



KEY STAGE 4

SUBJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET

CELLENCE FOR ALL



THE SYDNEY SSELL

THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Key Stage 4 is an important period in a student's school career. At Sydney Russell our staff work hard to help ensure it is an enjoyable and productive experience which results in good examination results and a clear pathway to further study and eventually a rewarding career.

Please take care to look over the key stage 4 curriculum detailed in this booklet and come to the Subject Information Evening on Tuesday 20th of February to learn more about expectations at Key Stage 4.

Students can express their preference for subjects at key stage 4. This booklet will support your son/daughter in making their subject preference for the next stage of their learning.

It is important that subject preferences are not based on a particular teacher (he or she may not be teaching the subject next year); or because a subject is seen as "easy" (there are no easy subjects); equally a subject should not be prioritised because it is simply "new". Instead, encourage your son/daughter to take into account three main criteria: personal strengths and weaknesses; keeping open a wide range of career choices and achieving a balanced range of subjects.

I wish you all well in your decision-making and look forward to an excellent set of results in the near future.

Deadline: Friday 16th March 2018

Your Sincerely

Ms J. Davies
Principal



HOW TO DECIDE

Subject Preferences

At the end of this booklet there is a subject preference form. Students must select the subjects they hope to study for the next Key Stage 4 years. Very careful thought should be given to this decision.

Students will receive guidance about making decisions in their lessons, assemblies and tutorials.

You must

- Read this booklet carefully;
- Talk to your subject teachers;
- Talk to your tutor;
- Talk to your parents/carers
- Ask a lot of questions

Ask yourself

- Which subjects do I enjoy the most?
- Which subject am I making the most progress?
- What do I want to do in the future and should this influence my choices?

Do NOT consider

- Which subjects your friends are taking because you may be in a different group even if they do choose the same subject.
- Which teacher teaches you now because they may leave or that teacher may not be allocated to teach your group.



CHOOSING A SUBJECT

English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

All fast track students will study for the English Baccalaureate.

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Combined)*

One preference from: History or Geography

One preference from: French or German

and choose two additional courses from the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Art and Design | • French | • Photography |
| • Business Studies | • Geography | • Physical Education |
| • Computer Science | • German | • Physical Education (Voc) |
| • Dance | • History | • Religious Education |
| • Design Technology | • Hospitality & Catering | • Separate Science* |
| • Drama | • ICT (Voc) | • Sociology |
| • Economics | • Media Studies | • Statistics |
| • Food Technology | • Music | • Textiles |

There is one compulsory non examination course.

- Physical Education

* Students have the opportunity to replace Combined Science (equivalent to 2 x GCSEs) with Separate Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology). If this is their preferred option they will need to choose Separate Science in the preference section.

English Literature & Language	Maths	Science Combined	History or Geography	French Or German	Physical Education	Preference 1	Preference 2
4 Hours	4 Hours	4 Hours	3 Hours	3 Hours	1 Hours	3 Hours	3 Hours



EBACC

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate consists of a broad range of academic subjects.

To achieve the EBacc, students must gain 9 - 5 for a Strong Pass or 9 - 4 for a Standard Pass grades in all of the following subjects:

- English Language;
- Mathematics;
- Two Sciences;
- A Modern Foreign Language;
- A Humanities Subject - History or Geography or Computing;

The Sydney Russell School believes that fast track students should study EBacc subjects to age 16. Achievement in these subjects will enhance students' chances of getting into the UK's very best universities.



THE NEW GCSEs

The Government has made major changes to GCSE. The aim is for them to be far more rigorous with a greater weight placed on literacy and numeracy skills. These 'new' GCSEs have an emphasis on students acquiring a core of essential knowledge in English, maths and sciences, but the specifications for all subjects demand a greater depth and breadth of knowledge and the level of thinking needed to achieve the top score will be higher. Some of the key changes will be as follows:

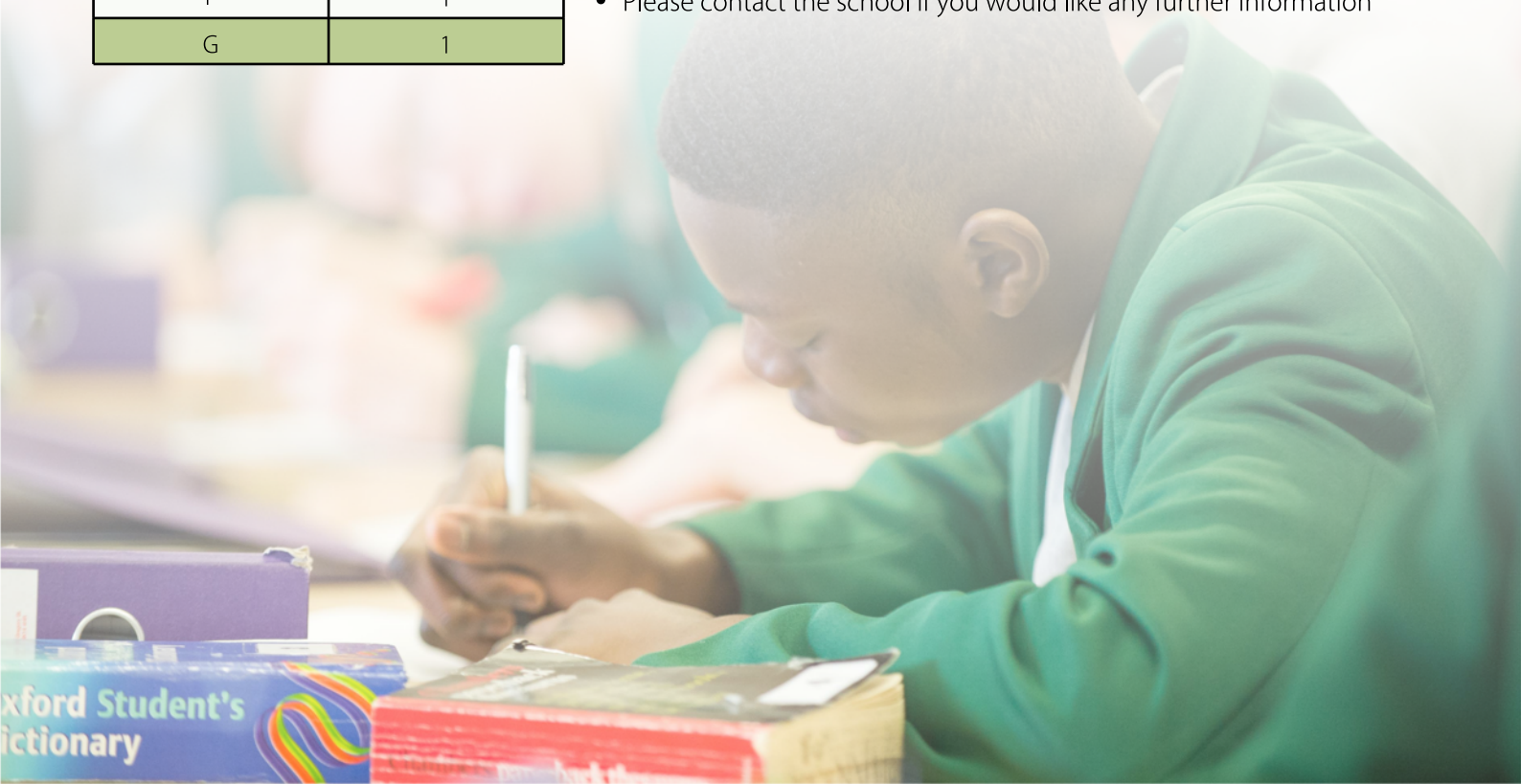
- (a) All assessment will be at the end of Year 11. There will be no more modules and students will not be able to take some exams early.
- (b) Exams will form 100% of the assessment in nearly every subject. Coursework and controlled assessments will cease in nearly all subjects.
- (c) There will be a new grading scale. The scale will be from 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest.

