Calday Grange Grammar School

GCSE OPTIONS BOOK

www.calday.co.uk

The following information is intended to help parents and students make informed decisions about GCSE subject choices. It is important that students choose courses that are best suited to their academic abilities and that allow them to keep their career options open.

What is the GCSE?

At Calday, our Key Stage 4 GCSE curriculum is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education. It is a flexible curriculum which allows students to move at an appropriate pace through their GCSE courses and access additional challenging qualifications.

At GCSE level the candidates are graded 9 -1 although we would expect the majority of our entries to be graded 9 – 5. From 2014 all GCSE courses have been examined by a combination of final examination and internal assessment. The weighting of these components varies across subjects. Careful and methodical application throughout the course will be rewarded. GCSE examinations attempt to assess the ability to acquire, retain, examine and evaluate concepts. The candidates who achieve most at GCSE demonstrate a capacity for independent thought and thorough preparation and organisation.

The GCSE examination is not based exclusively on the ability of candidates to recall factual information. Of course, the acquisition of knowledge is still important, but it is only one of the components assessed at GCSE. The examination will test a range of skills, such as ability to use evidence, to evaluate, to draw conclusions, and to understand concepts. In several subjects some of the skills tested are essentially practical. The nature of the examination makes it particularly important that candidates develop the ability to think independently and to work under their own initiative.

The GCSE examination is intended to be positive. It is designed to test what a candidate does know rather than what he does not know. Its purpose is to encourage rather than to discourage. Thus, within most examinations, questions are structured. The easier ones will be accessible to all candidates while other questions will be more demanding and will be linked to higher grades.

The GCSE examination questions are highly structured and designed to be accessible to candidates of all abilities (some subjects make use of tiered entry). However the examinations will contain more challenging questions which will differentiate between the candidates. All GCSE courses are demanding, needless to say students who fail to invest sufficient time and effort throughout the two years will underachieve, it is not an examination for the last minute crammer.

It is vitally important that candidates understand the importance of achieving a good set of GCSE grades. The majority of our students will apply to Higher Education and as part of that application will be required to disclose their GCSE results. Obviously, students with strong GCSE records will increase their chances of getting offers on their preferred courses at the established universities or higher level apprenticeships.

Subject Choices 2025 - 2027

Years 10 and Year 11:
At the start of Year 10 students commence studies in their chosen GCSE subjects. It is anticipated that the majority of students will follow a curriculum that will lead to ten GCSE qualifications. We have designed a curriculum that supports students to make the transition to Sixth Form studies and to prepare them for life after school. The core subjects form the English Baccalaureate and this is the basis for our GCSE curriculum, plus the optional subjects shown in the table below.

English Baccalaureate:
The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) is an umbrella grouping of subjects:

- Mathematics
- English Language
- English Literature
- Science (combined or separate sciences)
- Language
- History or Geography

The Ebacc is not a qualification in itself. It will enable recognition of students' achievements across this core of selected academic subjects in getting good passes in rigorous GCSEs.

Every effort will be made to meet the requests of students but whilst we try to accommodate as many choices as possible, there are limits to school resources. If sets are too small to be viable, the optional subject may be cancelled and students will be required to make a further choice. Numbers in some GCSE courses are limited.

Therefore we ask students to state three (2 Option Pathway) or four (3 Option Pathway) preferences on the option form and it may be necessary to allocate some students to their third or fourth choice. Certain combinations may not be possible – depending upon the number of sets being offered. If alterations have to be made, they will be discussed with the student.

Pathways

There are two different pathways to choose from.

The 2 Option Pathway where you will choose three separate sciences and two other option subjects

The 3 Option Pathway where you will choose combined science and three other option subjects.

2 Option Pathway
YOU MUST STUDY:
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Single Science
Core Theology, Philosophy and Ethics
Core PE
Personal Development and Careers
YOU MUST STUDY:
Geography **OR**
History
YOU MUST STUDY:
Chinese **OR**
French **OR**
German
YOU MUST CHOOSE TWO FROM:
Business Studies
Computer Science
D&T Food and Nutrition
D&T Product Design
Drama
Fine Art
Geography
Graphic Communication
History
Music
Physical Education
Religious Studies
A second Language

3 Option Pathway
YOU MUST STUDY:
English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Combined Science
Core Theology, Philosophy and Ethics
Core PE
Personal Development and Careers
YOU MUST STUDY:
Geography **OR**
History
YOU MUST STUDY:
Chinese **OR**
French **OR**
German
YOU MUST CHOOSE THREE FROM:
Business Studies
Computer Science
D&T Food and Nutrition
D&T Product Design
Drama
Fine Art
Geography
Graphic Communication
History
Music
Physical Education
Religious Studies
A second Language

What you need to do now:

What as parents/carers can you do to help?

- Read the information. Discuss it fully with your child.
- Encouragement. All students in this school are capable of achieving good GCSE results. Encourage your child to adopt a mature attitude towards their studies and to maintain consistent effort throughout the two years.
- Help your children to think honestly about themselves. You observe your child out of school using their talents at home and in the community. You know their aptitudes and see them taking initiative, being creative, pursuing hobbies and behaving responsibly.
- All of these pointers help support your child's decision making and may be the very qualities that lead to a successful career.
- Seek help from staff, watch the short subject videos - if in doubt contact staff in school.
- There will be additional support via a Year 10 Information Evening in the Autumn Term 2024

What will school do to help?

Throughout the Year 9 Personal Development and Careers programme, students have had the opportunity to become familiar with a range of relevant resources.

Throughout various activities they have also been made aware of:

- The skills, abilities and qualifications required by different occupations
- Courses, training and opportunities Post 16
- The Careers Advisor and their role in the school
- The importance of their own personal qualities, abilities, strengths, interests and hobbies in relation to subject choice and future careers
- Decision making skills and techniques
- Year 9 options information evening at 5.30pm and 6.30pm on Thursday 9th January 2025
- Year 9 Parents evening Wednesday 15th January 2025
- Deadline to complete options form is Wednesday 5th February 2025.

Things students can do to help in their decision making.

First read this information carefully

- Before choosing your optional GCSE subjects, make sure that you have consulted with the staff of those subjects you are seriously considering.
- If you are uncertain what to do, consult your Form Tutor.
- Make full use of the careers' facilities in school.
- You can also help yourself by matching your strengths and interests to subjects.
- Discuss your subject choices with parents/carers.
- Watch the short subject videos on the school website

Frequently asked questions - advice from last year's Year 10 students

Should I do what my friends are doing?
No. Do what you want because these choices affect the rest of your life and your friends might be good at one subject and you might not be. Also you might not be in the same group as your friends.

How do I know if I'm good enough to take a subject?
Ask. Your teachers will be interested that you want to know if you are suitable to do the subject. They want you to do well so they will tell you the truth

Should I choose subjects that I enjoy or ones that I am good at?
It's nice to do well in a subject. You will find that the subjects you do well in are the ones you enjoy. Examination results do matter but you should take the subjects you enjoy because you are the one that has to go to the lessons and do the work for two years.

