ISAAC NEWTON ACADEMY

Year 9

Guide to Options

2018-2020 Cohort

Contents

Introduction

Dear Year 9 students,

You are about to embark on a really exciting stage of your educational journey, as you make important decisions about the subjects that you would like to comprise your KS4 curriculum programme.

As you become older it is important that you start to specialise, studying certain subjects in greater depth and for more hours each week. This will support you in mastering key disciplines in the scholarly way needed to prepare you for university.

However, at the same time as choosing certain subjects to focus on in more depth, you are inevitably being required to make difficult decisions about which subjects you will no longer study in the formal taught curriculum next year.

This booklet is designed to support you through the choices process: to clarify the choices you have (which subjects remain compulsory and which you can opt to continue learning), to inform you about the various subject courses and to give you important information about the implications of the choices that you make at this stage of your education.

It is important that you approach this process with an open mind. It is important that you seek advice and guidance from, and listen to, all those around you: your parents and carers, your older siblings and family contacts and the staff at school. You will each be invited, with a parent/carer, to an interview with a senior member of staff in the New Year to discuss your options choices. In the meantime, if you have any questions, do ask one of the members of the Senior Leadership Team or Ms Skyers.

Very best wishes,

Rachel Macfarlane,

Principal

The Options Process

Thursday 4th January - Options Evening

Presentation from Ms Skyersand Ms McEvoy. Guide to Options and Options Form handed out. Chance to visit Subject Stalls and ask questions.

Tuesday 9th January - Year 9 Progress Meetings

Updates on students' attainment, progress and effort.

Monday 29th January to Friday 23rd February - Options Interviews

All students and parents attend a one-to-one Options Interview at INA by appointment, to which students and parents bring completed Options Form.

Week beginning Monday 2nd July

Students notified of option allocations.

Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Our guiding principle in designing our Key Stage 4 curriculum is "depth before breadth" with an emphasis on mastery or core academic subjects. Building on our successful Key Stage 3, our Key Stage 4 curriculum centres on essential academic subjects, providing our students with an excellent foundation for further study and the option to continue their studies at a top university.

All students will study a compulsory core GCSE curriculum of English (2 GCSEs), Maths (1 GCSE), and Combined Science (Double Award) over 2 years. In addition, all students will follow a programme of non-examined PSHE, Cultural Studies, and Sport and Fitness. These subjects do not need to be selected on the Options Form.

Most students will study an additional four optional GCSE courses over 2 years, chosen from the alphabetical list below. A minority of students may be directed to a pre-learning and support option in place of a 4th choice. This will be discussed during the options interview. These optional subjects need to be listed on the Options Form in order of preference, along with two reserve choices, in case your child cannot be allocated to one of their top four choices.

All students are encouraged to include Geography or History, along with a language, in their four choices. This will provide a rounded and secure academic foundation for further study, as well as satisfying the requirements of the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). All students are <u>required</u> to include at least one of Geography, History or a language in their four choices. The Ebacc is explained further on the next page. Students have choice from the subjects listed below.

- Art & Design (**Art** OR **Textiles**)
- Computer Science (Ebacc)
- Drama
- DT (Graphics)
- French (Ebacc)
- Geography (Ebacc)
- History (Ebacc)
- Music
- PE
- Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences (Ebacc)
- Spanish (Ebacc)

<u>Notes about entry to subjects</u>

1. Students must satisfy one of the criteria below to study a language at GCSE:
   - Studied the language in Year 9
   - Regularly attended enrichment in the language to be studied at GCSE during Year 9 (to be supported by the Head of Languages)
   - Already a strong speaker in the language, e.g. a native speaker
2. In keeping with our commitment to a comprehensive education, there are no entry requirements for option subject courses.
3. Students who wish to study sciences at A-level are strongly encouraged to select Separate Sciences at GCSE to provide a more in-depth foundation for A level study. Some sixth forms will not allow entry onto A-level Sciences without Separate Science GCSEs (Triple Science).

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) has been introduced by the Government to acknowledge students who achieve good GCSE grades in the following subjects and to make study at Britain's top universities more accessible.

- English
- Maths
- Sciences
- History or Geography
- Languages

The Ebacc isn't a qualification in itself; it's a collection of core academic subjects that are highly valued by universities, sixth forms and the Government as providing a solid and rigorous foundation for future academic study.

Students are encouraged to choose a language and either History or Geography.

Students are required to choose at least one of the following Ebacc options: Geography, History, a language.

Combined Science (Double Award) or Separate Sciences?

It is compulsory for every student to study at least two GCSEs in Science. There are two routes:

Combined Science (Double Award), commonly called 'Double Science' – This course covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, counts as 2 GCSEs, and will be taught for 5 periods a week in Year 10. This does not need to be chosen on the Options Form.

Separate Sciences, commonly called 'Triple Science' – This course covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics in greater depth than Combined Science (Double Award), counts as 3 GCSEs (a separate GCSE for Biology, Chemistry and Physics), and will be taught for 8 periods a week in Year 10. Choosing this course will use one of your options.

