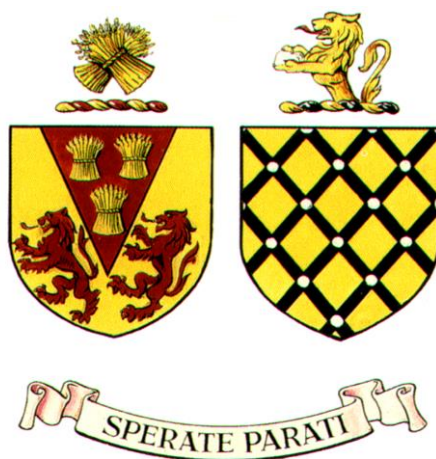
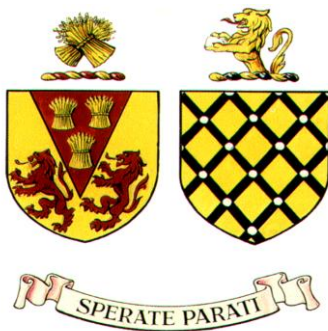


WATFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



KEY STAGE 4
BOOKLET
2020-2022



January 2020

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 2020. 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.

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

With best wishes

Sylvia Tai
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)	Humanities subject (Choose one)		
English Language	Biology Chemistry Physics	French	Geography	Any <u>two</u> of the following: *Art and Design: Fine Art Graphics Photography Textiles Classical Civilisation Computer Science Design & Technology Drama 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	Combined Science	Latin	Religious Studies		
Maths		Spanish	Classical Civilisation		
	*teacher decision based on KS3 performance				

GUIDANCE ON OPTION SELECTION

All girls are asked to select 4 subjects from the option section on their form: 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 FOUR 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.

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 2020-2022..

From time to time, option selections result in only a very few girls requesting a specific course. For financial, 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 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-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

Girls will deliver an individual presentation and will be asked some questions on the topic that they have prepared. They will be awarded: Pass, Merit or Distinction for this unit only. The Spoken Language component is separately accredited and no longer contributes to the overall grade for English Language GCSE.

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:

Ms Solomons (Head of English)

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

The 9-1 course is designed to help students emerge from GCSE Mathematics with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives. In the examinations there's a significant 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 and few formulae will be provided in examinations.

At WGGGS, the girls will be put into 8 different ability sets for Year 10 based on teacher assessment and on their performance in examinations throughout 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. Some 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 after the mock examinations in Year 11 to allow sufficient time for preparation for the GCSE.

The Mathematics examination comprises 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, Ms S Harris

SCIENCE

GCSE Science courses:

Separate (Triple) Science

Students studying this course will gain three GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All will be entered for Higher Tier papers, targeting grades 4 – 9. There are two 1 hour 45 minute papers for each subject with a mixture of different question styles, including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open response questions.

Combined Science

Students studying this course will gain two GCSE qualifications in Science. Grades awarded for Combined Science use a 17 point grading scale (from 9-9, 9-8 through to 2-1, 1-1). There are two tiers of entry: Higher Tier, targeting grades 4-9, and Foundation Tier, targeting grades 1-5. The majority of students studying Combined Science will be entered for Higher Tier papers, with a small number entered for Foundation Tier. There are two 1 hour 10 minute papers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (six papers in total) with a mixture of different question styles, including multiple choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open response questions.

Tier of entry (Higher or Foundation) will be determined after the mock examinations in Year 11.

GCSE 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 assessments and examinations taken during Year 9.

Years 10 and 11

Students will study either Combined Science or Separate (Triple) 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.

There are three lessons per week of Biology, Chemistry and Physics with a specialist member of staff. The additional topics covered in separate (Triple) Science GCSEs mean that the pace and demand of this course is considerably greater than that of Combined Science.

All students have one extra Science lesson to consolidate skills gained in each subject in Year 11.

Science subjects in the Sixth Form

All students will be able to study A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics regardless of the GCSE course followed, providing they achieve the entry requirements for the chosen subject.