Old Grading System	New Grading System
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
	5
C	5
	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1

The Department for Education has decided that grade 5 will be the 'strong pass'

(d) Students will not lose out as a result of the changes:

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above;
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above;
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G;
- Please contact the school if you would like any further information



ENGLISH

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA English Literature

100% Exam

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes

AQA English Language

100% Exam

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes

Subject Leader

Miss Harrisson

About this course

GCSE English Language and English Literature are studied by all students in Year 9, 10 and 11 at Sydney Russell. They are two completely separate GCSEs. Students will take their English Literature exam at the end of Year 10 and their English Language exam at the end of Year 11. You will need to have a passion for interpreting and evaluating texts and creating original and well-crafted texts of your own.

AQA English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare (Macbeth) and the Nineteenth Century Novel (A Christmas Carol)

Paper 2: Modern Drama (DNA), Studied Poetry (Love and Relationships) and Unseen Poetry

AQA English Language

Paper 1: Reading Fiction, Writing Creatively

Paper 2: Reading Non-Fiction, Writing to argue

The course is rigorous: it encompasses several challenging texts that will be examined by closed text exams. It is essential, therefore, that you are determined to succeed from your very first lesson in Year 9.



Did you know?

A good qualification in English or English Literature is the passport to a wide variety of careers and many journalists, T.V presenters and successful actors, for example, have degrees in English.

Shakespeare is the second most quoted writer in the English language – after the various writers of the Bible.

J. K. Rowling said “I always advise students who ask me for tips on being a writer to read as much as they possibly can.”

Potential Careers

Teaching, Author, Journalist, Book Publisher, Social Worker, Media, Public Relations, Law, University Lecturer, Librarian, Information Services, Marketing, Business and many more.

MATHEMATICS

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

Mathematics 1MA01

100% Exam

Paper 1: Non-Calculator

Paper 2: Use of Calculator

Paper 3: Use of Calculator

Subject Leader

Mr Home

About this course

As a vital skill for modern life, Mathematics is studied by all students in Years 7 to 11.

To allow for a focussed learning experience the pupils are taught in sets according to ability from the start of Year 7.

Years 7 and 8 follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3, with the most able being accelerated towards achieving the highest levels. In Year 9, all students commence their GCSE studies following a linear specification. AS Level Maths is a popular subject with Year 12 and the majority of students continue onto A2 Level. There is also an opportunity of studying an A Level in Further Mathematics for the most able mathematicians which leads to a double A Level.

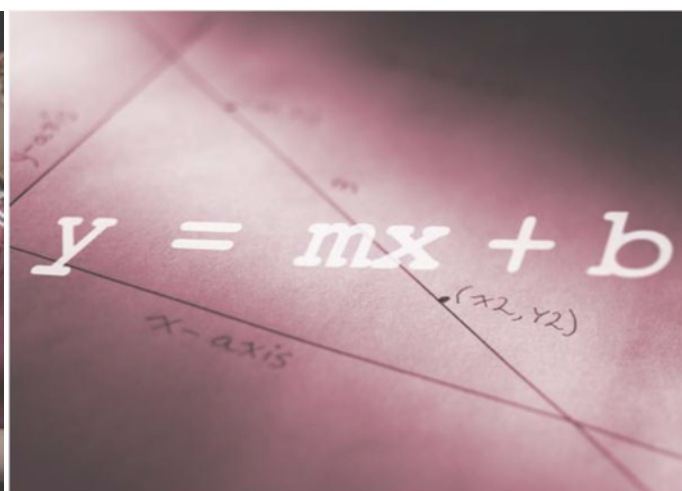
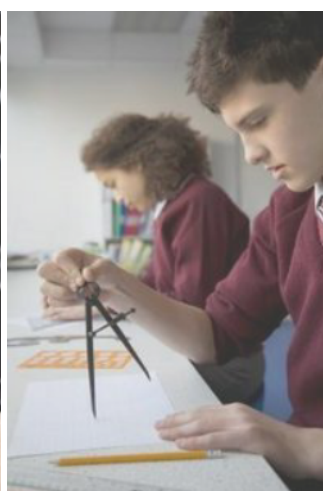
Assessment objectives

AO1: Use and apply standard techniques.

AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically.

AO3: Problem solving in mathematics and other context.

Students will be examined in 5 areas of Mathematics (Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Range of change, Geometry and Measures, Probability, Statistics.)



Did you know?

The = sign (Equals sign) was invented by a 16th century Welsh mathematician called Robert Recorde who was fed up with writing "2 is equals to"

Plus (+) and minus (-) sign symbols were used as early as 1489 AD.

Potential Careers

Useful for all careers and essential for some, including Teaching, Medicine, Forensics, Economist, Engineering, Architecture, Cryptology, Computer Scientist, Banking, Analyst, Statistician, Computer Scientist, Staff Systems, Air Traffic Control Analyst, Cryptologist, Economist, Robotics Engineer, Geophysical Mathematician, Civil Engineer and many more.

COMBINED SCIENCE

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

2 x GCSEs

Board

AQA

Assessment

Combined Trilogy
Specification 8464

Biology, Chemistry & Physics

100% Exam

2 Papers for each subject

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes

Subject Leader

Miss Monsell
Mr Daludado

About this course

GCSE Science at the Sydney Russell School is a fun, engaging and inspiring subject. The course caters for all abilities and aspirations, whether you would like to pursue sciences at A-level or just wish to develop your scientific literacy to prepare you for the ever evolving modern world.

Students are required to sit six exams at the end of year 11 – two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. As part of the course, students will also perform 21 required practical experiments, which can be assessed in the exams. The duration for each exam is 1 hour 15 minutes.

Some of the exciting topics you will be covering in this course are:

Biology - The physiology of plants and animals, Photosynthesis, Respiration, The Nervous system and homeostasis, Genetics & Evolution.

Chemistry - Inside the atom, Structure and bonding, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical reactions and energy changes, Organic chemistry & the Earth's atmosphere.

Physics - Energy, Electricity, Matter, Radioactivity, Forces, Motion, Waves & Magnetism.

* Students have the opportunity to replace Combined Science (equivalent to 2 x GCSEs) with Separate Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology). If this is their preferred option they will need to choose Separate Science in the preference section.



Did you know?

