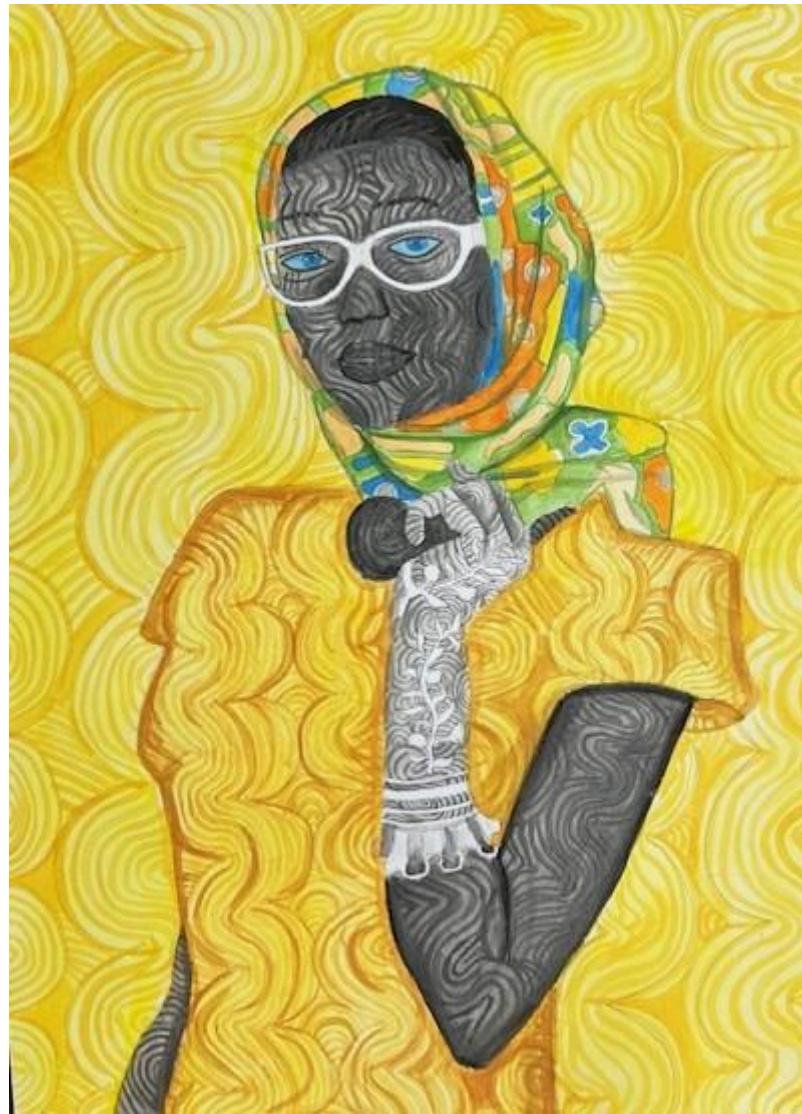


Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



## The Cottesloe School



**Key Stage 4  
Options Booklet 2026**

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***A robust and rigorous core curriculum, enriched with additional personalisation that is progressive, deep and knowledge-rich, developing skills to create well-rounded, resilient, confident young adults***

## **Intent**

At The Cottesloe School, the focus of 'Prepare, Aspire, Succeed' is to support all our students through their 'Cottesloe Journey', combining learning about and from, the world in which we live. The journey does not expect each student to follow the same path but empowers them to develop aspirations to become an excellent version of themselves, whatever their ability or background. Students gain a sense of fulfilment and success through educational and personal achievement; they achieve their best through the opportunities we offer, as preparation to becoming informed, well-educated, active citizens.

To achieve this, The Cottesloe School has a progressive, deep and knowledge-rich curriculum that is well-planned, sequenced and imaginative, encompassing the widest range of disciplines; Arts, Sciences, Humanities, Technologies, Maths, Literacy, Languages and Sports. With clear milestones and high expectations for all students, our curriculum allows character to develop. This is promoted through healthy relationships and the 6Cs; inspiring curiosity and developing independent thinking. These skills help create well-rounded, resilient, confident young people.

As your son or daughter moves from KS3 into KS4 they will continue to study a set of key subjects largely built around the English Baccalaureate (English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and/or a Language). This is enriched and balanced by core PE and PSHCE, as well as the opportunity to study two or three additional subjects.

In order to best meet the needs of students, there are three pathways that are differentiated in response to each student's level of entry. For example, academically able students will be challenged to study three Sciences and a Language while those with more modest grades might study an alternative subject instead of a Language or three Sciences.

Our aim is simple; we want to ensure that your child enjoys a successful learning journey at The Cottesloe School, during which they develop a robust understanding of core academic subjects, whilst also enjoying the opportunity to personalise their experience through additional deep learning in studying their option subjects. Ultimately we want your child to leave The Cottesloe School as a well-qualified young adult who, through thorough **preparation**, focussed on challenging **aspirations**, has achieved **success** and is ready to move onto the next part of their learning journey.

## Implementation

Education at all levels has undergone considerable change and renewal in the last few years. All KS4 qualifications (Level 2) have now been reformed and are more demanding in content than the old 'legacy' qualifications. They have been designed so students take all of their exams at the end of the course (usually Year 11) while non-exam assessment is removed or reduced in the majority of GCSEs and equivalent technical awards such as OCR Cambridge Nationals and Pearson BTECs. In essence, all KS4 qualifications are challenging to better prepare students for further academic or vocational study, or for the workplace through an apprenticeship.