Should I choose a subject because I like a teacher?
No. There is no guarantee that you will get the teacher that you want so it is pointless to opt for a subject and then find out that you have a different teacher and you don't actually like the subject that much

Can I drop languages?
No. Learning a language is an integral part of the English Baccalaureate and the school is committed to delivering this. The Ebaac prepares students for the best opportunities after school. There is evidence that a student who succeeds in a language at GCSE will perform better at A level across all their subjects.

BIOLOGY

Vision Statement

To help develop and nurture a passion for exploring and discovering the natural world

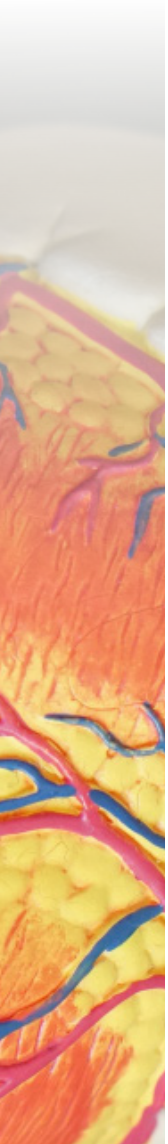
Why study Biology at GCSE?

The course we offer is an exemplary foundation for A-level studies, designed with a commitment to diverse and engaging teaching methods. We emphasize a varied presentation of concepts, ensuring students find the material both interesting and accessible. A key component of our approach is the provision of ample opportunities for students to develop their practical science skills, a crucial aspect of scientific learning. This hands-on experience, combined with theoretical knowledge, makes learning dynamic and comprehensive. Our goal is to prepare students thoroughly for advanced studies in the sciences, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm needed to excel in their future academic endeavours. This balanced blend of theory and practice fosters a deep understanding and appreciation of the scientific world, setting a solid groundwork for success at the A-level and beyond.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

To do well in Biology you need to do be:

- Hard-working—this will help you to get the most out of GCSE Biology
- Be able to link ideas from different topics together.
- Be able to analyse data from practical work and apply your Biological Knowledge



Course Structure: Specification and Content

GCSE Biology covers 7 main topics:

1 - Cell Biology

2 - Organisation

3 - Infection and response

4 - Bioenergetics

5 - Homeostasis and response

6 - Inheritance, variation and evolution

7 - Ecology

There are 10 required practical investigations that are examined in the papers but you will do much more practical work than this. Click here to view the full specification

Course Structure: Assessment

- There are two papers sat at the end of the course, Paper 1 covers topics 1 to 4 and Paper 2 covers topics 5 to 7,
- Both papers last 1 hour and 45 minutes and each total 100 marks. There is no coursework.

Future Opportunities

Our GCSE Biology course leads on excellent to A-level Biology and studying this is viewed well by UCAS admissions tutors for Biological based Science subjects such as Medicine Veterinary Sciences, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences. Would be an highly accepted GCSE for Science based apprenticeships and T Levels.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Vision Statement

We seek to embrace the challenge and opportunities presented by the evolving global, national and local economies, for the benefit of our students and the wider community

Why study Business Studies at GCSE?

Studying GCSE Business Studies provides valuable insights into the world of commerce, entrepreneurship, and economics. It equips students with fundamental skills in financial literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving, which are essential in both personal and professional life. It also offers a foundation for pursuing further studies or a career in business-related fields.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

- Analytical Thinking: The ability to analyse and evaluate business concepts and data.
- Communication: Effective communication skills for presentations, reports, and discussions.
- Problem-Solving: Identifying and resolving business-related challenges.
- Research: Conducting research to gather information and support arguments.
- Numeracy: Proficiency in using mathematical concepts for financial analysis.
- Critical Thinking: The capacity to critically assess business decisions and their impacts.
- Time Management: Organizing and managing your study time effectively.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

To link with the A Level Business course delivered at Calday, we will be teaching to the Edexcel Syllabus.

The key features of this are:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business
- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions

Course Structure: Assessment

There are 2 written examinations both are 1 hour and 45 minutes and equate to 50% of the qualification each.

The overall marks available for both papers are 180.

There is no course work for this examination.

Future Opportunities

Further Education at post 16 (A Level, BTEC) ,Higher Education Degrees, Entrepreneurship and running your own business,

Careers in the business world e.g. Marketing, Human Resources and Finance.

CHEMISTRY

Vision Statement

Through the study of Chemistry, encourage students to become independent learners who can think critically and solve problems in unfamiliar situations. Students' interest in Chemistry will be sustained through high-quality teaching, a challenging curriculum, and practical investigations

Why study Chemistry at GCSE?

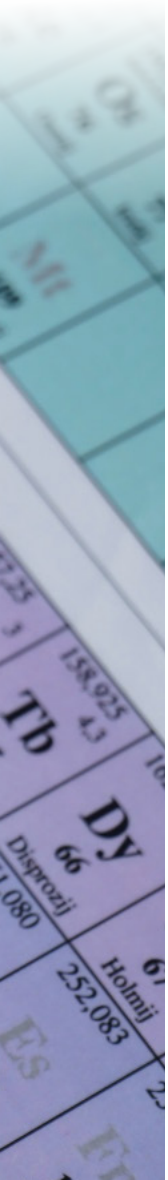
GCSE Chemistry is a vital qualification, equipping students with transferable skills crucial for diverse scientific and engineering careers. It provides foundational knowledge for fields like Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Optometry, Agriculture, Microbiology, and more. The course also leads to careers in Environmental Health, Nutrition, Material and Polymer Science, Technology, and various engineering disciplines. These opportunities showcase the versatility and practicality of the skills and knowledge gained. Students develop a strong understanding of chemical principles, enhancing their analytical, problem-solving, and critical thinking abilities, making GCSE Chemistry a key step towards a future in science and technology.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

You should be curious about how the world works and ready to make connections between what you can observe about the world and scientific principles.

Here are some of the HPL skills you will use in Chemistry:

Connection finding, Big picture thinking, Imagination, Critical and logical thinking, Precision, Complex multi-step problem solving, Originality, Automaticity, Speed and Accuracy, Practice, Resilience, Open-minded.



Course Structure: Specification and Content

The following topics are covered in the Chemistry GCSE:

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using Resources

Course Structure: Assessment

EXAM BOARD WEBSITE: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462

Paper 1: Topics 1–5: Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE

Paper 2:Topics 6–10: Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of GCSE

Future Opportunities

Studying GCSE Chemistry provides a deep dive into the fundamental principles of the subject, laying a solid foundation for further academic pursuits. This course not only prepares you for advanced studies like A Level Chemistry but also enhances your critical thinking and analytical skills, essential for understanding complex chemical concepts and their real-world applications. This grounding paves the way for a successful journey in the sciences.

CHINESE

Vision Statement

Our aim is to nurture confident linguists with an interest in other countries and cultures, encouraging them to develop a lifelong love of language-learning and to become proactive global citizens

Why study Chinese at GCSE?