Students who wish to study sciences at A-level are strongly encouraged to select Separate Sciences at GCSE to provide a more in-depth foundation for A level study. Some sixth forms will not allow entry onto A-level Sciences without Separate Science GCSEs.

Making your choice

Correct reasons to choose….

- If you would like to study that subject in the future at A Level.
- If you enjoy and are interested in a subject.
- If you are achieving well in a subject.
- If the subject will help you in the future with entry to University and your chosen career path.

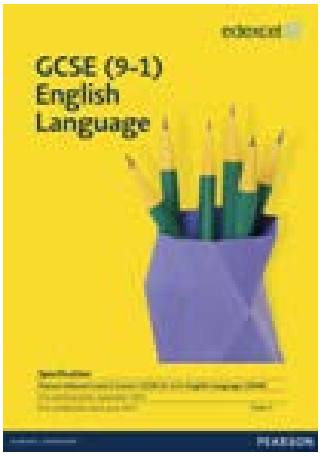
Remember….

- You shouldn't make a choice based on what your friends have chosen - your options are personal to you.
- GCSE Courses last for 2 years - you cannot change your mind at the end of Year 10.
- You shouldn't select a subject just because you like the teacher.

Next steps….

- Take the opportunity to seek advice or information from your teachers and family.
- Look carefully at the course information contained in this guide.
- Consider which subjects will best help you to pursue your intended post 16 course and check if there are any specific requirements for your post 16 study.

Compulsory Subjects



English Language at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

GCSE English Language is a compulsory course that comprises of two main components: **Reading**: fiction and non-fiction; and **Writing**: fiction and non-fiction. There will also be a **Speaking & Listening** element, which will appear on your certificate, but will not be part of the main qualification.

Over the course of years 10 and 11, this challenging GCSE will build upon all skills you have developed throughout KS3. You will study a range of themed units and get to grips with an interesting variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. These will include:

- Newspaper and magazine articles;
- Biographical and autobiographical writing;
- 19th Century fiction;
- Analytical essays;
- Persuasive texts (adverts, flyers, articles, etc.)

How will I be assessed?

INA English Department uses the **Pearson Edexcel** GCSE syllabus. Starting in 2015, **GCSE English Language** has been assessed differently from previous years. Below is an outline of some of the main changes:

- Courses are now fully linear (i.e. all exams are at the end of Year 11);
- There is now a 9-1 grading scale, with 9 being the top level.
- There are no tiered papers (i.e. no Higher or Foundation papers – every student will sit the same exam);
- There is no internal or controlled assessment.

We will monitor your progress with a series of **internal assessments** and **practice papers**. We will also provide opportunities for Mock exams, so that you will be well prepared for your final exams.

Where next?

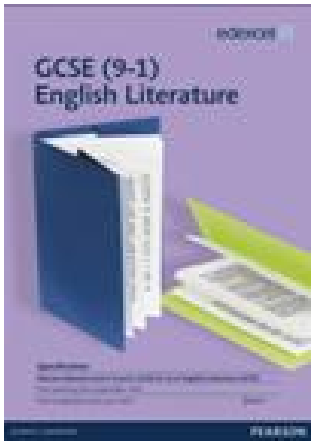
Success on the GCSE English Language course will provide you with essential life skills, which you will find transferable in any walk of life that you choose to follow. The study of English can be applied to almost any career, but particularly: **writer, teacher, journalist, translator, copywriter, etc**. It is also an essential GCSE for KS5 and college entry.

A level and degree level English courses are also rich in opportunities to develop your knowledge of our complex and ever-changing language.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms R Curley (Head of English) or your current English teacher.

You can find more information, or download a syllabus, by using the web-link below:
http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse15/english-lang/Pages/default.aspx



English Literature at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

GCSE English Literature is a compulsory course that comprises of four main components:

- **Shakespeare**;
- **Post-1914 literature**;
- **19th Century novel**;
- **Poetry since 1789**.

Over the course of years 10 and 11, this challenging GCSE will build upon all skills you have developed throughout KS3. You will study a range of texts from across the history of British Literature.

How will I be assessed?

INA English Department uses the **Pearson Edexcel** GCSE syllabus. Since 2015, **GCSE English Literature** has been assessed differently from previous years. Below is an outline of some of the main changes:

- Courses are now fully linear (i.e. all exams are at the end of Year 11);
- There is now a 9-1 grading scale, with 9 being the top level.
- There are no tiered papers (i.e. no Higher or Foundation papers – every student will sit the same exam);
- There is no internal or controlled assessment.

We will monitor your progress with a series of **internal assessments** and **practice papers**. We will also provide opportunities for Mock exams, so that you will be well prepared for your final exams.

Where next?

Success on the GCSE English Literature course will provide you with a deep understanding and love of reading and literature. It will equip you with the ability to learn, analyse and discover more about world of books, poem and plays. The study of English Literature can be applied to almost any career, but particularly: **writer, teacher, journalist, theatre practitioner, media careers, etc**. It is also an essential GCSE for KS5 and college entry.

A level and degree level English courses are also rich in opportunities to develop your knowledge of our complex and ever-changing language.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms R Curley (Head of English) or your current English teacher.