There are 100 billion nerve cells in your brain, 100 billion stars in our galaxy (the Milky Way) and 100 billion galaxies in the known universe. Many of those stars have planets around them (our star, the Sun, has 8!), meaning there are quadrillions of planets spread through the cosmos. How likely is it that we are the only intelligent life in the universe?

People who took 2 or more STEM subjects at A Level get paid as much as 33% more than those who didn't, on average. Separate Sciences at GCSE is the perfect gateway to higher earning power later in life.

Potential Careers

Environmental Scientists, Hydrologists, Geoscientists, Medical Scientists, Biochemists, Atmospheric Scientists, Material Scientists, Physicists, Astronomers, Biological Scientists, Medicine, Engineering, Dentist, Forensic Scientist and many more.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

OCR

Assessment

OCR Computer Science J276
80% Exam | 20% Coursework

Paper 1: Computer Systems

Paper 2: Computational
Thinking Algorithms &
Programming

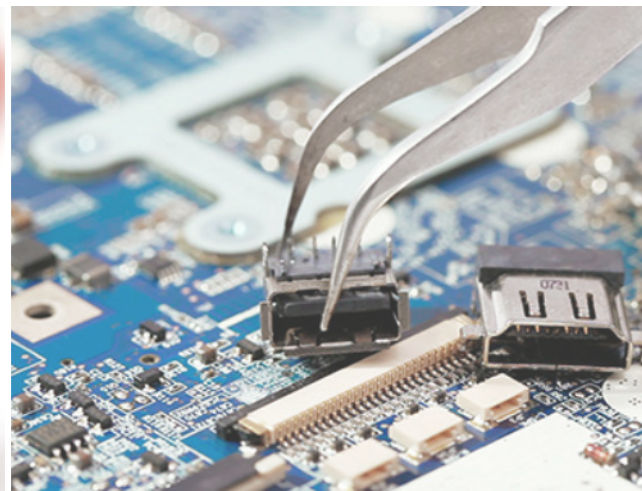
Subject Leader

Mr Jacob

About this course

GCSE Computing will encourage learners to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

- The course will allow learners to develop their understanding of emerging technologies, develop computer programs and understand and use algorithms within computer programs to solve problems.
- Computing will help learners to gain an insight into related sectors. It will prepare candidates to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.
- Acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming.
- Use their knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of IT, able to make informed decisions about the use and be aware of the implications of different technologies.
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts. Develop computer programs to solve problems. Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to, the use of computer technology in society.



Did you know?

By 2020, current government projections show that more than 800,000 high-end computing jobs will be created in the economy, making it one of the fastest growing occupational fields.

Computer science and computer engineering bachelor degrees are in high demand and command two of the top three average salary offers from employers among all majors.

Potential Careers

Useful for all careers and essential for some, including Teaching, Software Engineer, Network Engineer, System Security, Project Management, Quality Assurance and Testing, System Administrator, Website Developer, Database Administrator, Technical Support, Client Management, IT Consultant, Programmer, Artificial Intelligence, Business Planning and Management, Games Development, Project Management, Business Analyst and many more.

GEOGRAPHY

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Geography

100% Exam

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

Subject Leader

Miss Diver

About this course

Geography is an exciting and relevant subject which studies the changing human and physical worlds. Many different themes are studied so students gain a full understanding of the issues that currently affect our world, and the ways in which the human and physical worlds intertwine.

AQA Geography is comprised of three key themes:

1. Physical Geography including themes such as natural hazards, ecosystems, river landscapes and coastal landscapes.
2. Human Geography including themes such as urban issues and challenges, water security and economic development
3. Geographical Skills including fieldwork and decision making.

Geography is open to anyone who is enthusiastic about the subject and has studied it at KS3. Students will be required to participate in field trips which will provide a real life perspective on issues studied in the classroom. Geography opens doors to A Levels, university degrees and high level jobs as employers value the wide range of skills which Geographers gain.

In fact, in 2015, Geography The Guardian deemed Geography to be a must have subject.



Did you know?

When China built the Three Gorges Dam it made the day longer by 0.06 microseconds and the number of earthquakes increase by 3000%.

Potential Careers

Town or Transport Planning, Surveying, Conservation, Sustainability, Waste and Water Management, Environmental Planning, Tourism, Weather Forecasting, Travel Journalism, Environmental Lawyer, Meteorologist, Transport Planner, Environmental Consultant, Catastrophe Modeller, Emergency Planning, Landscaping, Architecture and many more.

HISTORY

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA History (8145)

100% Exam

Paper 1: Germany 1890-1945:

Democracy & Dictatorship.

1918-1939: Conflict and Tension

Paper 2: Britain: Power and the

People. 1170 to the present day

Elizabethan England

Subject Leader

Mr Fells

About this course

As a history student, you will never experience the events that you study; instead you have to build up a picture from the evidence that has been left. You have to become skilled at asking questions and learn not to take everything at face value. You have to develop empathy and understanding of the actions and achievements of others and have to use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements.

These skills are highly desirable in many different careers and History is excellent training for any career where you have to use evidence or make decisions, especially where those decisions affect other people.

There are so many careers out there that require the skills that a study of history can bring; law, medicine, business, finance, accountancy, tourism, town planning, politics, journalism, research to name but a few!

History is a subject that is both exciting and challenging and is more relevant than ever today as it helps us to make sense of the world we live in. In 2017 almost 80% of Year 11 History Students at Sydney Russell achieved GCSE Grades A* to C compared with only 65% of students nationally.



Did you know?

In Nazi-occupied Poland nurse Irena Sendler helped to evacuate more than 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto and hid them with non-Jewish families or in Catholic orphanages. Irena personally rescued around 400 of these children herself. Arrested by the Gestapo in 1943, she was beaten and tortured suffering terrible injuries. She bribed her guards to let her escape and thus avoided execution. Irena returned to work as a nurse continuing to rescue Jews from deportation to the Death Camps until the end of World War II. "The value of history, then, is that it teaches us what man has done and thus what man is." RG Collingwood

Potential Careers

Journalism, Management, Media work, Tourism, Business, Teaching, Heritage Manager, Information Officer, Lawyer and many more.

FRENCH

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA French

100% Exam split into:

Listening 25%

Speaking 25%

Reading 25%

Writing 25%

Subject Leader

Miss Schubert

About this course

You may think that languages aren't really relevant to today's modern world; everyone speaks English, right? Wrong. Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society. Recently a survey was done on 228 employers.

86% felt that languages were an important skill set and improve someone's employability. Having a language can increase your salary from 8 to 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees.

By speaking another language you're vital to any company who does international business (and there are a lot of them). Plus, a language is also a pre-requisite for lots of university courses so it's something to consider if you're thinking about university in the future. Languages are the key to the new, exciting multinational world we live in; so don't miss out.

We use many different activities, media and presentation techniques to make the course enjoyable but challenging, interesting and relevant to your needs. They include: magazines and newspapers articles, role-plays, class discussions and debates, adverts, songs, and the Internet.



Did you know?

"Only 6 per cent of the global population is native English speakers and 75 per cent of the world's population speaks no English at all."

"72% of UK international trade is with non-English-speaking countries and

77 % of British exporters believe they lose business because they can't speak other languages."