Supporting students to select appropriate options, we have redesigned our KS4 curriculum, with three new pathways that determine the number and style of Level 2 qualifications a student takes at Key Stage 4. Our experience has shown that it is better for some students to attempt fewer Level 2 subjects and be more successful in these, than to attempt many subjects and not meet their potential in all subject areas. The three pathways are Blue, Purple and Green:

- **Blue route** – students will select four option subjects taught in five one hour sessions a fortnight, leading to a total of 9/10 GCSEs/Level 2 equivalents by the end of Year 11. Blue route students are *likely* to achieve the EBacc qualification – they should select both a humanities subject **and** a language in order to do so.
- **Purple route** – students will select four option subjects taught in five one hour sessions a fortnight, leading to a total of 9 GCSEs/Level 2 equivalents such as Technical Awards by the end of Year 11. Purple route students *could* achieve the EBacc qualification and must select at least one humanities subject and/or a language.
- **Green route** – students will select three option subjects and complete 9 GCSEs/Level 2 equivalents such as Technical Awards by the end of Year 11. They *could* achieve the EBacc and must select at least one humanities subject and/or a language. For their fourth option, Green route students study Functional Skills qualifications in English and Maths in option block B, in addition to GCSEs in Maths and English.

Where the pathways do not suit a student's learning needs, it may be possible to adapt parts of the curriculum; we know that much of a student's success comes from supporting them into 'the right course'. Please discuss your child's individual needs with Mrs Hooley (AHT: Teaching and Learning), or Mr Magill (Head of Year 9), or Ms Hibbert (SENDCO).

**The Options Information Evening will be held on Thursday 22nd January 2026.** We look forward to welcoming you face to face in the school hall at 6:30pm. **Virtual Parents Evening will take place on Thursday 5th February 2026.** Further information about the process is available on the school website: [TCS KS4 Options](#)

**Mrs Louise Baldwin**  
**Head of School**

**Mrs Claire Hooley**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

## Overview of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum

| Subject  | Hours a fortnight studied |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>Compulsory subjects – taken by all students</b> |                           |
| English Literature and English Language (2 GCSEs)  | 8 hours                   |
| Mathematics  | 8 hours                   |
| Combined Science (2 GCSEs)                         | 8 hours                   |
| Core PE  | 4 hours                   |
| PSHCE  | 2 hours                   |

| Blue   | Hours | Purple                | Hours | Green                                  | Hours |
|--|-------|-----------------------|-------|--|-------|
| Geography/History/MFL  | 5     | Geography/History/MFL | 5     | Geography/History/MFL                  | 5     |
| Option 2   | 5     | Option 2              | 5     | Functional Skills in English and Maths | 5     |
| Option 3   | 5     | Option 3              | 5     | Option 3                               | 5     |
| Option 4   | 5     | Option 4              | 5     | Option 4                               | 5     |
| <b>Total for any Option pathway + Core curriculum offer = 50 hours</b> |       |                       |       |  |       |

**Blue route choices\*** should ideally include **at least two EBacc subjects** (History or Geography and German or French). Students in Blue route will have the opportunity to achieve 9 or 10\* Level 2 qualifications.

- All students must select **at least one subject** from Geography, History, French or German.
- A student could opt for two or three EBacc subjects if they want to.
- Geography and History can be studied together.
- It is not compulsory for any student to opt for French or German.
- Year 9 Dual Linguists can opt to take both GCSE French and GCSE German if they want to.

\*\*For some students on the Blue and Purple route, they may achieve an additional GCSE in Statistics (total of 10 qualifications) in Year 10. This decision will be taken by the Maths Team. Students do not have to opt for Statistics as part of this process.

**Purple route choices\*** must include **at least one EBacc subject** but could choose two or more. Students in Purple route will have the opportunity to achieve 9 or 10\* Level 2 qualifications.

**Green route choices** must include **at least one EBacc subject** but could choose two or more. Students in Green route will have the opportunity to achieve 9 qualifications at Level 2.

### How is the decision made about the Option pathway?

The decision about the pathway a student will follow at KS4 is based on their KS2 data and projected KS4 target grades, as well as their current AP performance across KS3. For a small number of specific students, their colour pathway will differ from their prior attainment data.

## KS4 Qualification grading structure

- GCSEs are graded 9 to 1, with 9 being the top grade.
- Most vocational qualifications use Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* grading system. This is directly comparable with the 9-1 GCSE grading system.

### Vocational qualification grading

| Vocational Qualification Grade | 9-1 Grade equivalent |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Level 2 Distinction*           | 8.5                  |
| Level 2 Distinction            | 7                    |
| Level 2 Merit                  | 5.5                  |
| Level 2 Pass                   | 4                    |
| Level 1 Distinction            | 3                    |
| Level 1 Merit                  | 2                    |
| Level 1 Pass                   | 1.25                 |

### GCSE qualification grading

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

### Next steps

Spend time with your son/daughter and decide, considering all the support and guidance available, which subjects they would like to study, based on the subject choices available to them according to their colour pathway.