Since 1998, Calday has offered Mandarin Chinese, providing a comprehensive curriculum that covers various proficiency levels and emphasizes both the language and cultural aspects. This program recognizes the significance of China's rapidly changing landscape and steadily growing economy. In today's globalized world, the ability to communicate in Mandarin is increasingly valuable. With the rise in international travel by Chinese nationals and the expansion of global business ties with China, proficiency in Mandarin is not just a linguistic skill but a vital tool for cultural understanding and economic engagement. Learning Mandarin at CGGS prepares students to navigate and contribute effectively in a world where China plays a pivotal role, making this language an indispensable asset for future opportunities in various fields, both domestically and internationally

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

You should be curious about how the world works and ready to make connections between what you can observe about the world and scientific principles.

Here are some of the HPL skills you will use in Chemistry:

Connection finding, Big picture thinking, Imagination, Critical and logical thinking, Precision, Complex multi-step problem solving, Originality, Automaticity, Speed and Accuracy, Practice, Resilience, Open-minded.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

For GCSE Chinese, AQA covers a wide variety of topics that include everyday life, personal identity, local and international communities, and global issues. Here are some of the common topics you might encounter in the GCSE Chinese curriculum: Family, School, Hobbies, Media, Living area, Holidays, Food and festivals, Work. The topics aim to develop your ability to communicate effectively in various contexts and to understand Chinese culture and society. Additionally, AQA provides detailed syllabus documents that outline the specific content and vocabulary associated with each topic, as well as the skills and competencies students are expected to acquire. Please see the link of AQA exam board: www.aqa.org.uk

Course Structure: Assessment

The course structure for learning Chinese typically includes a combination of assessments to evaluate your language proficiency and cultural understanding. In addition to the Non-Exam Assessment components, there are usually formal examinations to assess your Chinese language skills. The examination structure may include 4 skills, listening, reading, writing and speaking. Formative assessments can include assignments, quizzes, presentations, and classroom participation. The end of year exam will determine your final grade and is used to evaluate your overall language proficiency.

Future Opportunities

Studying Chinese in secondary school can open up various future opportunities, whether you're considering A levels, vocational courses, university programs, or careers. Remember that in addition to academic qualifications, building cultural competence and communication skills in Chinese can enhance your employability and broaden your understanding of this rich and diverse culture. Seek out extracurricular activities, such as language clubs, study abroad programs, and internships, to further develop your skills and network with professionals in your chosen field.

COMBINED SCIENCE

Vision Statement

Combined Science provides a broad and detailed course of study that develops student knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds, as well as the skills required to investigate concepts through practical application

Why study Combined Science at GCSE?

The GCSE Combined Science Trilogy is a comprehensive course that fosters a broad spectrum of skills in students, including critical thinking, analysis, and evaluation. This course encompasses key scientific areas—Biology, Chemistry, and Physics—allowing students to apply their knowledge in diverse contexts. It serves as an ideal foundation for those aiming to continue their science education at A-levels, covering each scientific discipline in depth. This solid grounding paves the way for various future career paths, such as biochemistry, dentistry, medicine, and marine biology. By integrating concepts from each science field, the course ensures students develop a well-rounded understanding of the scientific world, preparing them for advanced studies and a wide range of professional opportunities in science and related fields. The skills and knowledge gained through the GCSE Combined Science Trilogy are not only pertinent to academic progression but also essential for understanding and navigating the increasingly science-driven world around us.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Students will need to demonstrate a positive attitude to the study of science and its importance in the context of everyday life. They will need to develop a range of skills; the ordering & processing of data & observations to identify & explain patterns of behaviour, the ability to work with dexterity to develop key practical skills, a willingness to engage with logical, sequenced approaches to problem solving in order to analyse & evaluate evidence, use of scientific models to inform big picture thinking.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

Biology: Cell biology & Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution, Ecology

Chemistry: Atomic structure, Bonding,& structure, Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, rate and extent of chemical change, Organic chemistry, Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, Using resources

Physics: Energy, Electricity, Matter, Atomic structure, Forces, Waves, Magnetism & Electromagnetism, Particle model of matter

Course Structure: Assessment

ASSESSMENT: AQA Combined Science

There are 6 exam papers in total; two exam papers for each science subject.

Each exam paper is 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 16.7% of the overall GCSE.

Students will complete required practical activities that cover all three science subjects.

Future Opportunities

Further study at A level of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology

Further education in science related degree courses e.g. Chemistry , Medicine, Marine Biology, Astrophysics

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Vision Statement

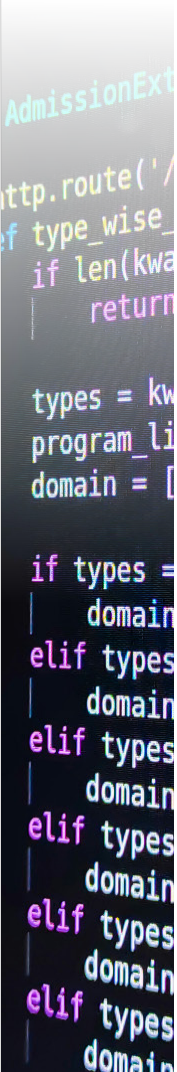
Our aim is to inspire students, as pioneers of the future, and to nurture a love of the subject. Our students learn to see the bigger picture and are able to relate their learning to the real world. Our students become digitally literate, and digitally resilient.

Why study Computer Science at GCSE?

Computer Science offers students a unique and invaluable opportunity to develop essential skills and knowledge in a rapidly evolving digital landscape. In today's technology-driven world, computer science is a gateway to understanding the foundational principles that power the innovations shaping our future. By engaging with GCSE Computer Science, students can cultivate problem-solving abilities, logical reasoning, and computational thinking, which are not only crucial for success in various academic disciplines but also highly sought after in the job market. Moreover, this course equips students with practical coding skills, fostering creativity and enabling them to contribute to the creation of cutting-edge technologies. In an era where digital literacy is indispensable, choosing GCSE Computer Science empowers students to be active participants in the digital revolution and lays the groundwork for exciting career paths in technology and beyond.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Computer Science requires analysing skills particularly around critical or logical thinking and problem solving. The course will develop your ability to analyse problems, break them down into smaller components, and develop logical solutions. Precision is crucial in programming and coding. Developing an attention to detail will help you write accurate and error-free code. Coding and problem-solving can be challenging, and errors are part of the learning process. Computer Science will cultivate a mindset of persistence and resilience when facing difficulties. An enquiring mind and curiosity about how things work, paired with a genuine interest in technology can drive your motivation to explore and understand computer science concepts.



Course Structure: Specification and Content

AQA 8525 Specification

3.1 Fundamentals of Algorithms, 3.2 Fundamentals of programming (Python), 3.3 Data representation, 3.4 Computer Systems, 3.5 Networks, 3.6 Cyber Security, 3.7 Relational databases and structured query language (SQL), 3.8 Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society including issues of privacy.