"Modern linguists earn more than graduates from any other discipline except medics and architects".

Potential Careers

Journalist, Business Careers, Finance, Sales, Chartered Accountant, Industrial Buyer/Retailer, Marketing Executive, Publisher & Printer, Hotel Management and Tourism, Lawyer/Solicitor, Media, Local Government, Public Services, Diplomat, Conference Interpreter, Immigration Officer, Teacher and many more.

GERMAN

CORE SUBJECTS

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA German

100% Exam split into:

Listening 25%

Speaking 25%

Reading 25%

Writing 25%

Subject Leader

Miss Schubert

About this course

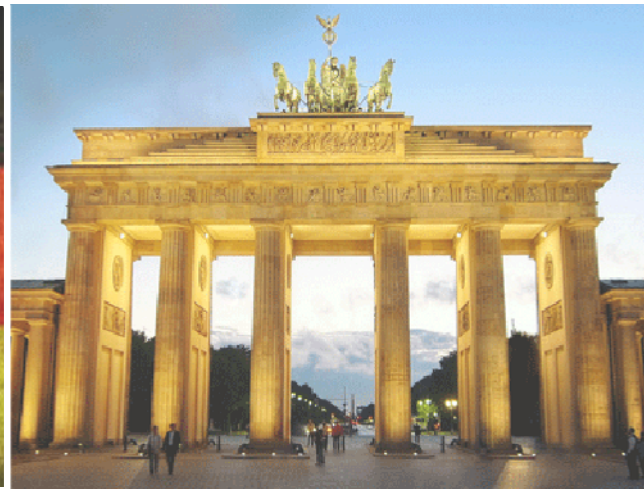
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We use many different activities, media and presentation techniques to make the course enjoyable but challenging, interesting and relevant to your needs. They include: magazines and newspapers articles, role-plays, class discussions and debates, adverts, songs, and the Internet.

* Course is suitable for those students who have already gained knowledge of the German Language at Key Stage Three.



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Potential Careers

Journalist, Business Careers, Finance, Sales, Chartered Accountant, Industrial Buyer/Retailer, Marketing Executive, Publisher & Printer, Hotel Management and Tourism, Lawyer/Solicitor, Media, Local Government, Public Services, Diplomat, Conference Interpreter, Immigration Officer, Teacher and many more.

ART & DESIGN

Qualification

GCSE

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

EDEXCEL Art & Design

50% Exam | 50% Portfolio

Unit 1: Controlled Assessment

Unit 2: Externally Set

Assignment

Each unit is assessed on Four
Assessment Objectives

Develop, Review/Experiment,
Record and Present.

Subject Leader

Mr Wright

About this course

If you enjoy:

- developing your visual skills.
 - being creative, enthusiastic and imaginative.
 - visiting galleries.
 - experimenting and taking risks with your work
- then our GCSE Art and Design is the ideal subject for you.

You will, ideally have some experience of using art materials and processes, together with some knowledge of contemporary and historical art and design. More importantly, you should have a commitment to, and love of the subject and feel motivated to develop your visual skills and express your ideas in working through projects and assignments.

The GCSE covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. There are a wide range of options within the different endorsements, or you may choose to work in several areas. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment.



Did you know?

Creative industries contributed 2.9% of the UK's Gross Value. 1.5 million people are employed in the creative industries or in creative roles in other industries, 5.1% of the UK's employment

Exports of services by the creative industries accounted for 10.6% of the UK's exports of services.

There were an estimated 106,700 businesses in the creative industries in 2011, this represents 5.1% of all companies.

Potential Careers

Art and Design, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Fashion Design, Photography, 3D Design (Furniture, Jewellery, Exhibitions, etc.) Architecture, Industrial Design, Floristry, Make-up Artist, Beauty Therapy. Many creative jobs require an understanding of design and visual effects.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Business Studies

100% Exam

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes

Subject Leader

Mr Driscoll

About this course

This GCSE business studies course focuses on how students can set, manage and grow their own business over a period of time. All the content is taught in the context of real life businesses. This course is divided into five sections (Business in the real World, influences on business, Marketing, Finance and Human Resources)

AQA – 1 GCSE (2 exam's)

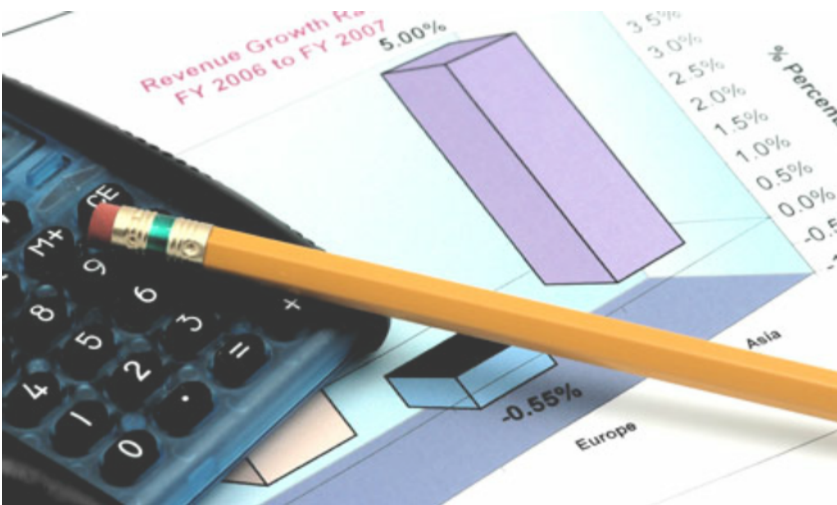
Theme 1 – Influences of operations and HRM on business activity

Theme 2 – Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

In Year 9, students will cover Theme 1. In year 10, students will cover theme 2. In year 11 there will be extensive revision in preparation for two exams. Also, in year 11, their will the expectation of extensive independent research and extended essay writing.

All students must have good written skills to be able to answer extended pieces of writing in both exams. There will also be element of finance which involves basic mathematical scenarios. Also, all official GCSE exams will be at the end of Year 11.

This course is an excellent introduction to continue your studies in accounts, economics, A Level's business and onto further education.



Did you know?

Did you know that no matter where you work AFTER you finish education it will be in a business?

Did you know that Starbucks' round tables were created specifically so customers would feel less alone.

Potential Careers

Accountancy, Advertising, Banking, Investment and Financial Services, General Management, HR/Personnel, Management Consultancy, Public Relations, Retail Management, Sales and Marketing, Entrepreneurial Opportunities and many more

DANCE

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA GCSE Dance

40% Exam | 60% Practical

Component 1: Performance & Choreography

Component 2: Dance Appreciation

Subject Leader

Mr Summers

About this course

Dance is a powerful subject which provides students with a platform to express their creativity, curiosity and imagination whilst encouraging students to develop their physical, emotional and intellectual capacity. This specification recognises the importance of exposing students to an eclectic range of dance styles and creates scope for pupils to perform and study a variety of genres and style fusions. This course caters to the needs and interests of the pupil and so aside from the solo performance, students can perform and choreograph in any style they wish, providing it meets the assessment criteria.