Deadline to submit completed online options form:  
**Thursday 12th February 2026**

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>GCSE English Language</b><br><b>GCSE English Literature (2 GCSEs)</b>  | <b>COMPULSORY FOR ALL</b> |
| <b>AQA</b>  | <b>Graded 9 - 1</b>       |
| <b>What does the course involve?</b><br><p>Students of all abilities will develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.</p>  |                           |
| <b>What are the entry requirements?</b><br><p>English Language and Literature are compulsory subjects, and we encourage students to work on both their creative writing and their reading comprehension skills throughout KS3 to prepare them for the demands of GCSE. Students should also be familiar with a range of forms of literature, including: plays, poetry and prose.</p>  |                           |
| <b>How will the students be assessed?</b><br><p>During Year 9, students embark on a programme of study that will gradually introduce them to GCSE in English, as a transition from KS3 to KS4. From Year 10, students will be studying units to prepare for their final examinations in Year 11.</p>  |                           |
| <p><b>GCSE English Language</b> is assessed by two examinations at the end of Year 11:</p> <p>Paper 1, <b>Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</b>, examines how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Students then write creatively.</p> <p>Paper 2, <b>Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</b>, examines how different writers present a similar topic over time. Students then write a piece of nonfiction.</p> <p><b>GCSE English Literature</b> is also assessed by a further two examinations at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 sees students answer an essay question on both <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>A Christmas Carol</i>. In Paper 2, students are examined on their interpretation of modern literature and poetry and will study <i>An Inspector Calls</i> as well as a cluster of <i>Power and Conflict</i> poems and <i>Unseen</i> poetry.</p> |                           |
| <b>How many exams will students take?</b><br><p>Students take two English Language examinations and two English Literature examinations at the end of Year 11. Throughout Years 10 and 11 students develop skills and knowledge to prepare them for these terminal examinations.</p> <p>Students also prepare and deliver a two minute speech in class and they are then awarded with either a Pass, Merit or Distinction as a separate, Spoken Language qualification.</p>   |                           |
| <b>How will each student's final performance be graded?</b><br><p>Students will be awarded a GCSE grade using the 1-9 levels with a 9 being the highest.</p>  |                           |
| <b>Careers Information and what next?</b><br><p>A GCSE in English is viewed as a passport to further study post 16 and beyond. Students are encouraged to take English at Sixth Form as it has been classified as a 'facilitating subject' by the most eminent universities in the UK. Students have the option to study A' Level English Literature and or A' Level English Language.</p> <p>The skills you gain through studying English are marketable in most career areas, including: journalism; writing, editing and publishing; the civil service, education, advertising and marketing; human resources and librarianship.</p>   |                           |

## GCSE Mathematics

COMPULSORY FOR ALL

**Edexcel**

**Graded 9 – 1**

### **What does the course involve?**

Students will study a broad range of mathematical topics from the five key strands:

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

The Mathematics GCSE has a focus on the application of mathematical methods and skills, effective and accurate problem solving and communication, such as proof and show that. Pupils will also be expected to remember key formulae.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

This is a compulsory subject that all students will study.

### **How will the students be assessed?**

Linear assessment at the end of Year 11 for both higher and foundation tier.

### **How many exams will students take?**

Three 90 minute papers: one of which is a non-calculator paper, and for the other two papers calculators can be used.

### **How will each student's final performance be graded?**

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

Higher tier: grades 9 – 4

Foundation tier: grades 5 – 1

### **Careers Information and what next?**

GCSE Mathematics is viewed as a passport to further study post 16 and beyond. Students are encouraged to take Mathematics at Sixth Form as it has been classified as a 'facilitating subject' by the most eminent universities in the UK. Students have the option to study A-Level Mathematics, A-Level Further Mathematics and Level 3 Core Mathematics, depending on GCSE grades.

The skills that are gained through the study of mathematics are marketable in most career areas, including Mathematics, Science, Engineering, Medicine, Law, Accountancy, Architecture, ICT, Design, Education, Journalism and Politics to name but a few.

## GCSE Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

COMPULSORY FOR ALL

AQA

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

GCSE Combined Science should enable students to:

- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments
- Develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

#### Biology

- Key concepts in biology
- Cells and control, genetics
- Natural selection and genetic modification
- Health, disease and the development of medicines
- Plant structures and their functions
- Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Exchange and transport in animals
- Ecosystems and material cycle

#### Chemistry

- Key concepts in chemistry
- States of matter and mixtures
- Chemical changes
- Extracting metals and equilibria
- Groups in the periodic table
- Rates of reaction and energy changes
- Fuels and Earth science

#### Physics

- Key concepts of physics
- Motion and forces
- Conservation of energy
- Waves
- Light and the electromagnetic spectrum
- Radioactivity
- Energy - Forces doing work
- Forces and their effects
- Electricity and circuits
- Magnetism and the motor effect
- Electromagnetic induction
- Particle model
- Forces and matter

### What are the entry requirements?

This is a compulsory subject that all students will study, with equal amounts of each Science.

### How will the students be assessed?

Students will be assessed using examinations only, all of which will be written in Year 11. Practical work is still carried out alongside theory units and will also be examined at the end of Year 11 as skills questions in the final papers. The practical element is built around specific 'required practicals' which the students are expected to have studied.