You can find more information, or download a syllabus, by using the web-link below:
http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse15/english-lang/Pages/default.aspx

Mathematics at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

Through this course, you will develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods in 6 key areas of mathematics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

You will apply the skills you acquire across the subject to solve problems, reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.

How will I be assessed?

You will be following the Edexcel GCSE in Mathematics (1MA1). Depending on your prior attainment, you will either follow the Foundation course (Grades 5-1) or Higher course (Grades 9-4).

You will be assessed by sitting three papers, all in Summer 2017:

Paper 1	1 hour 30 min	33.3%	Non-calculator	80 marks
Paper 2	1 hour 30 min	33.3%	Calculator	80 marks
Paper 3	1 hour 30 min	33.3%	Calculator	80 marks

For more information see:
http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse15/maths/Pages/introducing-gcse2015.aspx

Internally, you will be assessed at the end of each Unit (every 2-3 weeks) so that you can regularly review which topics you need to improve. You will complete a practice paper once a term to develop exam technique and prepare you for your final exams.

Where next?

The GCSE Mathematics course will provide you with a broad range of skills in problem solving, logical reasoning and flexible thinking which are transferable to many other subjects and careers.

Those attaining the highest grades at GCSE will have the opportunity to continue the subject at A-Level and beyond.

A specialism in Mathematics can lead to a career in a variety of industries including: Accountancy , Construction, Consultancies, Education, Engineering, Financial Services, Insurance, IT & Computing & Manufacturing.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms G Gohil (Acting Head of Mathematics)

Combined Science at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

This forms the compulsory part of your Science education at GCSE. In this course you will study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course will also develop your investigative and problem solving skills as well as enhancing critical thinking skills.

Topics studied include:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
• Cells and control • Genetics • Natural selection and genetic modification • Ecosystems and material cycles • Plant structures and their functions • Animal coordination, control and homeostasis • Exchange and transport in animals • Bioenergetics • Health, disease and the development of medicines	• States of matter • Methods of separating and purifying substances • Acids • Obtaining and using metals • Electrolytic processes • Reversible reactions and equilibria • Groups 1, 7 and 0 • Rates of reaction • Fuels • Heat energy changes in chemical reactions • Earth and atmospheric science	• Waves • Light and the electromagnetic spectrum • Particle model • Radioactivity • Astronomy • Energy - forces doing work • Forces and their effects • Electricity and circuits • Magnetism and the motor effect • Particle model • Forces and matter

The course will also develop your quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills that cross over with mathematics. The course also strives to ensure that the Science is explored in real-world contexts rather than just abstract concepts in isolation.

How will I be assessed?

You will be following the AQA GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy (8464). Depending on your prior attainment, you will either follow the Foundation course (Grades 1-5) or Higher course (5-9) though these entries do not need to be decided at the beginning of the course.

You will be assessed by sitting two papers for each subject (6 in total) The marks and percentages are as follows

Biology	**Biology** paper 1 *1BF/1BH*	1 Hour 15 minutes	***16.67%***	70 marks
	Biology paper 2 *2BF/2BH*	1 Hour 15 minutes	***16.67%***	70 marks
Chemistry	**Chemistry** Paper 1 *1CF/1CH*	1 Hour 15 minutes	***16.67%***	70 marks
	Chemistry Paper 2 *2CF/2CH*	1 Hour 15 minutes	***16.67%***	70 marks
Physics	**Physics** Paper 1 *1PF/1PH*	1 Hour 15 minutes	***16.67%***	70 marks
	Physics Paper 2 *2PF/2PH*	1 Hour 15 minutes	***16.67%***	70 marks

For more information see:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464

Where next?

This course will provide you with a broad range of skills in problem solving, logical reasoning and critical thinking, transferrable to many other subjects and careers. The skills obtained in science are highly valued in many other careers such as Business, Computing, Game Design, Technology, Engineering, Physiotherapy, Mathematics, Banking, Law, Architecture and Politics.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr A Clift-Matthews, Head of Science

Cultural Studies at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

Cultural Studies is the study of society, culture and belief in the modern world. Students have the chance to examine religion and belief in a modern world context as they explore the different people and beliefs in the UK, differences within religion and issues related to living in a multicultural society.

This subject builds on the KS3 RE study and will examine belief in the modern world. Students will develop their religious understanding as they explore culture, father, media, politics and identity in the 21st century. Students will be required to make links with many other subject areas and will be assessed through projects, essays and presentations throughout Key Stage 4.