Examination Board:

Edexcel

Further Information:

Dr S Macpherson
Mrs S Durward-Akhurst
Mr S Burns
Mrs C Haines

Head of Science
Head of Biology
Head of Chemistry
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**

The Working World, and Rights and Responsibilities at Work are all discussed. Pupils will think about what is important for them in a career, and what characteristics employers are looking for in an employee. In light of this, they will then reflect upon their own employability qualities, skills, and experiences, and will use these to start to compile a CV. Interview skills will also be considered and then practised.

Pupils are informed of their Options at 16+ through a series of talks, and will also speak to Sixth Formers about the subject options. They are further guided by support from the school's Careers Advisor, with whom Careers Action Plans are written.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

Course Content

Year 10

In Year 10 all pupils follow a sports leadership programme. Students will cover a range of units over this course, including lifestyle factors, health and safety, inclusion and officiating. Students will develop their leadership skills, which will be very beneficial to them in their future careers, not just in sport. Part of this course will involve teaching peers, younger pupils and pupils at local Junior Schools. Girls will receive a certificate 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 pupils' 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.

The new GCSE course, offered through Edexcel, has been revised by art staff and shortened to ensure quality outcomes but less quantity. This reduces the expectation on weekly workload and any stress involved with this.

Pupils will benefit from a more compacted scheme of work and will continue to experiment broadly.



WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

Students who are experimental and willing to take risks with the way they work, and who are 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 and the use of photography in graphic design and art, and analyse examples of contemporary photography. This will develop concise written notes and analysis 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 refine 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 personal portfolio unit from day one; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from the teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of the 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. Students are marked on their ability to generate creative ideas, their willingness to experiment broadly, their development of concise written evaluation of different artists, and their ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information: Miss Cass, 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. The new GCSE course, offered through Edexcel, has been revised by art staff and shortened to ensure quality outcomes but less quantity. This reduces the expectation on weekly workload and any stress involved with this. Pupils will benefit from a more compacted scheme of work and will continue to experiment broadly.



WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

Students should have strong ideas and opinions on a range of topics, and be 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 personal portfolio unit; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from the teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of the 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. Students are marked on their ability to generate creative ideas, their willingness to experiment broadly, their development of concise written evaluation on different artists, and their ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

Exam Board: Edexcel

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

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. Existing skills will be developed massively, and students will be taught how to confidently paint in oils, acrylics and watercolour, print make, sculpt in clay and manipulate Textiles. Work is explored within a sketchbook initially, and then larger outcomes are produced outside of this. Fine Art is fun, varied and challenging. The new GCSE course, offered through Edexcel, has been revised by Art staff and shortened to ensure quality outcomes but less quantity. This reduces the expectation on weekly workload and any stress involved with this. Pupils will benefit from a more compacted scheme of work and will continue to experiment broadly.



WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

Students should be experimental and willing to take risks with the way they work. They should also possess 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 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 personal portfolio unit from day one; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from the teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of the 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. Students are marked on their ability to generate creative ideas, their willingness to experiment broadly, their development of concise written evaluation of different artists, and their ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further Information: Miss Georgiou, Mrs Morgan, Mrs Rock

ART AND DESIGN: TEXTILES

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE TEXTILES?

This exciting, practical course will develop and enhance 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 dying, monoprinting, stamp and stencil, screen printing, applique, needle felting, pattern construction, fabric manipulation, quilting, machine embroidery, and plastic melting. All skills are taught within the lesson and samples are created with direction and encouragement from the teacher. It is a very exciting and creative option, with a wide range of tactile and original outcomes. The new GCSE course offered through Edexcel has been revised by art staff and shortened to ensure quality outcomes but less quantity. This reduces the expectation on weekly workload and any stress involved with this. Pupils will benefit from a more compacted scheme of work, and will continue to experiment broadly.



WHAT SKILLS OR KNOWLEDGE DO I NEED?