### How many exams will students take?

There are two exams for each subject: Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which means a total of 6 exams. Each exam is 1 hour and 15 minutes long. Students need to remember key formulae and apply them to a range of questions.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

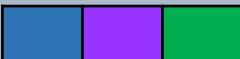
9-9 (highest) to 1-1      Higher tier: grades 9-9 to 4-4      Foundation tier: grades 5-5 to 1-1

The Head of Science, in conjunction with the subject specialist teachers will determine the most appropriate tier of entry based upon prior and current exam performance.

### Careers Information and what next?

Following a course in science prepares students with skills and knowledge to allow them to take on the challenges of the world and it is a core compulsory subject within schools. Further study in aspects of science is an obvious next step and then onwards to university, but some students may move immediately into apprenticeships or employment.

This course provides a good basis for study at level 3 in the science subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and also the vocational qualifications such as Health and Social Care and Applied Biology. Perhaps it will support you onwards to university. Some students may move immediately into science based apprenticeships or employment.



## GCSE Art and Design

**AQA: GCSE Art & Design**

**Endorsement: Fine Art**

**Graded 9 – 1**

The GCSE qualification offered consists of Component 1: Portfolio of Work (Coursework), which is divided into themed projects, and Component 2: Externally Set Task (Exam), which is a themed project set by the exam board.

During Year 9, students embark on a programme of study that will gradually introduce them to GCSE in Art, as a transition from KS3 to KS4

### Component 1: Portfolio of Work

By exploring a range of 2D and 3D materials and processes, researching and responding to artists whose work reflects the theme of the project; we aim to refine the basic practical, core skills of every student and allow them to discover and develop their strengths. Each project will be resolved in an informed and personal, independently designed and created artwork.

### Component 2: Externally Set Task

#### Project Theme Set By Exam Board

The format of the exam follows the same structure as the previous projects: students research and collect imagery in response to a theme, record observations in a range of materials, research artists who relate to the theme, experiment in their style, develop a personal and creative outcome that responds to the theme. All research, experimentation and development work is done in sketchbooks.

The final piece is produced under exam conditions, over ten hours (two school days).

### **What are the entry requirements?**

Enthusiasm and increasing artistic skills is desired, as is a high level of persistence and resilience to complete the required amount of work for GCSE Art and Design. This subject requires a high level of commitment in completing artwork outside of the lesson that will contribute to the final grade. Students should not pick this subject if they cannot make this commitment. They should have studied Art in Year 9.

### **How will the students be assessed?**

There are 4 assessment objectives against which both the coursework and exam are marked:

- AO1: Developing ideas by investigating artists
- AO2: Experimenting with Materials and Techniques
- AO3: Recording Ideas & Observations
- AO4: Realising Intentions and Presenting a Response

Component 1. Portfolio of Work 60%;

Component 2: Externally Set Task 40%.

### **How many exams will students take?**

Students will sit Mock exams in Years 10 and 11 in preparation for the externally set exam in April/May of Year 11.

### **How will each student's final performance be graded?**

9 (highest) to 1

### **Careers Information and what next?**

Progression onto Level Three qualifications. A number of students have gone on to study at degree level courses such as Graphic Design, Animation, Film Production, Set Design, Interior Design, Costume Design, Fine Art, Architecture, Theatrical Makeup and Computer Game Design.



## GCSE Business

Edexcel: GCSE Business

Graded 9-1

### What does the course involve?

We look at a range of different businesses throughout the course - from perfume to petrochemicals, finance to fashion, super cars to supermarkets!

**Theme 1**, started in Year 10, is called “**Investigating small businesses**”. Throughout the year we cover enterprise & entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting business ideas into practice, making the business effective, and understanding external influences. These areas include learning about marketing and finance. Students will gain a solid base of knowledge and skills to take with them into Year 11.

**Theme 2** is entitled “**Building the business**”. In this topic we learn about growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions, and making human resource decisions. HR and operations are added to the students’ areas of expertise.

Throughout the two years, students are taught exam techniques to help them apply their knowledge. A wide variety of case studies are used to give practical examples and scenarios so that students can then demonstrate their learning. The course culminates in two exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each. There is an exam for each theme.

### What are the entry requirements?

We recommend that learners are working at a grade 3 or above in Maths and English in Year 9. It’s important for students to have an interest in the subject, and be able to keep up with current events.

### How will the students be assessed?

100% exam. Students will be assessed via end of topic tests throughout the course.

### How many exams will students take?

Students will sit two exams of 1 hour 45 minutes towards the end of Year 11.

### How will each student’s final performance be graded?

9 (highest) to 1

### Careers Information and what next?

Students who achieve Grade 5 and above at Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to A-Level as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects including Business and Economics, which prepares them to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree.

# GCSE Computer Science

AQA 8525

Graded 9 – 1

## What does the course involve?

Computer science is the study of how computers work, are used and instructed and how they impact the real world around us. Computer Scientists will be creators of programs, games and applications that solve real world problems on the hardware of today and, more importantly, tomorrow.

### Computing Principles:

- How computers work, how they communicate and how they are used. This involves studying the components of a system, why some perform better than others and how they create and store data. We look at the fundamentals of networks and how they can be created and secured. Finally we study the types of software and the way that computers can be put to work in different ways.
- The ethics of computing; how the use of technology affects the world we live in and the people that use it. We look at the impact of laws and regulations to support our use of technology and the way that our use of it is governed. Alongside this we consider how the future use of computers may improve or disadvantage us.