Cultural Studies will enable each student to develop their understanding of spiritual, moral and social issues in considerable depth, empowering students with essential skills and understanding to participate actively in a tolerant and multi-faith society.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr B Woracker, Head of Humanities

PSHE at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) at INA is an important part of the curriculum with a programme of study based on the needs of our students, covering key concepts and developing the skills that underpin PSHE education and supports students' spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development, whilst preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. This modular course will include topics such as, careers, sex education and life skills.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms S Skyers, PL and Head of PSHE

Sport and Fitness at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

Building on KS3, students gain more choice in their learning and a different programme of activities each term. Students have a choice from 3 different options each half term. These options can be split into 3 areas:

- **GCSE candidate sports** – Table tennis, badminton, netball, handball, football. Compulsory for GCSE students, but non-GCSE students can opt in.
- **Fitness based activities –** Boxerciser, aerobics, circuit training.
- **Alternative games –** Rounders, dodgeball

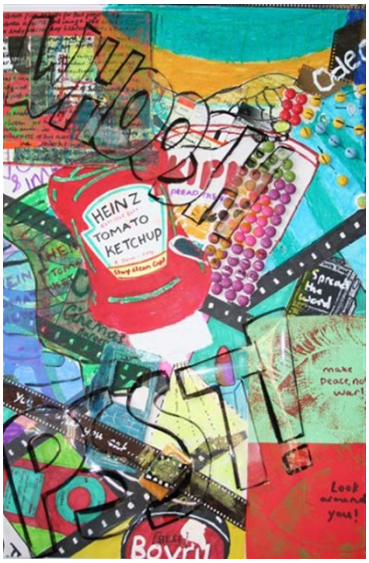
GCSE students will be allocated a group which will help boost their GCSE practical scores.

Who do I need to see for more information?

You can ask your PE teacher or Mr D Beattie, Head of PE

Optional Subjects

Art & Design (Art) at Key Stage 4



What will I be studying?

Your Art and Design GCSE course has been designed to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design over the course of Year 10 and 11. There will be many ways for you to develop, refine, record and present your ideas. This may take the form of painting, drawing, print design, photography and sculpture where you will be encouraged to experiment and review your artwork.
GCSE Art & Design involves students developing a Personal Portfolio of artwork in. Controlled Tasks formally known as coursework are internally assessed in school by your art teachers.

How will I be assessed?

There are four areas you are assessed in GCSE Art & Design. Each of these areas is referred to as an assessment objective – we refer to them as AO1, AO2, AO3, and AO4.

Class learning and Independent Learning will be assessed by your Art teacher using these assessment objectives. The assessment objectives focus on develop contextual understanding, refine use media, drawing and recording from observation, and presenting final intentions.

Your Externally Set Assignment is a 10 hour sustained focus timed test. It has a weighting of 40%. Your art teachers will assess your portfolio of artwork before it is externally moderated.

You **cannot** study both Art & Design (Art) and Art & Deisgn (Textiles).

Where next?

Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage. Art makes students look at things anew. Communicating with colour, shape and form awakens the imagination. Many of the top universities encourage applicants for creative courses including:

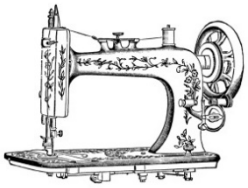
Oxford Loughborough University of London, Goldsmiths Brighton Bath Spa
University of the Arts London Nottingham Trent Lancaster Newcastle Brunel

Whether you're designing ships as a naval architect or creating cutting edge art as a fine artist, the one thing that all jobs in this family have in common is creativity. So if you're an ideas person and you like creating things that are useful and visually appealing, take a look at some of these jobs.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms J Spencer, Vice Principal and Head of ADT

Art & Design (Fashion and Textiles) at Key Stage 4



What will I be studying?

GCSE Art & Design (Textiles) teaches students about the development of Textiles-based art and contemporary fashion. The course leads to an Art GCSE and follows the same pattern of projects and assessment as students will be familiar with from Key Stage 3 Art and Textiles. Example outcomes might include fabric prints, sculptural clothing designs and knitted jewellery.

How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into four main projects:

1. "Natural Forms" - An introduction to Fashion and Textiles through investigation of natural forms and surface texture. Students learn a range of new techniques focusing on weave, knitting and crochet leading to a final outcome of knitted textile jewellery.

2. "The Coast" - This project explores a new theme to apply newly learnt skills and techniques with an exciting outcome focusing on fabric printing. Students will design and produce an item of clothing or home-ware to apply their print.

3. "Architecture" - This final coursework project brings all skills and techniques together, giving students the opportunity to select specific techniques to improve and refine, whilst working towards the design development of their final outcome.

4. "The Exam Project" – this project requires you to work more independently on a theme set by the exam board. The outcome and media is decided individually between teacher and student to choose what best suits you.

You will be following the AQA Art & Design specification with Textiles as a specialism:
http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF

Component 1: Portfolio NEA completed in Y10 and Y11	60%
Component 2: Externally set assignment 8 week project + 10h practical exam	40%

You **cannot** study both Art & Design (Art) and Art & Deisgn (Textiles).

Where next?

A qualification in Art will:

- show an employer you are creative and imaginative, with original ideas and strong presentation skills. You will also have demonstrated a good level of organisation and self-awareness.
- develop the way you look at and think about the world around you.
- build your cultural knowledge and passion for design and the Arts.
- enable you to study Art, Graphics, Textiles or Fashion at A-Level or BTEC and eventually an Arts degree such as Fine Art, Fashion and Theatre Design, or university degrees in disciplines like Architecture, Advertising, Animation, Film and Media, Marketing, Illustration, Education or Museum Work.

