practical sporting areas which you will be assessed in. The theory assessment consists of 2 exams which are 1hr 15 minutes long each. The paper is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended questions.

There will also be a short piece of coursework which involves analysing the performance of yourself or others in a specified sport.

**Exam Board : AQA**

**Further information : Miss K Holes**

# GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



## Why study Religious Studies at GCSE ?

- The world is becoming increasingly complex. Every day we are faced with difficult questions and issues. Religious Studies helps us answer such problems
- It encourages an understanding of ourselves.
- It gives us an understanding of the world.
- It shows how important religion is in shaping our lives and the society in which we live.
- It fosters understanding and tolerance of different faiths.
- The skills that you will develop will be useful to you in most areas of the curriculum.
- If you enjoy Year 9 topics in Religious Studies, this GCSE Course is for you.
- As a qualification it has relevance and application for living life in the 21st Century - making moral decisions, living in a multi-cultural United Kingdom, working in a cosmopolitan world.

## What skills or knowledge do you need?

### Do you like?

YES NO

- learning about people and cultures
- debating issues and ideas
- questioning your own ideas
- working with others
- visiting places
- expressing an opinion
- investigating and researching

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If you have ticked 'YES' in most of these boxes

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES IS RIGHT FOR YOU

## What further courses and careers can this lead to?

- This is an academic qualification accepted by all Universities, Colleges and employers. It is highly sought after by professions which involve working with people, e.g. journalism, law, medicine, teaching and personnel.

## What topics will you study?

Year 10 Content	Year 11 Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christianity beliefs</li><li>• Christianity practices</li><li>• Relationship and families</li><li>• Religion, peace and conflict</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judaism beliefs</li><li>• Judaism practices</li><li>• Religion, crime and punishment</li><li>• Religion, human rights and social justice</li></ul>

## How will you be assessed ?

**Exam Board:** AQA Specification A - 2 x 1 hour 45 minute exams at the end of year 11.

**Further information :** Miss McDougall