### Programming and algorithms:

- Understanding the concept of problem solving and how to break down complex, large tasks into smaller more manageable ones.
- Being able to develop solutions for a range of problems, through planning with algorithms and flow charts to actual computer code.
- Developing solutions using the Python programming language, which is a real world coding environment used by a vast number of employers.

## What are the entry requirements?

An interest in technology is essential. Due to the nature of programming and problem solving students should be at level 3+ or higher in KS3 Maths and/or Science. Some programming experience would be beneficial. Alongside these skills an interest or ability in creative subjects can be a real advantage to computer programmers and problem solvers.

## How will the students be assessed?

Assessment is via two exams at the end of the course and via section tests for each key concept.

## How many exams will students take?

Two final exams: Paper 1 is 90 marks, two hours long and worth 50% of the GCSE. Paper 2 is 90 marks, 1 hour 45 minutes long and worth 50% of the GCSE.

## How will each student's final performance be graded?

9 (highest) to 1

## Careers Information and what next?

Endless opportunities are available for a skilled Computer Scientist. One of the benefits of studying computer science is you will develop skills that are useful in any career. Multinational companies around the world are looking for computer scientists to solve their business problems. This could be anything from how to analyse big data and drive business strategy to using artificial intelligence to map the evolution and spread of COVID-19. As the use of AI grows, the demand for these skills will grow too.



## Level 2 Creative iMedia (Creative IT)

OCR

Graded - L1 Pass - L2 Distinction \*

### What does the course involve?

Creative iMedia allows students to develop skills in multimedia production. Computers have expanded the ability to create and produce incredible work to entertain, promote products and build amazing virtual environments. Students studying this course will have an interest in using IT to develop and present exciting and creative visual and audio products using a wide range of tools and methods.

You will study three units:

#### **R093 - Creative iMedia in industry**

External exam

#### **R094 - Visual Identity and Digital Graphics**

Internally assessed task creating a visual identity for an organisation. Making use of photo editing and graphics tools to develop and use logos and other elements of a brand.

#### **R099 - Creating Video Games**

Internally assessed task creating a concept and some working elements of a video game, using your creative skills to develop a demo in an online tool to show a 2D game in action.

### What are the entry requirements?

Students have developed an interest in IT applications. They also need an understanding of how IT impacts organisations and society as a whole. Students must enjoy the creative aspects of IT e.g. Photoshop, creating interactive PowerPoint documents.

### How will the students be assessed?

Students will complete four units, each weighing 25% of the total qualification. There is one written exam and three coursework units.

### How many exams will students take?

1

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Level L2 Distinction\* - The highest grade equivalent to an 8.5

Level 1 P – the lowest grade (1)

### Careers Information and what next?

Level 3 digital media courses & Level 3 IT courses as the topics they will learn at KS4 are the fundamental basics they need in order to succeed at Level 3 IT. Students studying this course may want to go onto Level 3 courses in media and creative industries. Employers are increasingly turning to this sector to engage customers. The UK considers the creative industries to be a key sector which is responsible for £115.9 billion to the UK economy.



## GCSE Dance

AQA

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

Students will develop their dance performance, choreographic and appraisal skills.

Component 1: (60%)

- Performance of 2 set phrases
- Performance of a duo/trio
- Solo or group choreography in response to a stimulus

Component 2: (40%)

- Written exam
  - Section A; choreography and performance skills
  - Section B: analysis of own work
  - Section C: The Dance Anthology including 6 different dance works in contrasting dance styles.

Theatre trips and workshops are offered as part of this course.

To further enrich their portfolio, students have the unique opportunity to work towards the Arts Award Silver alongside their GCSE.

### What are the entry requirements?

It would be useful if you take part in regular dance and fitness classes outside of school. Students will work in groups and perform solo for this course

### How will the students be assessed?

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- Perform with commitment and confidence as a soloist and in a group
- Choreograph with imagination and originality
- Appraise dance performance, including the Dance Anthology of 6 works

### How many exams will students take?

1 written exam and internally marked and externally moderated practical exams for choreography and performance.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

9 (highest) to 1

The written exam is graded externally. Practical work is marked by the teacher and externally moderated by a representative from AQA.

### Careers Information and what next?

A GCSE in Dance provides a strong foundation for further study at A-Level or Level 3 BTEC. Students could progress to professional training at prestigious dance schools or conservatoires.



# GCSE Design Technology: Product Design

Pearson/Edexcel

Graded 9 – 1

## What does the course involve?

Several coursework challenges will be undertaken throughout Year 10 where students are able to experiment with materials and processes to design and make products whilst developing skills and confidence. The theory content of the course will be woven into the practical applications where possible to help with a deeper level of understanding.

In Year 11 students are able to take responsibility in choosing from three design contexts (provided by the exam board) to focus on their final Non Exam Assessment project. Evidence required for this is a design folder and a practical project, whilst the theory content will help students prepare for 2 mock exams and the final end of year exam in the summer.

## What are the entry requirements?

Students should have an interest in product design and show a fascination in how things are made and in particular 'why' material choices and manufacturing processes are utilised. Students must be committed to written work, understanding that this is a practical subject that is also 50% theory with a 1hr 45min exam. Learners must be aware of the health and safety requirements of a workshop and have already demonstrated this through consistent working practices. Students should have studied D&T in Year 9.