Course Structure: Assessment

2 exams no NEA

Paper 1 Units 3.1 and 3.2 from above, 2hrs (including planning time)

Paper 2 Units 3.3 - 3.8, 1hr 45 mins

Future Opportunities

A GCSE in Computer Science opens up various opportunities in both further education and the workforce. Examples include, A-Level Computer Science, University Degrees, apprenticeships, software developer, IT support technician, programming positions, software development, roles in cyber security, data analysis roles and roles in digital marketing and e-commerce to name a few.

DRAMA

Vision Statement

Drama is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject which prepares all young people, through development of creativity, emotional intelligence and analytical skills, to live and work with confidence in the wider world.

Why study Drama at GCSE?

Studying drama is a transformative experience that fosters personal growth by enhancing empathy, creativity, and self-expression. It develops crucial communication skills, both verbal and non-verbal, enabling effective conveyance of ideas and emotions. Engaging with diverse characters and stories broadens understanding of different cultures and perspectives. Drama stimulates imagination and innovative thinking, essential in problem-solving. Performing builds confidence and resilience, equipping individuals to face challenges with courage. It also facilitates self-discovery, leading to a deeper understanding of oneself. These skills extend beyond the stage, shaping empathetic, confident, and innovative individuals, ready for success in all life aspects, including professional and personal relationships. Drama education is thus a holistic journey, preparing students for a successful and well-rounded life.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

To excel in GCSE Drama, you'll need a blend of creativity, communication, and teamwork. Strong acting abilities, including vocal control and physical expression, or a grasp of lighting, sound, or set design principles are very beneficial. Dedication to the subject is important, as rehearsals and independent study are essential. Adaptability and problem-solving skills are valuable for navigating various theatrical challenges. Collaboration with peers demands respect for others' ideas. Lastly, a willingness to take constructive feedback and a passion for theatre and storytelling will greatly enhance your experience and success in GCSE Drama.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

We study AQA Drama. The course is broken down into 3 parts

Component 1: Understanding Drama

Written Exam (40% of total GCSE): This component assesses your understanding of how drama is created and performed. It includes questions on a set play (Blood Brothers) and a live theatre production you've seen.

Component 2: Devising Drama

Practical and Coursework (40% of total GCSE): This component involves creating and performing a piece of devised drama. You'll also submit a portfolio documenting the process.

Component 3: Texts in Practice

Practical Exam (20% of total GCSE): In this component, you'll perform two extracts from a play you've studied. You can choose the play, or we'll help you find one you like and that you will enjoy performing.

Course Structure: Assessment

Component 1: Written Exam (40% of total GCSE)

Component 2: Performance and written portfolio (40% of total GCSE)

Component 3: Performance (20% of total GCSE)

Future Opportunities

Studying drama opens doors to a range of diverse opportunities and careers. It can lead to acting in film, television, or theatre, as well as roles in directing, producing, technical theatre or stage management. Additionally, it cultivates skills applicable in most industries, such as communication, teamwork, creativity and empathy, making drama graduates attractive candidates for fields like marketing, public relations, law and even medicine. Ultimately, a drama education provides a solid foundation for a wide range of careers.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Vision Statement

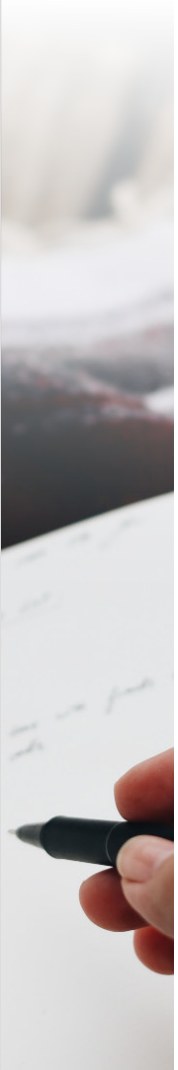
Beyond Calday, we hope to have inspired in our students a lifelong passion for reading and a confident ability to communicate their ideas, both creatively and accurately, through the written and spoken word. The aim of the English department is to ignite a passion for books, both classic and contemporary, and foster a love of a range of literature to produce critical readers. Through our curriculum, students will be interested and enthusiastic, and take ownership of learning.

Why study English Language at GCSE?

English Language GCSE is crucial for advancing in further education and is required for all post-16 studies. This course significantly enhances critical and creative thinking, focusing on vital skills like reading, writing, and oracy. Students learn to analyse and interpret texts, develop persuasive writing abilities, and speak fluently and confidently. These skills are essential for academic success and professional communication. The course prepares students for the demands of higher education, equipping them with the ability to articulate thoughts and arguments effectively. Thus, English Language GCSE is more than an academic requisite; it's a foundation for effective communication and engagement in various fields.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

To succeed in GCSE English Language you will need to be prepared to challenge yourself and work collaboratively with others. We make links to skills throughout Year 10 and 11 that you have focused on throughout KS3 and encourage students to improve and take risks through evaluating their own academic progress. Students will need to think both creatively and critically during their GCSE English Language course



Course Structure: Specification and Content

Eduqas GCSE English Language

Component 1:- 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

(40% of qualification)

Component 2:- 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing (60% of qualification)

Component 3:-Spoken Language (unweighted)

Course Structure: Assessment

Paper 1: Section A Reading (prose extract) / Section B Prose Writing (1 hour 45 mins)
Paper 2: Section A Reading (non-fiction extracts) / Section B Transactional Writing (2 hours)
NEA: One presentation / speech, including responses to questions and feedback

Future Opportunities

GCSE English Language is an essential qualification if you are to succeed in any pathway. The skills we study in English Language underpin all future studies you might choose to embark upon and are vital for success in the world of work.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Vision Statement

Beyond Calday, we hope to have inspired in our students a lifelong passion for reading and a confident ability to communicate their ideas, both creatively and accurately, through the written and spoken word. The aim of the English department is to ignite a passion for books, both classic and contemporary, and foster a love of a range of literature to produce critical readers. Through our curriculum, students will be interested and enthusiastic , and take ownership of learning.

Why study English Literature at GCSE?

Studying English Literature fosters a deep appreciation for reading and sharpens analytical abilities. In this course, students learn to dissect texts, identifying and examining key themes and evaluating the author's language use and the conveyed ideas. An integral part of this study is understanding the historical and cultural context in which a text was written, which provides deeper insight into its themes and significance. Additionally, students explore how literature connects readers with broader societal truths and ideas, offering a reflective look at the world around them. This study not only enhances literary understanding but also encourages critical thinking about how literature mirrors and influences society.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

To succeed in GCSE English Literature you will need to be prepared to challenge yourself and work collaboratively with others. We make links to skills throughout Year 10 and 11 that you have focused on throughout KS3 and encourage students to improve and take risks through evaluating their own academic progress. Students will need to think critically in order to understand the intent of the writer and the context that the text was written and received in.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

Eduqas GCSE English Literature

Component 1:- Shakespeare and Poetry (40% of qualification)

Component 2:- Post 1914 Prose and Drama and Unseen Poetry (60% of qualification)

Course Structure: Assessment

Paper 1: Section A Shakespeare 'Macbeth'/ Section B Poetry from 1789 to present (2 hours)

Paper 2: Section A Drama 'An Inspector Calls' / Section B 19th Centry Prose 'A Christmas Carol' / Section C Unseen Poetry (2 hours 30 mins)

NEA:- One presentation / speech, including responses to questions and feedback

Future Opportunities

A level English Literature is a popular course and is often held in high regard by universities. English literature will provide you with vital, transferable skills– allowing you to be successful in any chosen vocation. Not only will you have an appreciation for classic literature but you will also be able to successfully evaluate texts in context.