Additional information/ special requirements

Textiles work is often time consuming and may need to be completed outside of lesson time.
This is an art course and students will need to draw and paint as an element of their NEA.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms J Spencer, Vice Principal and Head of ADT

Computer Science at Key Stage 4 (Ebacc)

What will I be studying?

GCSE Computer Science enables students to learn about the fundamental principles of Computing. You will study how the hardware components work with software to process instructions on various platforms such as smart phones, tablets, games consoles and desktop computers.

The AQA Computing GCSE comprises 7 units:

- **Unit 1**: Algorithms
- **Unit 2**: Programming
- **Unit 3**: Data representation
- **Unit 4**: Computer systems
- **Unit 5**: Computer networks
- **Unit 6**: Cyber security
- **Unit 7**: Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of technology on society

How will I be assessed?

You will be following the AQA GCSE Computer Science (8520) specification.

- **Paper 1: Computation thinking and problem solving**. Non calculator written exam. 1h 30mins. Subject content from units 1 to 4.
- **Paper 2: Written assessment**. Non calculator written exam. 1h 30mins. Subject content from units 3 to 7.
- **Non exam assessment.** Students solve a practical programming problem individually.

For 2018-20, each written exam is likely to contribute 50% of final grade.

The specification can be found here:
http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/computing/specifications/AQA-8520-SP-2016.PDF

Where next?

Studying GCSE Computer Science enables you to progress to further education, studying A level Computing or Computer Science. This course will involve learning computational mathematics which is also beneficial when applying to Universities.

At University students will have the opportunity to study subjects such as:

- BSC Computing
- BSC Computer Science
- BSC Computing with Mathematics

If the following careers are of interest to you then GCSE Computer Science could help you to get there:

- Web developer
- CEO for a start up
- Video games designer
- Software engineer
- IT security specialist
- Mobile applications developer

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms E McEvoy, Assistant Principal & Teacher of Computing

DT (Graphic Products) at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

GCSE DT (Graphic Products) covers a wide range of products including: packaging, point-of-sale display, interior and garden design, and 3D product (concept) design such as an architectural model.

Over the course of two years you will develop a whole range of creative designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding relating to graphic products and invaluable transferable skills such as problem solving and time management. You must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding in relation to design and technology.

How will I be assessed?

- **Written examination: 50% of final grade** (1 paper, 2 hours)
  Knowledge and understanding of graphic products is assessed in an exam at the end of Year 11. This paper is split into 3 sections:
  - Core technical principles (20 marks)
  - Specialist technical principles (30 marks)
  - Designing and making principles (50 marks)

- **Non-exam assessment: 50% of final grade**
  A design and make task that takes you through the design process.
  You produce a working prototype and an A3 portfolio of evidence (20 pages) based on a design task released by the exam board at the end of year 10. Products such as board games, stationary packs, cinema display stands have been set in previous years. This will be marked by your teacher and then externally moderated by the exam board.

You will be following the Edexcel Design and Technology specification with graphic materials as a specialism. There is a cross over in theory knowledge with the textiles course.
https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/design-and-technology/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/Specification-GCSE-L1-L2-in-Design-and-Technology.pdf

Where next?

GCSE DT (Graphic Products) allows you to develop planning, manufacturing skills, problem solving and a lateral thinking, whilst communicating a range of ideas. Many of the students who enjoy studying GCSE DT (Graphic Products) have gone on to study A Levels in Product Design and Graphic Products. You can also study any Design and Technology related course post-16. Many of the top universities encourage applicants for creative courses.
Whether you're interested in designing architectural models for a school, designing websites with ICT, or interested in becoming an engineer, DT can offer you a great start. So if you enjoy solving problems, work well to deadlines and enjoy the challenge of manufacturing a product from start to finish, this is the course for you.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms J Spencer, Vice Principal and Head of ADT

Drama at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

Your Drama course will give you the chance to explore drama and theatre in a range of exciting and relevant practical and theoretical ways.

It will allow you to work creatively with other students, interpreting texts, visiting the theatre, experimenting through practical workshops, and through devising, designing and performing your own pieces of original theatre.

Over the two year GCSE course, you will get the chance to develop your creativity, achieve personal growth and build self-confidence, as well as cultivating your communication and analytical skills through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding, and through the exercise of your imagination.

How will I be assessed?

You will develop skills across a variety of areas and be assessed as follows:

- **Devised Performance: 40%**
  You will devise and perform your own extended piece of group drama to a live audience. You will document your devising and performance process through a portfolio of evidence and an analytical evaluative report written under exam conditions.
- **Performance from a Text: 20%**
  You will perform a scripted piece of drama in front of an external WJEC examiner.
- **Written Examination: 40%**
  You will study a full play text through extensive practical workshops and be examined upon what you have learnt in a final written exam. You will also write a live theatre evaluation in response to an exam question which you will answer in reference to a play you have seen on one of your visits to the theatre.

You will be following the WJEC/Equdas GCSE Drama course.

http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse

Where next?