## How will the students be assessed?

Year 10 is split into 1-2 units/projects. Regular assessments are made throughout each unit to help us and students reflect on knowledge and skill and to identify areas of improvement. Students will be given exam style questions and 2 formal mock exams (in October and January of Year 11) which will help identify any gaps in knowledge.

Year 11 consists of one externally-examined paper and one non-examined assessment component (coursework). Students must complete all assessments in May/June in Year 11.

**Component 1:** Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes, this is worth 50% of the qualification (100 marks). The paper consists of two sections. Section A is assessed on the core content and Section B is assessed on the material category the school has chosen (1F - Timbers).

**Component 2:** Non-examined assessment, this is worth 50% of the qualification (100 marks). Students will undertake a project based on a 'contextual challenge' released on 1st June (of Year 10). The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product. The coursework will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

The marks are awarded for each part as follows.

- 1 – Investigate (16 marks).**
- 2 – Design (42 marks).**
- 3 – Make (36 marks).**
- 4 – Evaluate (6 marks)**

## How many exams will students take?

One written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes long and worth 100 marks.

## How will each student's final performance be graded?

9 (highest) to 1 (It is not a tiered exam).

## Careers Information and what next?

The course leads on to further study in A level Product Design, and could lead to higher education, and jobs in a design related field.



## GCSE Drama

AQA

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

Drama engages and encourages students to become confident performers and/or technicians with the skills they need for a bright and successful future. Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace. Theatre trips and workshops are offered as part of this course.

### What are the entry requirements?

Must be able to perform consistently on stage and should have analytical skills in order to evaluate the impact of theatrical skills effectively. Must have strong literacy skills as there are substantial written elements of the course. Students should have studied Drama in Year 9.

### How will the students be assessed?

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

1. Understanding drama (preparation for this will be included throughout Year 10) assessed during a written exam at the end of Year 11. (1 hour 45 minutes) 80 marks (40% of GCSE)

- Section A: multiple choice (4 marks)
- Section B: four questions on a given extract from a set work (44 marks)
- Section C: one question (from a choice) on the work of theatre makers in a single live theatre production of a live theatre performance (32 marks)

2. Devising drama (will be completed by the end of the summer term in Year 10) assessed through Devising Log Book - 2500 words maximum. 60 marks (30% of GCSE)

- Split into three sections - Response to a stimulus, Development and collaboration, Analysis and Evaluation. Devised Performance - 20 minutes maximum. 20 marks (10% of GCSE)
- A group performance created in response to one or more stimuli given to you by your teacher.

3. Texts in practice (performance in front of an external examiner in Spring term of Year 11). This year you will have the opportunity to work with different texts and learn extracts for performance. For the final exam, you will need to perform two extracts from a play (selected by your teacher) 20 marks each totalling 40 Marks (20% of GCSE)

### How many exams will students take?

1 written exam, 1 practical examination, 1 performance, with a log book, internally marked and externally moderated.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

9 (highest) to 1

### Careers Information and what next?

A Level Drama at The Cottesloe School or BTEC Performing Arts at other post-16 providers. Some may seek careers in the Performing Arts or Drama and Education. Students have the opportunity to complete Arts Award Silver alongside this GCSE.

# Level 1/2 Functional Skills in English and Maths

**Edexcel**

**Graded Pass/Fail**

## **What does the course involve?**

Functional Skills are practical qualifications that provide you with the essential knowledge and skills needed to operate confidently and independently in life and work. Unlike traditional GCSEs, these courses focus on "real-world" scenarios.

You will study two separate courses - one in Maths and one in English. These courses are designed for students who find the abstract nature of GCSEs challenging and would benefit from a more practical, application-based approach to learning. They are studied in addition to GCSE Maths and GCSE English; students find the GCSE content more accessible because of the confidence built through their Functional Skills knowledge.

In Maths, you will learn how to apply mathematical problems to life, such as calculating costs, understanding schedules, and measuring for DIY projects. In English, the focus is on effective communication: writing professional emails and letters, understanding information in the media, and developing the confidence to speak and listen in formal and informal situations.

## **What are the entry requirements?**

Entry is usually based on teacher recommendation and current progress in Year 9. It is an ideal pathway for students looking to secure a solid foundation in core skills before progressing to further vocational study.

## **How will the students be assessed?**

Students are assessed through examinations that focus on the application of their skills to everyday problems.

- Maths: One assessment split into a Non-Calculator section and a Calculator section.
- English: Three components including a Reading paper, a Writing paper, and an internally assessed Speaking, Listening and Communicating task.

## **How many exams will students take?**

- Students will take two written exams for English (Reading and Writing).
- The Speaking and Listening component of the English qualification is completed as a practical assessment in school.
- Students will take one written exam for Maths.

## **How will each student's final performance be graded?**

Functional Skills are graded as either a Pass or Unclassified. Students will work towards either Level 1 (equivalent to GCSE grades 1-3) or Level 2 (equivalent to a GCSE grade 4). Achieving a Level 2 is a nationally recognized qualification that meets the entry requirements for many college courses and apprenticeships.

## **Careers Information and what next?**

Do you want to gain qualifications that prove you are ready for the world of work? Do you want to build your confidence in the "must-have" skills for adult life? Functional Skills are highly respected by employers and provide a gateway to many career paths. These qualifications are the perfect stepping stone to Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships, BTEC courses, and employment. Whether you are looking to go into the trades, hair and beauty, retail, or hospitality, a Level 2 in Functional Skills shows you have the practical literacy and numeracy needed to succeed.