FINE ART

Vision Statement

Our aim is for every child to discover their creative potential and develop a deeper awareness of cultural diversity." Personal discovery and ownership of themes are at the heart of our continued success in Art. We strive to enhance personalised learning and self-confidence through targeted challenges that build upon students' prior learning"

Why study Fine Art at GCSE?

GCSE Art provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests. They will build creative skills through learning and doing, discover imaginative and intuitive ways of working and develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures. Whilst on the course, students will be introduced to new techniques and ways of working within the disciplines of drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, digital media and 3D Sculpture.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Students will need a strong sense of independence to create their own visual language through the use of the formal elements of Art. The course will encourage imagination, originality, curiosity and playfulness as students embark on creating their own unique visual world. Students will communicate their own viewpoints, ideas and concepts through visual means in their sketchbooks and the wider portfolio of work. The subject equips students with the knowledge and confidence to discern and critically engage with others' Art, including that from their peers, from other times and cultures, and from artists in contemporary society. Finally, students should be passionate and enjoy the subject through critical engagement and appreciation or through creating and making.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

The AQA GCSE Fine Art course follows a progression of moving on from teacher-led workshops in KS3, to studies of a technical, contextual and a conceptual nature. This develops more independence and negotiated personal choice during Year 10 and 11. Work is completed in a highly personal sketchbook and accompanying portfolio of exhibition standard pieces.

Year 10 - Students will explore and extend their skills in a wide range of media. Contextual investigations will become more robust and students will explore a number of topics, including 'Shops Fronts' and 'Landscapes'.

Year 11 - Students will continue to develop their portfolio for completion by December. They will then commence their final exam preparation which will culminate in a 10-hour practical exam in the Spring term of Year 11.

Course Structure: Assessment

Assessment of Fine Art has two components:

Coursework (60% weighting) - students will compile a portfolio of work based around thematic projects that are set by your teacher, leading to self-initiated work later in the course.

The Examination (40% weighting) - this comprises of work produced over a preparation period and culminates in a practical exam. The examination allows for students to select their own theme and explore ideas with greater independence.

Future Opportunities

GCSE Art offers a natural progression to study Art at A-Level and then a related foundation course or degree. Art is strongly recommended for a range of employment opportunities, including animator, architect, fashion designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, photographer, textile designer and web designer.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Vision Statement

Our curriculum aims to encourage problem solving skills and a lifelong passion for design. We aim to do this by sowing the seed for critical and creative thinking through embedding a love of designing, making, and providing the opportunity for reflective practice.

Why study Food and Nutrition at GCSE?

Studying nutrition at Calday is vital for multiple reasons. Firstly, it equips students with fundamental cooking techniques and educates them about health and safety in the kitchen. This foundational knowledge is essential for practical, everyday life skills. Secondly, the course imparts crucial information about nutrition and healthy eating habits, guiding students towards leading a healthier lifestyle. Beyond these practical benefits, the most significant aspect of this education is the foundational skills it provides. These skills are not only beneficial for immediate personal well-being but also serve as valuable assets for students in their life after secondary education. By understanding nutrition and healthy practices, students are better prepared to make informed choices and succeed in various aspects of their future lives.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Collaborative Working - Although personal development and academic success in Food and Nutrition is a personal responsibility. Collaborative working is an essential element in ensuring a safe and productive working environment is provided for all.

Creative and Enterprising - Similar to DT you will research design and produce an outcome of your own design based on your own research.

Open Minded - Through out study you will be introduced to cuisines from different cultures and lifestyles. You will grow an develop personally through the exposure of this.

Perseverance - The pedagogy of Food and Nutrition will be similar to DT but fundamentally different, concepts and skills will be new. You will need to be adaptable and hard working to aquire these new essential skills.

Big Picture Thinking - You will need to be good at holistic thinking and drawing upon skills and knowledge learnt not only in Food and Nutrition but in Biology, Chemistry, DT and Maths to be successful in both theory and practical lessons.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

AQA Food and Nutrition

Theory Food preparation skills – these are intended to be integrated into the five sections:

1) Food, nutrition and health 2) Food Science 3) Food Safety 4) Food Choice 5) Food Provenance

Practical

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.

Course Structure: Assessment

The course is split in 2 halves
Part 1 - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes Task (100 marks)
Part 2 - Consisting of 2 sections
Task 1 - Food investigation (30 marks.
Task 2 - Food preparation assessment (70 marks)

Future Opportunities

Degree apprenticeships (Levels 5 – 7) Food industry technical professional (integrated degree) - Dietitian (integrated degree) - Environmental health practitioner (integrated degree)

FRENCH

Vision Statement

Our aim is to nurture confident linguists with an interest in other countries and cultures, encouraging them to develop a lifelong love of language-learning and to become proactive global citizens.

Why study French at GCSE?

French is a language of global importance, spoken on every continent and celebrated for its cultural and historical influence. Choosing to learn French can open doors to exciting opportunities. Here's why learning French is a great choice:

Global Reach:
French is spoken by over 300 million people in countries across Europe, Africa, North America, and beyond. It's the second most studied language in the world and is an official language of many international organizations, including the United Nations. Knowing French connects you to people and cultures worldwide.

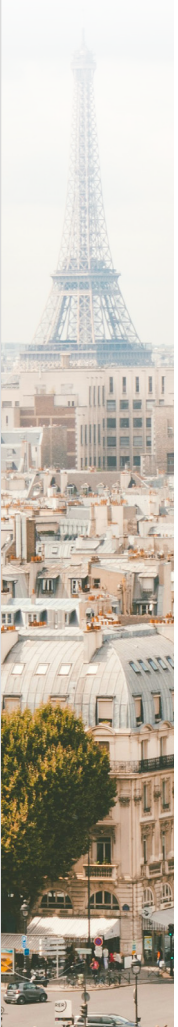
Career Opportunities:
France is a leader in industries like fashion, gastronomy, and international trade. French-speaking countries also play key roles in global markets. Learning French not only enriches your communication skills but also makes you an attractive candidate for employers looking for versatile and multilingual staff.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Motivation and Dedication: Staying motivated and committed to your studies is vital. Language learning can be challenging, and your dedication will determine your progress.

Open-Mindedness: Being open to new cultures, traditions, and ways of thinking is important when studying a foreign language. This attitude can enhance your understanding of the language and its context.

Resilience and Perseverance: Learning a language may involve setbacks and plateaus in your progress. Staying resilient and preserving through challenges is key to eventual success.