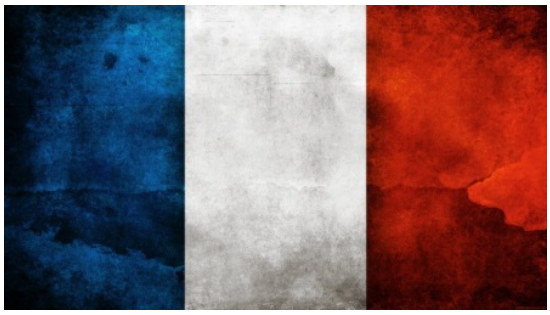
Many of the skills that you will hone and develop through your Drama course will be incredibly valuable in later life, regardless of the career or educational pathway you choose to follow. According to the University of Kent, the top qualities that employers are looking for in their employees include a range of skills that will be explicitly developed through the Drama course:

Good verbal and written communication skills; excellent time management; the ability to plan and organise as well as to be flexible; strong teamwork skills; initiative, self-motivation, and drive; the ability to analyse and evaluate.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms K Field, Head of Drama

French at Key Stage 4 (Ebacc)



What will I be studying?

You will develop your communication skills and you will be confident in expressing your ideas effectively with native speakers. You will learn to understand other cultures and how to play your part as a citizen in the world community.

Over the course of Year 10 and 11 you will study a range of topics which will enable you to communicate your ideas in everyday situations as well as discussing issues of personal interest to you:

- Sport and leisure
- Media and culture
- Travel and tourism
- Business, work and employment

How will I be assessed?

You will develop all four skills, each of which will form a percentage of your overall and final grade.

Listening: 25%
Reading: 25%
Speaking: 25%
Writing: 25%

Where next?

Many of the top universities encourage applicants to have studied a foreign language. For example, the Russell Group:

Birmingham	Glasgow	London School of Economics	Oxford
Bristol	Imperial College London	Manchester	Sheffield
Cambridge	Leeds	Newcastle	Southampton
Edinburgh	Liverpool	Nottingham	Warwick

The ability of offer a language is welcomed in many careers. Opportunities include journalism and the media, law, engineering, business and marketing, ICT, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, customer services, border control, customs and diplomatic service, teaching, translating and interpreting. Knowledge of another language is also valued in many aspects of science and the medical profession.

Who do I need to see for more information?

You can ask your Language Teacher or Ms P Baxter, Head of Languages

Geography at Key Stage 4 (Ebacc)

What will I be studying?

Geography is about the present and the future, the world in which we live is constantly changing and is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare for those changes.

Through the study of GCSE Geography you will develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. You will learn to question and appreciate people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures. You will also apply your learning to the real world through fieldwork and other out of classroom learning.

The Edexcel B GCSE is an issue based course and you will study 7 issues:

- Hazardous Earth (tectonics, global warming, extreme weather)
- Development dynamics (issues around global inequality)
- Challenges of an urbanising world (consequences of urbanisation including quality of life)
- The UK's evolving human and physical landscape (including economics, politics, rivers and coasts)
- Geographical investigations (fieldwork)
- People and the biosphere (exploitation of ecosystems)
- Consuming energy resources (how can a growing demand be met? Including Fracking, nuclear energy)

You will also be doing in-depth country and city studies of places with different levels of development

How will I be assessed?

There will be 3 external exams, each lasting 1hour 30mins. 15% of the marks will be based on two pieces of fieldwork which will be undertaken outside of the classroom. There will also be a focus on the application of maths and statistics in a geographical setting, and constitute 10% of the marks.

Where next?

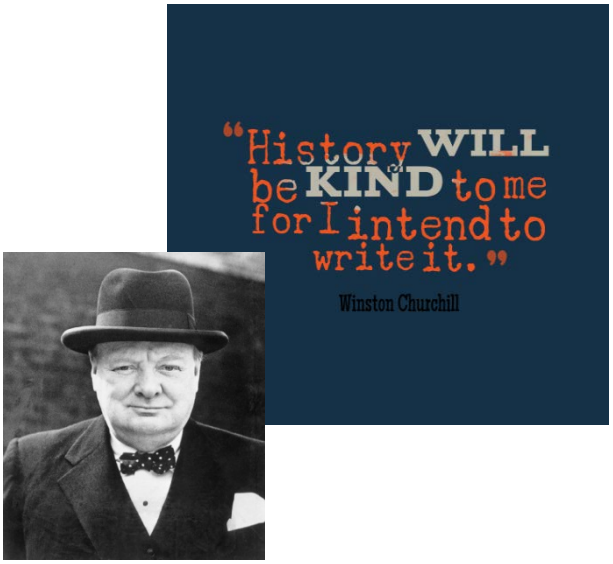
Geography is an academic subject which is highly regarded by top universities. The Russell Group (a group of the top performing, most prestigious universities) consider it to be one of the facilitating subjects which enables students to keep their options open when deciding on what and where to study at university.

The transferable skills which geography fosters are considered an asset in the complex world of employment today. The study of Geography is welcomed in many careers, for example the charity sector, archaeology, architecture, business and finance, travel and tourism, teaching, government researcher, travel writer, TV researcher or town planning.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms P Gurm, Lead Teacher of Geography

History at Key Stage 4 (Ebacc)



What will I be studying?