The newly introduced study of a Dance Anthology will allow the students to critically appraise professional works. Thus, the written requirements of the course will allow students to develop their analytical and evaluative skillset, which will underpin all practical explorations and provide excellent support in other subject areas.

The course will provide multiple opportunities for the students to develop their performance skillset which will culminate in a performance in a professional theatre at the end of both years 9 and 10. The students will also be provided with workshop opportunities with professional dance artists and choreographers as well as trip opportunities to view professional work live.



Did you know?

“Dancers are athletes of God” - Albert Einstein

“Dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion” – Martha Graham

The 5 qualities of a dancer:

D - dedicated

A - athletic

N - never quits

C - controlled

E - emotional

Potential Careers

Dance Teacher, Performer, Choreographer, Any career related to the entertainment business, Any career dealing with the public, Working with the media and many more.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Design & Technology

50% Exam | 50% Practical

Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Portfolio | 30-35 Hours NEA

Subject Leader

Mr Wright

About this course

The Design and Technology specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating.

Paper 1

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Written exam: 2 hours | 100 marks | 50% of GCSE

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx | 100 marks | 50% of GCSE

Task(s)

- Substantial design and make task
- Assessment criteria:
- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence

Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by

AQA



Did you know?

In 1978, James Dyson became frustrated with his vacuum cleaner's diminishing performance. Taking it apart, he discovered that its bag was clogging with dust, causing suction to drop. He'd recently built an industrial cyclone tower for his factory that separated paint particles from the air using centrifugal force. But could the same principle work in a vacuum cleaner?

He set to work. Five years and 5,127 prototypes later, he had invented the world's first bagless vacuum cleaner.

Potential Careers

Fashion Stylist, Graphic Design, Art & Design, Engineering, Constructions & Building Services, Motor Vehicle Technology & Repairs, Carpenter, Civil Engineering Technician, Plumber and many more.

DRAMA

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Drama 8261

40% Exam | 60% Performance

1. Understanding Drama
2. Devising Drama
3. Texts in Practice

Subject Leader

Miss Peck

About this course

GCSE Drama will develop you as a theatre practitioner and as a confident and empathetic individual. During the course you will take on the roles of an actor, director and designer. The skills that you get from these areas will not only develop you as a theatre artist, but are transferable to the professional world. The course demands the creation of original work as well as looking at plays written by other people.

You will look at the technical production elements that bring scripts alive on stage, for example, lighting, sound, set design and costume design. The written elements of the course develop your analytical writing, providing excellent support for other subject areas. You will also be able to acquire skills in working with others, problem solving and communication. You will find that Drama will help you feel more self-confident and prepare you to deal with a range of different situations and people. It will allow you to voice your opinions, explore what you are passionate about, push boundaries and understand more about the world we live in.

The course requires you to see at least one professional theatre production, but you will have the opportunity to see many more. Our current GCSE classes have had the opportunity to see Things I Know to be True, The Tin Drum, The Seagull and Macbeth.



Did you know?

The UK's creative industries are now worth £71.4 billion per year to the UK economy. It is the UK's fastest-growing sector. The Department for Media, Culture and Sport.

The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create.

President Barack Obama

Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.

Albert Einstein

Potential Careers

Law, Engineering, Acting, Directing, Producing, Broadcasting, TV/Radio/Film, Teaching, Lighting/Sound Designer, Arts Administrator, Social Worker, Youth/Community work, Advertising, Press Relations, Travel and Tourism, Theatre Technician, Human Resources, Drama Therapist. Any career that involves communication and interacting with the public and many more.

ECONOMICS

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Economics

100% Exam

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes

Subject Leader

Mr Driscoll

About this course

Economics is a social science that analyses the way in which the world's limited resources are distributed. When students understand how markets and economies work they will develop an economic awareness to benefit them personally and professionally for years to come.

Unit 1 - How Markets work. This unit aims to equip students with the basic tools of the economist to help them understand their place in and contribution to the local, national and global economy as consumers, workers and citizens. They will be encouraged to investigate a range of contemporary issues, analysing the evidence from different perspectives in order to make reasoned judgements and informed decisions

Unit 2 - How the economy works. In this section students will consider targets and policies the government may use to achieve its objectives by considering fiscal, monetary and supply side policies within the context of the trade cycle. Also candidates will analyse the European Union and its effect on the UK Economy, Globalisation and its effects on the environment.

Economics is a popular A Level subject and students who have undertaken it at GCSE have a major advantage. Studying economics will give students a real understanding of what takes place politically and economically in the world. Studying Economics can lead to careers in Banking, Finance, Government, Politics, International NGOs and the Public Sector.



Did you know?

A good qualification in English or English Literature is the passport to a wide variety of careers and many journalists, T.V presenters and successful actors, for example, have degrees in English.

Shakespeare is the second most quoted writer in the English language – after the various writers of the Bible.

J. K. Rowling said "I always advise students who ask me for tips on being a writer to read as much as they possibly can."

Potential Careers

Accountancy, Advertising, Banking, Investment and Financial Services, General Management, HR/Personnel, Management Consultancy, Public Relations, Retail Management, Sales and Marketing, Entrepreneurial Opportunities and many more.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Food Preparation & Nutrition 8585

50% Exam | 50% Practical

- Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Portfolio | Essay

Subject Leader

Miss Chowdrey

About this course

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition - Theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition
 Task 1: Food investigation - Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task. Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

You may be asked to make a small contribution towards the ingredients used.



Did you know?

Did you know strawberries are the only fruit which has seeds on the outside?

Did you know adding salt to a pineapple will cause it to be sweeter?

Did you know eating an apple in the morning is better than coffee at waking you up?

Potential Careers

Nutritionist, Dietician, New Food Product Developer, Food Buyer, Food Marketing and Advertising, Merchandiser, Brand Manager, Catering Manager, Quality Control / Food Standards, Chef, Technologist / Flavourist, Teaching / Lecturing and many more.

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Qualification

LEVEL 2 AWARD

Board

WJEC

Assessment

Hospitality & Catering

40% Exam | 60% Practical

- Unit 1: Hospitality & Catering Industry - External Exam
- Unit 2: Hospitality & Catering in action - Practical

Subject Leader

Miss Chowdrey

About this course

The WJEC Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study, providing learners with a core depth of knowledge and a range of specialist and general skills that will support their progression to further learning and employment. Our Level 2 Award in Food and Catering is designed to give young learners a hands-on introduction to life and work in the catering industry.

Learners will develop, practice and demonstrate key food preparation skills, making a variety of food products. They'll learn how to scale up production to produce larger quantities suitable for a commercial setting and get to demonstrate their skills through two internally assessed projects.

Through the two units, learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression. Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering

*You may be asked to make a small contribution towards the ingredients used. Not all lessons will be practical



Did you know?

Cutting onions releases a gas which causes a stinging sensation when it comes into contact with your eyes. Your body produces tears to dilute the irritant and remove it from your eyes.

The tall chef's hat is called a toque

The red food-colouring carmine — used in Skittles and other candies — is made from boiled cochineal bugs, a type of beetle

Potential Careers

Nutritionist, Dietician, New Food Product Developer, Food Buyer, Food Marketing and Advertising, Merchandiser, Brand Manager, Catering Manager, Quality Control / Food Standards, Chef, Technologist / Flavourist, Teaching / Lecturing and many more.