Course Structure: Specification and Content

The new AQA GCSE French qualification is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the French language and culture. The course is divided into four key components:

Listening: You will develop your listening skills by engaging with a range of spoken language, including conversations, interviews, and presentations.

Speaking: Improve your ability to speak and interact in French through role-plays, discussions, and presentations.

Reading: Develop your comprehension skills by reading a variety of texts, such as articles, stories, and advertisements.

Writing: Enhance your writing skills by creating pieces like emails, letters, and essays, and expressing your ideas in French.

Course Structure: Assessment

Your progress will be assessed through both internal and external examinations. These will test your proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each external examination counts towards your final AQA GCSE French grade.

This will be assessed by multiple choice, structured, closed short answer & open response questions.

Future Opportunities

By obtaining AQA GCSE French, you'll unlock numerous pathways for further study or work. Whether you plan to continue your education, travel, or work in a French-speaking environment, this qualification is a valuable asset on your academic and career journey

GEOGRAPHY

Vision Statement

Our aim is to deliver a Geography education that allows young people to understand their place within the world and to explore their interactions with both the physical and human realms now, and in the future.

Why study Geography at GCSE?

Understanding 'how the world works' is crucial for young people, as it helps them make sense of the intricate interactions that shape our planet and influence decisions made globally. Students of Geography gain insights into the major issues affecting the world today. Through their studies, they develop a comprehensive understanding of various geographical phenomena and how they impact societies and environments. This knowledge is not just theoretical; it equips students with the skills necessary to analyse and interpret information about the world. By learning about different cultures, economies, and ecosystems, Geography students become more informed and capable of understanding and addressing the challenges and opportunities that our world presents. This education is essential for fostering informed, thoughtful, and engaged global citizens.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Geography students should have enquiring minds and be open to different interpretations of events. They should be prepared to question, to evaluate and develop their own opinions. Geography students work collaboratively and engage in tasks that involve listening to the ideas and opinions of others. They should be data-literate and be prepared to use information to help justify their views. Geographers make good managers and decision makers as they need to consider a range of views in their actions.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

We follow the AQA specification (8035) which assesses knowledge, understanding and skills linked to a range of physical, human and environmental topics. Living with the physical environment includes natural hazards and climate change, biomes, ecosystems and the living world with a focus on tropical rainforests and hot deserts. The physical landscapes of the United Kingdom has a focus on rivers and coasts. The challenges of the human environment covers urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management. Geographical applications includes fieldwork, application of skills and a pre-release case study.

Course Structure: Assessment

There are three exams at the end of the course.

Paper 1 'Living with the physical environment'.
Paper 2 'Challenges in the human environment'
Paper 3 'Geographical applications'.

Each exam paper is 1.5 hours in duration and assesses the different sections of the specification. Throughout the course assessment consists of unit tests and practice GCSE questions to help prepare for the final exams.

Future Opportunities

GCSE Geography is a pre-requisite for those wishing to study the subject at A level but it is a good bridging subject that connects the 'arts and sciences' and develops well-rounded students who can apply their knowledge, skills and attitudes in a range of career choices. Geographers are very employable as they have good analytical skills and can consider a range of views and opinions.

GERMAN

Vision Statement

Our aim is to nurture confident linguists with an interest in other countries and cultures, encouraging them to develop a lifelong love of language-learning and to become proactive global citizens.

Why study German at GCSE?

Learning German offers a multitude of benefits. It is not only one of the most widely spoken languages in Europe but also provides access to a rich and diverse cultural heritage. Here are some compelling reasons to choose German:

Communication:
German is the most spoken native language in Europe. With over 100 million native speakers and many more learning it as a second language, German allows you to connect with people in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and beyond. It's an essential skill for anyone interested in building relationships across Europe.

Employability:
Knowing German can significantly enhance your career prospects. Germany has one of the strongest economies in the world, and many global companies have close ties to German-speaking countries. Employers value bilingual staff who can communicate in both English and German, especially in fields like engineering, business, and science.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Motivation and Dedication: Staying motivated and committed to your studies is vital. Language learning can be challenging, and your dedication will determine your progress.

Open-Mindedness: Being open to new cultures, traditions, and ways of thinking is important when studying a foreign language. This attitude can enhance your understanding of the language and its context.

Resilience and Perseverance: Learning a language may involve setbacks and plateaus in your progress. Staying resilient and preserving through challenges is key to eventual success.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

The new AQA GCSE German qualification is designed to provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the German language and culture. The course is divided into four key components:

Listening: You will develop your listening skills by engaging with a range of spoken language, including conversations, interviews, and presentations.

Speaking: Improve your ability to speak and interact in German through role-plays, discussions, and presentations.

Reading: Develop your comprehension skills by reading a variety of texts, such as articles, stories, and advertisements.

Writing: Enhance your writing skills by creating pieces like emails, letters, and essays, and expressing your ideas in German.

Course Structure: Assessment

Your progress will be assessed through both internal and external examinations. These will test your proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each external examination counts towards your final AQA GCSE German grade.

This will be assessed by multiple choice, structured, closed short answer & open response questions.

Future Opportunities

By obtaining AQA GCSE German, you'll unlock numerous pathways for further study or work. Whether you plan to continue your education, travel, or work in a German-speaking environment, this qualification is a valuable asset on your academic and career journey

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

Vision Statement

Our aim is to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to communicate their ideas effectively in a modern world. To foster a passion for creative innovation with media.

Why study Graphic Communication at GCSE?

Graphic communication possesses a unique power to influence people's thoughts and emotions, distinct from other communication forms. Its impact is universal across industries, as it plays a crucial role in conveying ideas, presenting information, and marketing products. Learning graphic communication involves not just the creation of visually compelling designs but also project management, guiding a concept from its initial brief through to the final design. The course covers a comprehensive skill set, blending traditional artistic techniques with modern digital capabilities. This includes mastering motion graphics, a key component of contemporary digital design. By acquiring these skills, students are equipped to effectively communicate and persuade through visual means in various contexts, preparing them for diverse career opportunities in a visually driven world.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

This course requires Flexible thinking, the ability to refine and filter ideas and techniques. You will need to be Inquisitive and Open Minded, as the tasks require a Creative and Enterprising approach. You will learn to master various digital technologies to present your ideas.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

We follow the AQA Specification for Graphic Communication. The coursework component is 60% of the grade with the exam making up 40% Each Component is marked out of 96 marks. During the Coursework unit you will explore various topics, including Illustration, Motion Graphics, Typography & Image, Advertisement & Branding and much more. All coursework will be completed by January of Y11 as you will commence the exam at that time.

Course Structure: Assessment

Coursework 60% Marked out of 96. From September Year 10 until January Year11

Examination unit 40% Marked out of 96 - Spring term Year 11

Summative and Formative assessment are continual at the end and during each unit.

Future Opportunities

Graphic Designer / Branding / Illustrator / Digital Marketing / UX Designer / Motion Graphics Designer

These are just a few of the careers that require your skills.