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, sometimes awkward questions; you will learn not to take everything at face value. You have to develop empathy and understanding of the actions and achievements of others; you have to be prepared to put your case and argue it well; you have to use evidence to draw conclusions and make judgements.

How will I be assessed?

The exams for GCSE History are all **linear,** so the exams are all at the end of the course in Year 11. The exams will account for **100% of the final grade**. There will be **several exams**. The exam questions will be a mixture of short and longer answers, requiring essay writing skills. The content studied at GCSE History will build on that studied at KS3, with new added topics.

The exams will consist of questions that will assess your skills at:

- **Recall** of knowledge studied during the course
- **Explanation** of why events happened, or their consequences
- **Analysis and evaluation** of historical **sources** both primary and secondary, and **events** for their significance.
- Detailed and critical **judgements** made based on specific sources of evidence and knowledge.

Where next?

Many of the top universities encourage applicants to have studied History. For example, the Russell Group:

Birmingham	Glasgow	London School of Economics	Oxford
Bristol	Imperial College London	Manchester	Sheffield
Cambridge	Leeds	Newcastle	Southampton
Edinburgh	Liverpool	Nottingham	Warwick

A GCSE in History is welcomed in many careers. Opportunities include journalism and the media, law, politics, archaeology, architecture, fashion design, business and marketing, travel and tourism, teaching, being a librarian, novelist or museum curator.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Ms R Priestley, Lead Teacher of History

Music at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

If you choose music GCSE then you will get the opportunity to develop as a performer (on your instrument or voice) and as a composer, and you will gain the skills you need to become the musician that you want to be.

The course is split into three areas: performing, composing, listening.

On top of your performances and compositions, the course will be based around varied pieces of music from all over the world. These pieces of music will be studied in depth and the students will remember them for the rest of their lives. The music studied will be based on the following four areas of study:
AoS1: Musical Forms & Devices
AoS2: Music for Ensemble
AoS3: Music for Film
AoS4: Popular Music

How will I be assessed?

Performance - (two performances, at least one ensemble performance) = 30%

Composition - (two compositions, one own choice and one based on a given brief) = 30%

Listening Exam = 40%

You will be following the Eduqas GCSE Music course (601/8131/X)

http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/music/gcse/

Where next?

Developing a life-long love of music-making, already begun at Key Stage 3. By developing your skills, creativity and appreciation of music at Key Stage 4, you will have ownership of the deep and meaningful source of expression that is music for the rest of your life. One top of this, music GCSE is an essential step on the road towards A-Level Music and A-Level Music Technology. These subjects lead on to a whole host of music courses from conservatoires such as the Royal Academy of Music, to the study of music at top universities like Oxford, Cambridge, Kings College, Birmingham and Durham.

Music GCSE will also allow students to develop the self-management, team work, problem solving, communication, numeracy, and IT skills required to succeed across a wide range of subjects and highly desired by top universities.

With unique skills and a broad range of graduate jobs on offer, music students have excellent job prospects. Many music graduates work in the creative industry, but the roles performed by graduates vary greatly. Music graduates work in publishing, editing, media production, broadcasting, and marketing. A number work with professional ensembles, but not all are performing as musicians – many work in management roles. Less anticipated but no less common is the employment of music graduates in finance and banking, law and consultancy.
http://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/oct/11/music-students-employability

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr G Coughlin, Head of Music

Physical Education at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

GCSE PE allows students to study both the practical and theoretical side of the subject. On the practical side, students will develop their skills further in sports such as football, basketball, netball, handball, badminton, table tennis, athletics, cricket, dance, and many more.

In terms of the theoretical side of the subject, learning centres around two main areas:

- Applied Anatomy & Physiology and Physical Training
- Socio-Cultural influences – Sports Psychology, Health and Wellbeing

How will I be assessed?

The assessment of the GCSE course is divided into two areas:

- **PRACTICAL = 40% -** Students will be assessed in 3 sports. Of these 3 sports, one must be an individual sport and one a team sport. The final sport can be either a team or individual sport. Incorporated in this is a piece of coursework focused on evaluating and analysing performance. This piece of coursework accounts for **10%** of this strand of the qualification.
- **THEORY = 60% -** Students will sit two 1h exams as part of the theoretical side of the course.
    - Applied Anatomy & Physiology and Physical Training – **30%**
    - Socio-Cultural influences – Sports Psychology, Health and Wellbeing – **30%**

Further information about the OCR GCSE PE course can be found at the following web address:

http://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234822-specification-accredited-gcse-physical-education-j587.pdf

Where next?

Taking GCSE PE will allow students the opportunity to progress to do A/S and A Level PE at Key Stage 5. As a result of the biological content this subject could also be greatly beneficial for them in science at Key Stage 4 or 5.

At University students will have the opportunity to study subjects such as:

- Sports Science
- Sports Studies (which can incorporate event management, psychology, coaching, physiology)
- Physiotherapy

Looking beyond educational years, GCSE PE can help you gain entry to the following career areas:

- PE teaching
- Sports Coaching
- Event Management
- Psychology
- Sports Development
- Fitness Industry

Who do I need to see for more information?