ICT (Digital Applications)

Qualification

GCSE

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

Edexcel Digital Applications

75% Controlled Assessment

25% Practical Exam

Subject Leader

Mr Jacob

About this course

Information Communication Technology covers all forms of computer and communications equipment and software used to create, design, store, transmit, interpret and manipulate information in various formats.

Personal computers, laptops, tablets, mobile phones, transport systems, televisions, and network technologies are just some examples of the diverse array of ICT tools. ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers.

Students will have to sit an external practical exam worth 25% of the overall grade. 75% will be made up of controlled assessment.

The coursework will allow the student to create innovative new products for the 21st century. Fun projects include Game Making, Website creation, Animations and more.

If you are considering taking an A-Level in any of the ICT/Computer science subjects or are considering a career in a related profession then this course will give you the background knowledge and understanding.



Did you know?

Britons do 35% of their spending online, while one in six buys using a smartphone, with the number increasing every year. Companies are always trying to promote their websites coming up with creative ways in which ICT can be used to help people spend more.

Potential Careers

Useful for all careers and essential for some, including Teaching, Software Engineer, Network Engineer, System Security, Project Management, Quality Assurance and Testing, System Administrator, Website Developer, Database Administrator, Technical Support, Client Management, IT Consultant, Programmer, Artificial Intelligence, Business Planning and Management, Games Development, Project Management, Business Analyst and many more.

MEDIA STUDIES

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Media Studies

70% Exam | 30% Coursework

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes

Subject Leader

Mr Fossey

About this course

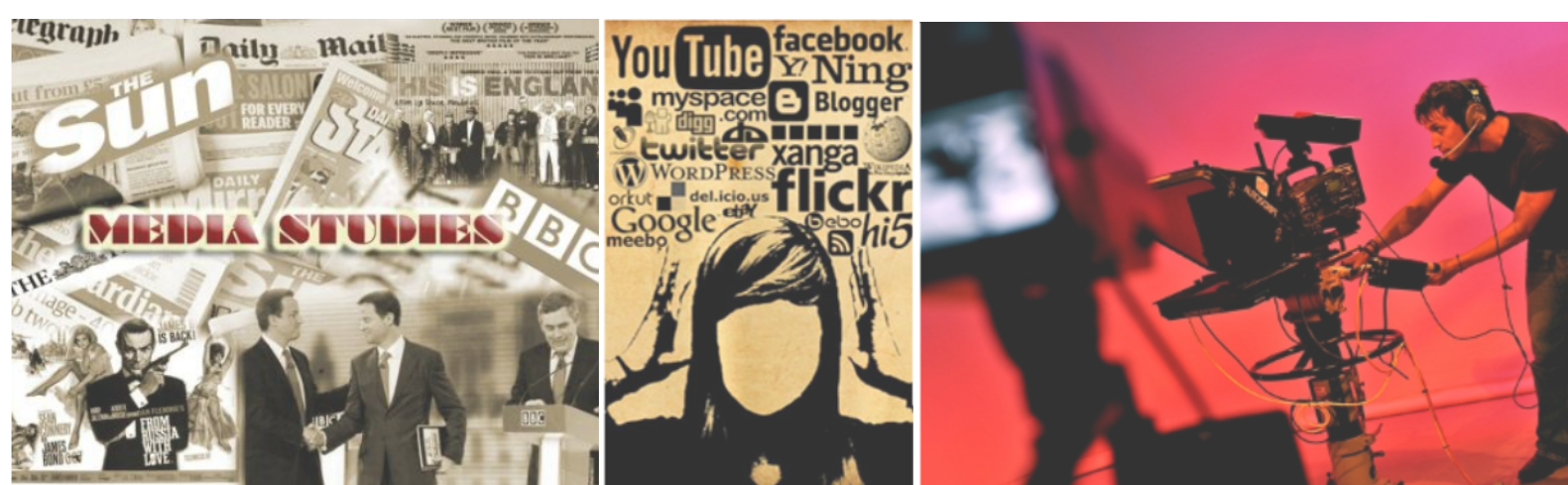
We live in a world that bombards us with messages from the media, be it through smartphones, the internet, tv, music, Facebook or the advert on the bus we ride to school. Media is all around us yet how much of it do we really understand? By choosing this GCSE you will study the world around you and learn how to decode music, social networking, websites, films, newspapers, magazines, tv shows and adverts and learn about what they are really saying.

The GCSE is assessed through two Units:

Unit 1 is a set-topic examination worth 70% of your final grade.

Unit 2 is split into three different Coursework Assignments worth 30% of your final grade. The assignments demand a combination of written analytical essays and practical production work. These will demand that you analyse newspapers & magazines, study advertising & marketing techniques across media platforms and closely analyse all aspects of film, television and video production. You will also produce a media product connected to each of these areas.

Media Studies is an academic subject at GCSE level: it requires you to debate relevant topics and have an open and questioning mind. You will need good levels of literacy to write essays and explain sophisticated theories and ideas.



Did you know?

99.9% of the world's media is filtered and controlled by less than 0.05% of the world's population.

Potential Careers

Broadcasting, Production, Newspaper Industry, Advertising, Journalism, Photographer, Radio Producer, Sound Engineer, Psychologist, Film/Programme Producer/Director, Camera Operator, Creative Industry Position, Advertising Executive and many more.

MUSIC

Qualification

GCSE

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

EDEXCEL Music

60% Practical | 40% Exam

Unit 1: Performance

Unit 2: Composition

Unit 3: Listening & Appraising

Subject Leader

Miss Edwards

About this course

GCSE music students will receive 3 hours of music lessons a week. GCSE music is a fantastic way for students of both beginner level and more advanced students to access new skills and develop a range of transferable skills. Students will learn how to appraise music, as well as learn a musical instrument. Students will have the opportunity to learn a range of styles of music from all around the World and learn how to compose in different styles. The course allows pupils to explore music practically as well as learning how to read music.

Unit 1 – Performance. Two performances that total 4 minutes. 1 solo and 1 ensemble performance each must be a minimum of 1 minute.

Unit 2 – Composition. Two compositions that are a maximum of 4 minutes altogether. 1 free composition where students can compose in a style of their choice, 1 brief composition where students select a brief provided by the examination board.

Unit 3 – Appraising music. Students will study 8 pieces of music from different styles and eras and their knowledge and understanding assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute exam.

Students that take GCSE music are required to select an instrument to study as part of the course. They will be provided with free tuition on the instrument and are expected to practice regularly to develop performance skills.



Did you know?

Did you know that learning to play a musical instrument can increase the capacity of your memory?

Albus Dumbledore 'Ah, music. A magic far beyond what we do here'

Potential Careers

Studio Production, Studio Management, Recording Engineer, Composer, Music Journalist, Music performance, Sound Technician, Song writer and many more.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Qualification

GCSE

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

EDEXCEL Photography

50% Exam | 50% Portfolio

Unit 1: Controlled Assessment

Unit 2: Externally Set

Assignment

Each unit is assessed on Four
Assessment Objectives

Develop, Review/Experiment,
Record and Present.