HISTORY

Vision Statement

The study of History enables our students to acquire a breadth and depth of knowledge which can help them to make sense of the world around them and develop an understanding of who we are through the study of the people, ideas, challenges, events, issues, beliefs and factors that have shaped our society and values

Why study History at GCSE?

This course is designed to cultivate independent and critical thinking in students, empowering them to effectively communicate their ideas and arguments. The primary goal is to prepare them to become articulate, analytical, and inquisitive individuals. These skills are invaluable in a wide range of life scenarios and career choices. Graduates of this course are well-equipped for professions in law, media, education, conservation, politics, and the civil service, among others. Essentially, any role that demands strong analytical and communication skills will be within reach for those who have completed this course. The emphasis on critical thinking and effective communication ensures that students are not only prepared for specific career paths but are also adaptable to a variety of professional environments and life situations.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Our GCSE historians are enthusiastic and actively engage with their learning; they read widely, they can find connections across topics and between the past and present, and enjoy developing their intellectual confidence through discussions and debates. Successful History students are also enquiring and resilient, with the tenacity and perseverance to piece clues together in order to make reasonable inferences and judgements from partial evidence; they don't take sources at face value, but instead use their knowledge and their observations to interrogate them.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

Our exam board is EDEXCEL and our specification covers the following examined units:

- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1088
- Medicine in Britain, c1250-present
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939
- Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991

Course Structure: Assessment

All of the exam papers above comprise extended writing (essays of varying length) and two of them also include source analysis and historical interpretation questions. At the end of each taught unit, students will sit a full practice paper and receive personalised feedback.

In addition to formal exam practice, students will have regular knowledge tests and source questions, and all CCTs will focus on specific exam skills to help students to hone their technique.

Future Opportunities

Our GCSE course equips students well for the A Level course and to pursue further learning opportunities or experiences; many pursue History or related degree courses (eg. Politics, International Relations) but recent History students can be found in a range of exciting careers, including medicine, law, diplomacy and government.

MATHEMATICS

Vision Statement

The Calday Maths Department's aim is to provide students with all the tools they need to be successful mathematicians. We encourage enjoyment, promote confidence and provide challenge through our teaching and curriculum.

Why study Mathematics at GCSE?

Mathematics education is geared towards nurturing confident learners, equipped with essential problem-solving tools to meet future challenges. The subject is highly valued across various employment sectors, as it supports and enhances workplace competencies. Studying maths enables students to independently tackle and devise valid solutions to a myriad of numerical, statistical, and geometric problems. This skill set is not only crucial for academic success but also immensely beneficial in the professional world. By mastering mathematical concepts and techniques, students gain the ability to think logically and critically, skills that are indispensable in any career path they choose to pursue. The focus on independent problem-solving prepares them to navigate and adapt to the ever-evolving challenges of the modern world.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Successful mathematicians require resilience, the ability to think critically and logically and to be able to formulate valid conclusions by applying complex and multistep problem solving skills. Essential skills include fluent thinking, precision and good analysis. It is beneficial to be open minded, have flexible thinking skills and to be able to think in an abstract manner. It is the department's strategic plan to ensure that we develop the intellectual confidence of all our learners.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

We study the Edexcel GCSE mathematics course, 1MA1.

The course covers the main strands in maths: number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measure, probability and statistics.

It is a demanding, rigorous and inclusive curriculum and all of our students aim to for the higher tier maths qualification.

Course Structure: Assessment

The course ends with three examination papers, each being 90 minutes in length. There is one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. The content of the course can be examined on any of the three papers.

During the two year course, there is one test every half term, two papers in the Y10 summer exam and two papers in the Y11 mock. A weekly MathsWatch homework task ensures that skills learnt in lessons are consolidated.

Future Opportunities

Achieving an A Level in maths is regarded highly by future employers and educators, not only for the knowledge gained but for the transferable skills acquired. This qualification facilitates a journey into a myriad of careers and opportunities. Additionally, Core Maths, an AS Level qualification, develops students' functional skills in practical, everyday life situations.

MUSIC

Vision Statement

Our mission is to create a thriving music department. Somewhere everyone feels welcome and safe to be themselves. A place to create happy memories and life-long friendships. We want music to be the heart of the school and for it to bring the whole school community together. We want to inspire students, build their confidence and provide a platform for them to lead, to be creative and imaginative and to develop a life-long love of music whether this be through performing, listening or composing.

Why study Music at GCSE?

Improves Other Academic Disciplines: Students who learn a musical instrument do much better in coursework and examinations in other disciplines.
Provides a Creative Outlet: students can express themselves creatively through composing, performing or listening to and describing music. Artistic education helps students develop all parts of their brains and think outside of the box.
Promotes Unity and Teamwork: Building friendship and trust is an excellent idea since it teaches young adults to work together.
Stress Relief: Learning a musical instrument is good for mental health and brings out the best in a person.
Future Employment Opportunities: Employers are increasingly looking for young adults with critical thinking, adaptability, and tenacity.
Excellent Skills are Acquired: GCSE Music hones students' ability to become more analytical, practical, and social beings. Teamwork, listening to others, presenting, creativity, self-expression, confidence, and improving self-esteem are all worked on throughout the GCSE music course.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Performance: Students will need to not only need to deliberate practice their instrument but will need to optimise their critical and creative thinking. They will need to work with precision, repeating tasks and responding positively to feedback. Ensemble performance will necessitate students to work collaboratively.

Composition: Students should be Creative and Enterprising, using their own initiative and showing originality. They should also be Enquiring, willing to work independently, curious and find solutions.

Listening and Appraising: students need to be open-minded. The course is diverse so students will need to be objective and receptive to new ideas and willing to change their ideas and beliefs about certain styles or pieces.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

- Component 1: Performance totalling at least four minutes
- Component 2: Two compositions, of at least three minutes
- Component 3: Musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Course Structure: Assessment

Component 1: Solo and Ensemble Performance 60 marks. Internally marked and externally moderated.
Component 2: Composition 60 marks. Internally marked and externally moderated.
Examination structure:
Component 3: Written Examination 1 hour 45 minutes. Total of 80 marks.
Section A – Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces (68 marks)
Section B – Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece (12 marks)

Future Opportunities

Music is highly regarded as an academic subject and would complement your other studies in leading to a professional career. Many students who take music at GCSE and A Level go into careers like medicine, law, accountancy. 75% of medics play an instrument and have taken GCSE or A level Music. Being a musician isn't the only career!

PHYSCIAL EDUCATION

Vision Statement

Our students will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport. We hope the knowledge this course gives them can improve them holistically both practically and academically

Why study Physical Education at GCSE?

This course offers a well-rounded education in sports science, sports psychology, nutrition, and related fields. It equips students with knowledge and skills applicable to various career paths, including physiotherapy, teaching, coaching, personal training, and more. These diverse job opportunities arise from the comprehensive understanding of sports-related subjects gained during the course. Students can choose to specialize in areas that align with their interests and career aspirations, making it a versatile and valuable program of study. Whether pursuing further education or entering the workforce directly, graduates of this course are well-prepared for success in the sports and fitness industry.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Meta-cognition

Connection Finding

Big Picture Thinking

Self-regulation

Course Structure: Specification and Content

The students will sit 2 exams, be assessed in three practical sports (1 team, 1 individual and either a team or individual sport for their third choice) and also complete a coursework task.