## GCSE French

EdExcel

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

GCSE French is a challenging and rewarding subject to pick at GCSE! As part of the GCSE course, you will study a range of topics relating to the modern world and how the French language plays a part in global society. You will learn how to translate to and from English, boosting your confidence with your own language, as well as being able to engage with written work and visual media aimed at French native speakers. You will also learn how to deal with real-life situations in French – great for holidays or impressing friends and family!

Whilst you will be doing the familiar listening, reading, writing and speaking tasks you are familiar with from lower down the school, the GCSE course will also hone, refine and sharpen your literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, team work, sequencing and verbal reasoning skills.

### What are the entry requirements?

You must have studied French at secondary school already and should be studying it in Year 9. The course will be very challenging for students not on at least a Grade 3 by the end of Year 9. If you are currently a Dual Linguist, you may continue with both French and German at GCSE.

### How will the students be assessed?

The GCSE course has three main Assessment Objectives:

- AO1 Understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing (35%)
- AO2 Understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing (45%)
- AO3 Demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification (20%)

These skills are assessed through three written exam papers and one spoken examination conducted in controlled exam conditions at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

A set vocabulary list will form the basis of all assessed examination work.

### How many exams will students take?

There are four exams in total; Paper 1 - Speaking, Paper 2 - Listening and Understanding, Paper 3 - Reading and Understanding, Paper 4 - Writing.

The three Assessment Objectives are assessed over all four exams. Each exam is worth 25% of the student's final GCSE grade.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

The GCSE is graded 9 (highest) to 1. French is a tiered subject; a student entered for higher tier can achieve grades 9 – 4, a student at foundation tier can achieve grades 5 – 1.

### Careers Information and what next?

Do you want a challenge? Do you want to stand out from the crowd? Do you see yourself travelling in the future? Do you want the chance to practise problem-solving skills outside of maths lessons? Do you want to boost your confidence and debating skills? Are you interested in the wider world and the people in it? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, why not take French for GCSE?

And GCSE French is just the beginning! With GCSE French you will have a facilitating GCSE that many top universities require students to have as evidence of their critical thinking, literacy and communication skills. French speakers earn on average 10% more a year than people without a modern language GCSE in their first full-time jobs, and French is likely to replace English as the most commonly used language in European business meetings in the near future. Who knows what exciting future a French GCSE could make possible for you...?



## GCSE Geography

AQA (8035)

Graded 9 -1

### What does the course involve?

This exciting qualification from AQA involves the study of both Human and Physical Geography including Tectonic Hazards and Climate Change, International Development and Urbanisation. There is an emphasis on understanding detailed case studies and examples for each of the six topic areas and a focus on the Geography of the UK.

The course also involves learning valuable geographical skills and fieldwork techniques. All students are required to participate in fieldwork. There will be 2 days of fieldwork (at an additional cost) conducted in Year 10 which will then be assessed in Paper 3 in Year 11. This has replaced the coursework element of the previous specification.

### What are the entry requirements?

This course involves the application of a wide range of skills including numeracy through data interpretation and map skills plus literacy with expectations of regular extended writing assessments. Students will be supported with all of these skills but should appreciate their value and diversity.

### How will the students be assessed?

The course will be assessed by 3 exams at the end of Year 11.

- Paper 1 (35%) – Living with the Physical Environment (1hr 30min 88 marks)
- Paper 2 (35%) – Challenges in the Human Environment (1hr 30min 88 marks)
- Paper 3 (30%) – Geographical Applications (1hr 15min 76 marks)

The final third exam will assess skills learnt on the fieldwork in Year 10 and Issue Analysis using a resource booklet released 12 weeks before the exam date.

### How many exams will students take?

Three exams at the end of Year 11.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Students will be given a grade from 9 to 1.

### Careers Information and what next?

Employers and higher education institutes respect Geography as it is a subject that develops analytical skills as well as encouraging the student to think about their place in the world. As a humanities subject, geography provides students with the ability to articulate themselves in a concise and informed manner.



## GCSE German

EdExcel

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

GCSE German is a highly challenging but extremely rewarding subject to pick at GCSE! As part of the GCSE course, you will study a range of topics relating to the modern world and how the German language plays a part in global society. You will learn how to translate to and from English, boosting your confidence with your own language, as well as being able to engage with written work and visual media aimed at German native speakers. You will also learn how to deal with real-life situations in German – online gaming or impressing friends and family!

Whilst you will still be doing the familiar listening, reading, writing and speaking tasks you are familiar with from lower down the school, the GCSE course will also hone, refine and sharpen your literacy, numeracy, problem-solving, team work, sequencing and verbal reasoning skills.

### What are the entry requirements?

You must have studied German at secondary school already and should be studying it in Year 9. The course may be extremely challenging for students not on at least a Grade 3 by the end of Year 9. If you are a Dual Linguist, you may continue with both French and German at GCSE.

### How will the students be assessed?

The GCSE course has three main Assessment Objectives:

- AO1 Understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing (35%)
- AO2 Understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing (45%)
- AO3 Demonstrate knowledge and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification (20%)

These skills are assessed through three written exam papers and one spoken examination conducted in controlled exam conditions at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.

A set vocabulary list will form the basis of all assessed examination work.