All textiles skills are taught and learnt within lesson time. Students 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, and 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 personal portfolio from day one; this is supported through regular advice and feedback from the teacher throughout the course, and pupils will complete a timed exam project and two day practical exam in Year 11. The majority of the 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. Students are marked on their ability to generate creative ideas, their willingness to experiment broadly, their development of concise written evaluation on different artists, and their ability to develop a wide range of skilful and interesting outcomes.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Further information : Mrs Rock, Miss Cass

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, students will develop a more reflective understanding of their 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. Students 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 and career paths, including journalism, law, and the civil service. Students will develop many transferable skills, such as literary analysis, evaluation, and interpretation, all of which will be useful for a wide range of disciplines. Students will also develop research skills, skills of argumentation and their ability to write articulately. This subject will help students stand out from the crowd and demonstrate that they are independently minded and academically curious individuals. Classical Civilisation GCSE provides an excellent foundation for continuing the subject at A Level, with the potential to continue the study of the Classical world in a wide variety of degree courses such as Classical Studies, Ancient History, and Archaeology.

What topics will you study?

Component 1: Thematic Study - Myth and Religion

Students will study myths surrounding the role of the gods and heroes in the founding of Athens and Rome, including Heracles/Hercules, Theseus, and Romulus and Remus. Students 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 Mycenaean Greece, a fascinating Bronze Age civilisation dating from 1600-1100 BCE. The Mycenaean Age is rich in sculpture, frescos, jewellery, tombs and treasure; and students will study particular sites, archaeology and the valuable role they play in our understanding of the age. Students can consider what life was like for real people in this period. They will also study Homer's *Odyssey*, a fantastical and enchanting tale of Odysseus' journey home and one of the first works of western literature ever produced. The final books focus on the battle between Odysseus and the suitors, posing interesting questions on the themes of 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 : Ms H. Long & 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 students 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 think critically. Such skills are highly valued in many professions and high level universities.

Computer Science mainly focuses on short answer questions and the ability to read and disassemble information. Other questions focus on your problem solving ability together with the use of coding.

What skills or knowledge do you need?

Students will be taught Python programming as part of the course. Students will have prior knowledge of this from their earlier lessons and if they are able to follow online Python tutorials themselves it will give them a distinct advantage. Interest and ability in problem solving is essential.

What further courses and careers can this lead to?

The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking, analytical skills and critical thinking. Many high level professions require prospective candidates to demonstrate these skills such as medical professions and financial companies. Learning to program is a key part of the course and is useful for any Computer Science related field and going on to study Computer Science at A-level.

Studying Computer Science helps prepare students for careers in areas such as: Medicine, Web / App development, Professional Programmer, Engineering, Financial and investment analysis.

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 exam paper focuses on testing your programming skills and theory knowledge of programming. This could include analysing code, fixing errors and explaining how to answer logical questions.

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: AQA **Further information:** See Mr A. Tibble or view the following site:
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/gcse/computer-science-8520>

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Why study Design and Technology at GCSE?

The GCSE Design and Technology course will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

Students will use a range of materials and technologies to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems.

Students will learn how to take risks in order to become a resourceful, innovative and capable designer who considers the needs, wants and values of others.

Students will develop a critical understanding of Design and Technology's impact on daily life and the wider world through evaluating the work of past and present designers.

They will gain an awareness of the wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

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?

Students have completed project work in Years 7 to 9 using different materials and technologies to help develop research, analytical, problem solving, designing, evaluation and making skills.

What further courses and careers can this lead to?

Students have the opportunity to progress from the GCSE course to further education and employment:

- 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, Graphic Design, Interior Design and Special Effects.
- Career opportunities - include Automotive Design, Furniture Design and Robotics.

What topics will you study?

1. Core technical principles - includes new and emerging technologies, and mechanical devices.
2. Specialist technical principles - includes the selection of materials and scales of production.
3. Designing and making principles - includes generating design ideas and making prototypes.

How will you be assessed?

Students will be assessed through completing a written exam paper and a design and make task:

- The written exam will include a mixture of multiple choice, short answer questions and extended response questions.
- Non-exam assessment (NEA) - Students will produce a prototype from their choice of materials, and a portfolio.