Subject Leader

Mr Wright

About this course

If you enjoy:

- developing your visual skills.
- being creative, enthusiastic and imaginative.
- experimenting and taking risks with your work then our GCSE Photography is the ideal subject for you.

You must also be prepared to write about your work in detail.

You will, ideally have some experience of using a camera to take pictures, together with some knowledge of contemporary and historical art and design.

More importantly, you should have a commitment to, and love of the subject and feel motivated to develop your visual skills and express your ideas in working through projects and assignments.

You must also be prepared to write about your work in detail.

The GCSE covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. Whatever you choose, the main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work to progress to further courses or employment.



Did you know?

Cameras are made for right-handed people?

The first photograph was an image produced in 1826 by the French inventor Nicéphore Niépce on a polished pewter plate covered with a petroleum derivative called bitumen of Judea?

Today we snap as many photos every two minutes as humanity as a whole did in the 1800s?

Potential Careers

News Photographer, Event Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Journalist, Artist, Teacher of Art/Photography and many more.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Physical Education

60% Exam

40% Practical Performance

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influence and well-being in physical activity and sport

Subject Leader

Miss Bourne

About this course

If you love playing sports, have bundles of energy and enjoy learning about sports topics, then study GCSE P.E. The theory and practical lessons will keep you engaged, whilst also teaching you about the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. You will gain many valuable skills from studying P.E. that will help you in other GCSE subjects as well as your future career. Some of the skills that you will develop include:

Communication & Social Skills: Many aspects of P.E. involves working in teams towards a common goal. Through playing team sports and problem solving with others, you will develop clear communication skills that will help you in the workplace.

Analysis & Evaluation: This involves analysing your own and others' performance while looking for ways it could be improved. This is a particularly useful skill to have for future careers as you'll often have to critique your own work and identify areas for improvement.

Physical Fitness: As a P.E. student, you will also benefit from being physically fit. Not only will this help you in the physical side of the subject itself, but it will also improve your general well-being. Doing regular exercise is proven to relieve stress and promote good mental health. It is recommended that you are a member of a school team and it is desirable if you represent a team outside of school.



Did you know?

The benefits of sports are not simply limited to physical health. Playing sports has been linked to improvements in academic, social, and career success.

P.E. lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness as well as other industries that you may not have considered before.

For example, did you know that many nutritionists, physical therapists and chiropractors have a degree in P.E.?

Potential Careers

Any sports based career such as Teacher, Health and Fitness Instructor, Sports Professional, Physiotherapist, Sports Scientist, Nutritionist, Athlete, Sports Psychotherapist, Sports Equipment Engineer and many more.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification

BTEC

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

BTEC Physical Education

75% Coursework

25% Exam

- Fitness Testing (Exam)
- Practical Sport
- Training for Personal Fitness
- Sports Leader

Subject Leader

Miss Bourne

About this course

BTEC PE encourages personal development through practical participation and performance in a range of sports and exercise activities. It give learners a wider understanding and appreciation of health-related fitness, sports and exercise through a selection of optional specialist units.

BTEC PE encourage learners to develop their people, communication, planning and team-working skills by selecting from optional units available including:

Unit 1: Fitness Testing (External Exam)

Unit 2: Practical Sport (Internal Unit)

Unit 5: Training for Personal Fitness (Internal Unit)

Unit 6: Sports Leader (Internal Unit)

The course is predominantly internally assessed and coursework based. However, 25 per cent of the qualification is externally assessed. Edexcel sets and marks these assessments. To complete the course each student must study four units are Internally Assessed through coursework of the qualification is externally assessed. Edexcel sets and marks these assessments.

The course consists of 2 x (1 hour) practical and 2 x (1 Hour) theory lessons a week.



Did you know?

For more than 25 years, BTECs have earned their reputation as well established, enduringly effective qualifications. They have a proven track record in improving motivation and achievement among young learners.

Potential Careers

Any sports based career such as Teacher, Health and Fitness Instructor, Sports Professional, Physiotherapist, Sports Scientist, Nutritionist, Athlete, Sports Psychotherapist, Sports Equipment Engineer and many more.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Qualification

GCSE

Board

WJEC

Assessment

AQA Religious Education

100% Exam

Paper 1: 2 hours

Paper 2: 2 hours

Subject Leader

Mr Sullivan

About this course

The course consists in-depth units of.

- Religion and Human Relationships.
- Religion and Medical Ethics.
- Religion and Equality.
- Religion, Poverty and Capital wealth.
- Religion, Peace and Justice.

The GCSE course is externally examined by examiners. The students have 2x2 hour exams over a period of one month. The first exam the students are externally examined in Units B601 and B602. The second exam the students are externally examined in Units B603 and B604.

There is no coursework.

This course is open to everyone. You do not have to be religious to study Religious Education. It is increasingly important to study religion because we are living in an increasingly diverse, multicultural country. Being familiar with the religions of others can help foster positive human interactions in society.



Did you know?

There are more than 10,000 distinct religious groups in the world. Dogs are mentioned 14 times in the Bible, and lions 55 times, but domestic cats are not mentioned at all.

Buddhism currently has about 376 million followers and is generally listed as the world's fourth largest religion after Christianity, Islam and Hinduism. With about 1.57 billion Muslims comprising about 23% of the world's population, Islam is the second-largest religion and arguably the fastest-growing religion in the world.

Potential Careers

Having a clear understanding of RE will lead to many careers: Politics, Law, Journalism, Theology, Cultural Studies, Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy, History, Physics, Public Relations, Civil Servant, Politics, Medical Ethics and many more.

SEPARATE SCIENCES

PREFERENCE SUBJECT

EBACC SUBJECT

Qualification

3 x GCSEs

Board

AQA

Assessment

Biology 8461

Chemistry 8462

Physics 8463

100% Exam

2 Papers for each subject

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes

Subject Leader

Miss Monsell

Mr Williams

About this course

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known" – Carl Sagan

Separate Sciences is the perfect choice for those who want to increase and deepen their understanding of the world around them. Biology, Chemistry & Physics are studied in much more detail, providing you with valuable insights into topics as disparate as the origins of the cosmos and the inner workings of the human body. With 3, rather than 2 GCSEs on offer, Separate Sciences opens the door to all the sciences at A-Level, as well as to life, the universe and everything beyond.

A sample of the topics you will be investigating in depth are:

Biology:

The Inner Workings of Animals & Plants, Diseases, Ecosystems, Photosynthesis, Respiration, The Nervous System, Hormones, Reproduction, Genetics, Evolution.

Chemistry

Inside the Atom, How Atoms Bond Together, Electrolysis, Organic Chemistry, Crude Oil, Polymers, The Atmosphere & Natural Resources.

Physics

Energy, Electricity, Matter, Radioactivity, Forces, Motion, Pressure, Waves, Electromagnetism & Space.



Did you know?

Messages from the human brain travel along nerves at up to 200 miles an hour (322 km/h). That's almost as fast as the top speed of a Pagani Zonda hyper car!

The fastest muscles in a human body are the ones that make the eyes blink. They can contract in less than one-hundredth of a second. In just one day, a person may blink their eyes over 11,500 times.