Course Structure: Assessment

Paper 1– Anatomy and Physiology– 1 hour– 60 marks
Paper 2– Socio-cultural issues and Sport Psychology– 1 hour– 60 marks
Non-Exam Assessment– 3 practical sports and 1 coursework task

Future Opportunities

A Levels

University courses– PE teaching, physiotherapy, sports psychology, sports business, coaching

PHYSICS

Vision Statement

The aim of the Physics Department is to foster curiosity and excitement about the physical world. To produce students who are aware of the world around them and how processes within it work, and able to solve problems based on these processes.

Why study Physics at GCSE?

Physics is a versatile field of study that opens doors to various career paths, spanning research, medicine, engineering, finance, and more. This subject places a strong emphasis on developing problem-solving skills and honing investigative practices, fostering critical thinking and analytical abilities. Additionally, it equips students with a plethora of transferable skills that are highly valuable in a wide range of professions. Whether one aspires to conduct groundbreaking research, work in healthcare, contribute to technological advancements, or excel in finance, a foundation in physics provides the essential knowledge and skills needed for success in these diverse fields. Physics not only explores the fundamental laws of the universe but also empowers individuals to tackle complex challenges across various industries, making it a versatile and impactful discipline.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

You should be able think logically with the ability to break down complex problems into simple steps, be curious about the wider world and how it works on different levels. Below are some HPL skills you will use during Physics: Critical thinking, flexible thinking, complex and multi-step problem solving, abstraction, precision.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

Exam Board: AQA Specification Number: 8463

Exam Board Specification: https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/physics/specifications/AQA-8463-SP-2016.PDF

Topics : 1. Energy, 2. Electricity, 3. Particle model of matter, 4. Atomic Structure, 5. Forces, 6. Waves, 7.Magnetism & Electromagnetism, 8. Space Physics.

Course Structure: Assessment

Two Papers sat at the end of the course each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes with both foundation & higher tier.

Each paper is worth 100 marks.
Each paper is worth 50% of the GCSE grade.

Paper 1: Topics 1 to 4,
Paper 2: Topics 5 to 8

This will be assessed by multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

Future Opportunities

The next step for Physics is A-Level. Here we follow the AQA specification. Skills acquired on the course will put students in a good position to start A-Levels and other level 3 courses.

PRODUCT DESIGN

Vision Statement

Our curriculum aims to encourage problem solving skills and a lifelong passion for design. We aim to do this by sowing the seed for critical and creative thinking through embedding a love of designing, making, and providing the opportunity for reflective practice

Why study Product Design at GCSE?

The Design & Technology GCSE program equips students with essential 21st-century skills, encompassing practical abilities, theoretical knowledge, and the confidence required to excel in various careers, particularly within the creative and engineering sectors. This qualification offers students the chance to enhance their problem-solving aptitude through iterative design processes, exemplified by self-led design and manufacturing projects. Moreover, it prepares students to engage confidently and effectively in an ever-evolving technological landscape, ensuring they are well-prepared for the challenges of the modern world. The curriculum is designed to foster a comprehensive understanding of design influenced by historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors, ensuring that students gain a holistic perspective that serves them well in their future endeavors.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

Students need to have a open minded approach to their studies, be willing to take risks and respond with creativity to tasks given. They need to interested in design, how things work and subsequently improved. Resilience is an essential attribute as students will need to seek and respond creatively following client feedback and any adversity they may face.

Course Structure: Specification and Content

The AQA 8552 Specification provides a detailed breakdown of the content that will be studied throughout the two year course. Students will guided through this through a mixture of practical based units and theoretical lessons. Throughout Year 10, students will complete a series of units which address key skills from the course such as producing a design brief, generating and developing design ideas, creating high quality prototypes and evaluation skills.

Course Structure: Assessment

AQA - Design Technology GCSE - 8552
Exam 2 Hours
50% of GCSE
100 marks

NEA (Non-exam assessment)
50% of GCSE
100 Marks

Future Opportunities

This broad ranging specification provides the fundamental skills for a number of future courses such as Engineering, Architecture, Graphic Design and Product Design.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Vision Statement

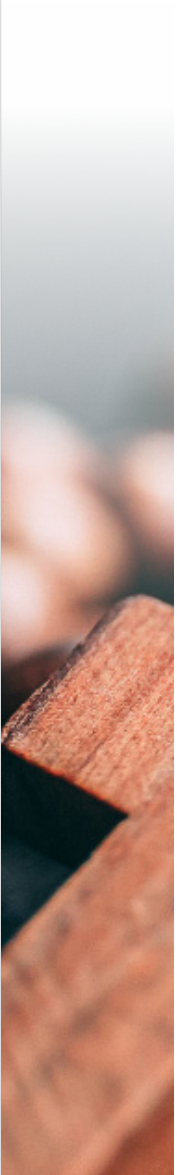
Religion is an intrinsic part of the world around us, influencing and shaping our communities, nations and global realities, and the study of religion is essential to our ability to engage meaningfully and intelligently with the world around us

Why study Religious Studies at GCSE?

Religious Studies is an outward-looking subject that connects students with the broader world beyond the classroom. Through the study of religion, individuals gain insight into the diverse worldviews and belief systems that have significantly influenced the development of our global society. This exploration allows for a deeper understanding of the intricate tapestry of cultures, traditions, and philosophies that shape the world we inhabit today. It provides a valuable lens through which students can examine the complexities of human history, culture, and thought, fostering a more profound appreciation of the rich diversity that defines our world.

What skills and attitudes do I need to have?

The academic discipline of Religious Studies provides important practice in essay writing, debate,comparison, analysis and evaluation, all of which are transferable to other subjects and further education. Furthermore, immeasurable and essential life skills such as understanding, empathy, reflection and spiritual awareness are gained. Such skills are vital throughout life.



Course Structure: Specification and Content

We follow the AQA exam board specification A, with a focus on Christianity and Sikhism. The focus will be on both the practical and ethical application of religious teaching in the modern world, and encourages active engagement with current events. You will have four lessons per fortnight in school with homework and additional reading as directed by your class teacher.

Course Structure: Assessment

Two exams, both 1 hour 45 minutes
Paper 1 - is a thematic paper, examining four different themes
Paper 2 - is religions paper, examining the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Sikhism

Future Opportunities

Religious Studies GCSE is valuable for anyone wishing to work in sectors where communication skills are important. Jobs in the caring professions such as nursing, nursery work, social work or teaching. People who study Religious Studies may go on to careers in politics, the civil service, journalism, the media, the charity sector, teaching or social work. Academically, Religious Studies complements other Humanities subjects such as History, as well as social science subjects like Sociology and Psychology.

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