Exam Board: AQA

Further information: Mr A Cattini

DRAMA

Why should you choose Drama?

Creativity, analysis, performance. This is a course which will both complement and add variety to other GCSE subjects. You will learn how to present speeches confidently, analyse scripts, evaluate and improve project work, and create amazing theatre.

In 2016 100% of GCSE Drama pupils scored A*-C and 69% of pupils scored A-A*.

What skills or knowledge do you need?

Students will need:

- A keen interest in the performing arts
- An enjoyment of creative tasks and projects
- Essay writing skills
- The confidence to act in front of an audience

We also recommend that students go to see as much theatre as they can throughout the duration of this course.



What themes and skills will you explore?

- Theatrical analysis of the set text, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*
- Roles within the theatre, both on stage and behind the scenes
- Analysis of live performances, involving school trips to London's West End
- Devising theatre from scratch, and performing your own script
- Performing extracts from published playscripts
- Investigating the work of drama theorists and practitioners, and applying this in your own work.

What further courses and study can this lead to?

This GCSE provides a strong foundation for Drama and Theatre Studies A Level, as well as enhancing skills which are transferrable to humanities and arts subjects.

Future careers that benefit from drama skills include: lawyer, professor, presenter, manager, therapist, actor, producer, teacher, set/costume designer, and working in public relations.

How will you be assessed?

There are three components to GCSE Drama:

1. Understanding drama. This is a written exam, including study of a set play and evaluation of live theatre. The written exam is 40% of the GCSE.
2. Devising drama. This element of the course involves creating and performing a devised piece of theatre. It is marked through a coursework log, as well as an assessed performance. This component is 40% of the GCSE.
3. Texts in practice. The performance of extracts from a play is worth 20% of the GCSE.

Exam Board: AQA

Further information: Mrs M Stiebel

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?

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

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 both involve written exams; Maths, which is used when carrying out fieldwork; the Sciences, particularly Biology which links well to the study of ecosystems.

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 Statistics, Economics and Politics. Geography has one of the best graduate employment records in the country. Many careers are in business management, finance, law, government, marketing and conservation.

What topics will you study?



Students 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 students 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?

There will be 3 written exams that all last 1 hour and 30 minutes. For more information on the specification go to: <http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-a/>

Exam Board : Eduqas

Further information: Mr A Newbey, 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 it appeals to students who 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 students 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?

Pupils who study Latin gain a thorough understanding of the building blocks of languages, and gain experience of some of the greatest works of western literature ever produced. Studying Roman literature in the original language is a unique opportunity, allowing pupils an insight into Roman thought and culture whilst also developing their skills of linguistic and stylistic analysis. Combining aspects of language, literary criticism and ancient history, Latin is an academically rigorous and challenging subject. It will appeal to anyone with an intellectually curious mind and a willingness to work hard, as well as to those with an interest in languages, literature, and other cultures.

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 students 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 a student is an intellectually curious person who is unafraid of challenge. GCSE Latin provides a strong foundation for the study of A Level Latin, with the potential to study further as part of a Classics degree at a wide range of institutions.

What topics will you study?

Students 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. We will continue to use the 'Cambridge Latin Course' (Books III and IV) and read about Quintus' adventures in Britain. In Year 11, students will begin work on their set texts: extracts of authentic Latin literature written over two thousand years ago by authors such as Julius Caesar and Virgil. Students 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 great insight into Roman culture and is sure to leave a lasting impression.

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:** Students 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:** Students 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:** Students 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: Ms H. Long

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. Students 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?

A student 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, students can continue to study it at A level, where they 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 students will have plenty of opportunity to practise before the real thing!

Exam Board : AQA

Further information : Mr C Holbrook

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 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. Students will get the opportunity to learn and participate in a range of sporting activities. They will be assessed in a range of individual and team sports. They 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. Students will be expected to attend regular training in the sports they are being assessed in. They 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

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

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

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