Bananas release ethylene gas as they mature, which in turn can promote ripening in several other types of fruit. In other words it is not the best idea to store all your fruit together with bananas.

Potential Careers

Environmental Scientists, Hydrologists, Geoscientists, Medical Scientists, Biochemists, Atmospheric Scientists, Material Scientists, Physicists, Astronomers, Biological Scientists, Medicine, Engineering, Dentist, Forensic Scientist and many more.

SOCIOLOGY

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

AQA Sociology

100% Exam

Paper 1: The Sociology of Families and Education worth
Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

Subject Leader

Miss Goode

About this course

GCSE Sociology helps students develop a wide range of knowledge and understanding about society, and how sociologists study and understand its structures, processes and issues. Sociology is the study of people and how we interact with one another. Students learn topics such as culture, religion and identity, as well as getting to grips with the theories of thinkers such as Karl Marx and Max Weber. It is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives. Students are encouraged to question evidence and issues and develop their critical and evaluation skills. For interested students there is a smooth progression from GCSE to A-level Sociology.

- social structures, including family, education and stratification systems.
- social processes, including socialisation, social control and social change
- social issues, including the causes and consequences of inequality, and the sources, distribution and exercise of power and authority.

Candidates will be familiar with a range of terms and concepts commonly used by sociologists. They undertake small scale research projects in order to develop their understanding of the practical difficulties faced by sociologists working in the field. This course should enable candidates to use their knowledge of the world in which they live and their ability to understand and analyse it critically.



Did you know?

Sociology gives you a good understanding of human relationships which can be a bonus in a range of careers, which is probably why sociology graduates can be found across all sectors including the media and arts.

Did you know that singer James Blunt, comedian Robin Williams, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and current United States first lady, Michelle Obama were/are all Sociology graduates?

Potential Careers

Police, Teaching & Lecturing, Social Work, Community Development Worker, Social Researcher, Youth Worker, International Aid Worker, Public Relations Officer, Counselling, Life Coach, NHS.

STATISTICS

Qualification

GCSE

Board

EDEXCEL

Assessment

EDEXCEL Statistics

100% Exam

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes

Subject Leader

Mr Home

About this course

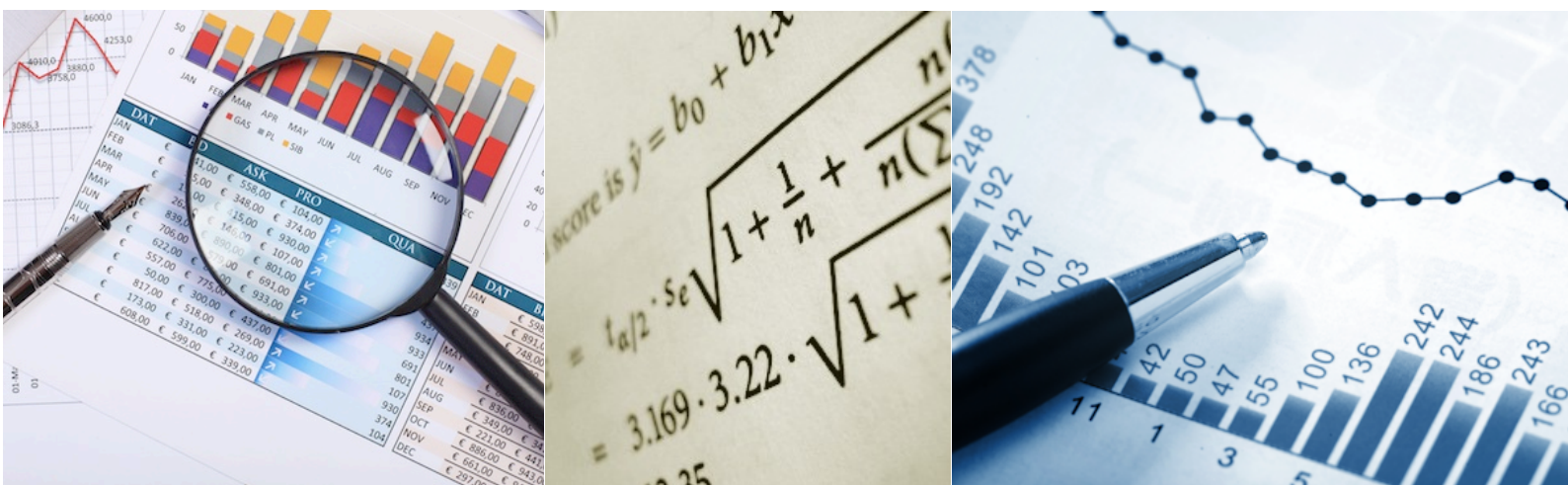
The key features of this GCSE course are:

- It offers a course of study which complements the GCSE in Mathematics. It's a three year course of study
- It's based on good practice in statistics
- It emphasises the theoretical, practical and applied nature of the subject
- It's suitable for cross-curricular studies and activities
- It provides a background for the study of statistics beyond GCSE

The examination entry at the end of three years will be at either Foundation level or Higher level. The grades available range from 1 to 5 for Foundation and 4 to 9 for Higher. You will take two written papers of 1 hour and 30 mins at Foundation level or Higher level. Each exam paper is out of a total of 80 marks and each is worth 50% of the total final mark.

Statistics is a useful tool if you wish to study Science, Business studies, Economics, Geography and Psychology. One of the main aims of this course is to provide you with the skills and insights that will enable you to be more aware and make more informed judgements of the statistics presented to you.

It will help you obtain a better grade in your GCSE Mathematics examination.



Did you know?

Many of the ideas you will meet in this course have applications in a wide range of other fields, from assessing what your car insurance is going to cost to how likely it is that the earth is going to be hit by a comet in the next few years.

Potential Careers

Useful for all careers and essential for some, including Teaching, Medicine, Forensics, Economist, Engineering, Architecture, Cryptology, Computer Scientist, Banking, Analyst, Statistician, Computer Scientist, Staff Systems, Air Traffic Control Analyst, Cryptologist, Economist, Robotics Engineer, Geophysical Mathematician, Civil Engineer and many more.

TEXTILES (DESIGN TECHNOLOGY)

Qualification

GCSE

Board

AQA

Assessment

Design & Technology | Textiles

50% Exam | 50% Practical

Exam: 2 hours

Practical | 30-35 Hours NEA

Subject Leader

Miss Chowdrey

About this course

The Design and Technology (Textiles component) specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating.

Paper 1 - Exam

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

- Practical application of:
 - Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

Task(s)

- Substantial design and make task
- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence



Did you know?

The direct value of the UK fashion industry to the UK economy is £26 billion – one of the biggest in the world; up from £21 billion in 2009. Showing an increase of 22% in nominal terms.

The first fashion magazine was published in Germany in 1586.

Potential Careers

Fashion Stylist, Graphic Design, Art & Design, Engineering, Constructions & Building Services, Motor Vehicle Technology & Repairs, Carpenter, Civil Engineering Technician, Plumber and many more.

KEY STAGE 4

SUBJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET



XCELLENCE FOR ALL

ST RUSSELL SCHOOL