You can ask your PE Teacher or Mr D Beattie, Head of PE

Religious Studies at Key Stage 4

What will I be studying?

The specification builds on the existing religious education Schemes of Learning at Key Stage 3.

This subject allows students to become empowered in their comprehension of religious beliefs in a rigorous, relevant and interesting manner.

Students will approach the subject by examining the philosophical theories that underpin religious ideas and will also analyse topical ethical debates which cause distinctions in religious opinions. They will use a range of skills to interpret and analyse religious texts and scripture in a critical and comprehensive manner. Students will be looking at key themes which cover a wide range of topics through the study of two world faiths.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed at the end of the two year course.

- The final assessment will involve students completing several papers based on learning over the course.
- The design of the assessment will be based on a mixture of short answer questions and extended questions which will be written in the style of essays.
- The terminal assessments will account for 100% of the final grade.

Where next?

Students have the opportunity to progress and use religious education as a foundation for studying many courses at key stage 5. This subject can support applications for the study of philosophy and ethics as well as other humanities subjects. The ability to write a detailed analysis of a topic through structured essays is a skill which is valued by many other subjects at key stage 5 and beyond.

Studying religion can help to support applications for the study of law, geography, history and politics, philosophy, sociology and anthropology at many top universities.

Studying the subject can pave the way for a wide range of careers in the government, charitable and non-governmental organisations, the legal profession, teaching, research and community work. The subject can add value to most professions as it is seen as an asset in an increasingly multi-cultural and multi-faith, globalised world.

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr B Woracker, Head of Humanities

Separate Sciences at Key Stage 4 (Ebacc)

What will I be studying?

This is an optional part of Science education at GCSE. In this course you will study for a full GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course will also develop your investigative and problem solving skills as well as enhancing critical thinking skills. The course will also further develop your quantitative and qualitative data analysis skills that cross over with mathematics.

In addition to the Topics studied in the Combined Science GCSE you will study:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
• Ecosystems & material cycles • Common biological systems • Osmosis, diffusion and active transport	• Transition metals, alloys & corrosion • Quantitative analysis • Dynamic equilibria & calculations • Chemical cells & fuel cells • Hydrocarbons & polymers • Alcohols & carboxylic acids	• Static electricity • Electromagnetic induction • Particle model – 2 • Forces and matter

How will I be assessed?

You will be following the AQA GCSE specification for all three Science GCSEs. Depending on your prior attainment, you will either follow the Foundation course (Grades 1-5) or Higher course (Grades 5-9) though these entries do not need to be decided at the beginning of the course.

You will be assessed by sitting two papers for each Science subject GCSE (6 in total) and completing an in-class controlled assessment investigation task for each one. The marks and percentages are as follows:

Biology (8461)	**Biology** 1F/1H	1 hour 45 min	50%	100 marks
	Biology 2F/2H	1 hour 45 min	50%	100 marks
Chemistry (8462)	**Chemistry** 1F/1H	1 hour 45 min	50%	100 marks
	Chemistry 2F/2H	1 hour 45 min	50%	100 marks
Physics (8463)	**Physics P1** 1F/1H	1 hour 45 min	50%	100 marks
	Physics P2 2F/2H	1 hour 45 min	50%	100 marks

For more information see:

http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462
http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463

Where next?

The course is designed to lead directly into A-level Science in any of the three disciplines and is the preferred option for studying science courses at University. Those considering a science career path are strongly encouraged to choose the separate sciences option.

This course provides you with a broad range of skills in problem solving, logical reasoning and critical thinking which are transferrable to many other subjects and careers.

Future science careers could include: Chemical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Medicine, Astrophysics, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Genetics, Chemistry, Forensic Science, Pharmacology, Pathology, Physics, Physiology, Neuroscience, Zoology and many more!

Who do I need to see for more information?

Mr A Clift-Matthews, Head of Science

Spanish at Key Stage 4 (Ebacc)

What will I be studying?

You will develop your communication skills and you will be confident in expressing your ideas effectively with native speakers. You will learn to understand other cultures and how to play your part as a citizen in the world community.

Over the course of Year 10 and 11 you will study a range of topics which will enable you to communicate your ideas in everyday situations as well as discussing issues of personal interest to you:

- Sport and leisure
- Media and culture
- Travel and tourism
- Business, work and employment

How will I be assessed?

You will develop all four skills, each of which will form a percentage of your overall and final grade.

Listening: 25%
Reading: 25%
Speaking: 25%
Writing: 25%

Where next?

Many of the top universities encourage applicants to have studied a foreign language. For example, the Russell Group:

Birmingham	Glasgow	London School of Economics	Oxford
Bristol	Imperial College London	Manchester	Sheffield
Cambridge	Leeds	Newcastle	Southampton
Edinburgh	Liverpool	Nottingham	Warwick

The ability of offer a language is welcomed in many careers. Opportunities include journalism and the media, law, engineering, business and marketing, ICT, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, customer services, border control, customs and diplomatic service, teaching, translating and interpreting. Knowledge of another language is also valued in many aspects of science and the medical profession.

Who do I need to see for more information?

You can ask your Language Teacher or Ms P Baxter, Head of Languages