### How many exams will students take?

There are four exams in total; Paper 1 - Speaking, Paper 2 - Listening and Understanding, Paper 3 - Reading and Understanding, Paper 4 - Writing.

The three Assessment Objectives are assessed over all four exams. Each exam is worth 25% of a student's final grade.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

The GCSE is graded 9 (highest) to 1. German is a tiered subject; a student entered for higher tier can achieve grades 9 – 4, a student at foundation tier can achieve grades 5 – 1.

### Careers Information and what next?

Do you want a challenge? Do you want to stand out from the crowd? Do you see yourself travelling in the future? Do you want the chance to practise problem-solving skills outside of maths lessons? Do you want to boost your confidence? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, take German for GCSE!

And GCSE German is just the beginning! Once you've finished your GCSE course you will have a facilitating GCSE that many top universities require students to have as evidence of their critical thinking, literacy and communication skills - even if they aren't studying a language at uni! Some of the world's greatest scientific, technological and engineering developments and discoveries have been made by German companies and teams, and many of them now offer graduate training and apprenticeships to international applicants. Who knows what exciting career a GCSE in German could make possible for you...?



## Level 2 Health and Social Care

OCR Cambridge Nationals

Graded Distinction\* to Pass

### What does the course involve?

Offering an effective introduction to the health and social care sector, this qualification looks at the role the sector plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals. It also introduces students to knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings. The qualification is designed to help students learn practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations, to think creatively, analytically, logically and critically and develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the health and social care sector.

The course introduces students to issues which affect staff and patients who use health and social care services. It is made up of three components:

- **Supporting individuals through life events** - students will learn about development through the different life stages. They will consider the factors which affect how individuals cope with life events and the role of support in this.
- **Principles of care in health and social care settings** - students will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them, as well as key skills used by professionals.
- **Health Promotion Campaigns** - students will explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing and the importance of this to society. They will explore factors affecting a healthy lifestyle. Students will plan and deliver a small-scale health promotion campaign.

The assessment structure is designed so that students can build on what they learn and develop their assignment skills as they move through the course. Students complete a variety of activities during the course such as using practical equipment to measure key health indicators. Much of the work they complete is applied to case studies, which students will use to explore potential treatment options.

### What are the entry requirements?

Due to the high volume of controlled assessment work, a grade 2 in English is required. Students should also have an interest in areas of health and social care such as nursing, midwifery, paramedic science and social work.

### How will the students be assessed?

Two components are internally assessed by the completion of a series of coursework tasks. These are completed on Chromebooks in exam conditions. They will also complete one external exam, which contributes to 40% of their final grade.

### How many exams will students take?

There is one externally assessed exam in Summer of Year 11.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Students will receive final grades for their controlled assessments once these have been confirmed by the exam board. These will contribute to their final grade.

Students are graded as either fail, level 1 pass, merit, distinction, or level 2 pass, merit, distinction or distinction\*.

### What next?

This course provides the opportunity for students to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. Students can use these skills to progress on to the Level 3 BTEC National Extended Certificate in Health and Social course, which we are delivering in sixth form.



## GCSE History

Edexcel

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

Students will study the following areas of the Edexcel Course:

- The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1189–1216
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918–1939
- The American West, c1835–c1895
- Warfare and British society, c1250–present
- London and the Second World War, 1939–45 (an in depth study from the Warfare topic)

### What are the entry requirements?

Students should have a developing interest in the history of the world across a range of eras. This subject requires good literacy skills to the range of source materials students will be expected to read and with the standard of English to effectively communicate responses in exams.

### How will the students be assessed?

Throughout the course students will be answering GCSE exam style questions. For their final assessment, students will sit three exams at the end of Year 11. Many questions require longer essay style answers.

- Paper 1 is on Warfare Through Time. This is a part source based paper and a part knowledge recall paper. This is worth 30% of your final grade. The exam is 1hr 20 mins long.
- Paper 2 is on The American West and Richard and John. This is a recall paper and is worth 40% of your final grade. The exam is 1hr 50 mins long.
- Paper 3 is on Weimar and Nazi Germany. This includes questions based on sources and interpretations as well as knowledge questions. It is worth 30% of your final grade. The exam is 1hr 30 mins long.

### How many exams will students take?

For their final assessment, students will sit three exams at the end of Year 11.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Students will be graded using the GCSE grade 9 -1 grading system.

### Careers Information and what next?

History provides you with many key skills that will help you in whichever career you choose to pursue, such as the ability to:

- Select and deploy key information
- Critically analyse opposing arguments
- Debate concisely and clearly
- Plan independently
- Evaluate primary and secondary sources and historical interpretations.
- Problem solve
- Research

After studying GCSE you can go into many different fields and areas of study as a GCSE in History is very well respected. It is hoped that many students will go onto study History at A level and beyond. Employers value students with A Level or History degrees because of the range of skills developed in analysing often complex historical events.



## Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

**WJEC**

**Graded L2 Distinction\* to L1 Pass**

### **What does the course involve?**

This vocational award in Hospitality and Catering supports our students to learn about this industry and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study.

It is a great foundation for the future and provides opportunities to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

The course has a good balance of building on the skills of previous years and encouraging learners to take on new skills and challenges, while also gaining valuable knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering Industry.

During Years 10 & 11, students also have the opportunity and are encouraged to experience a 'real work environment' by catering for public events within the school.

Students are expected to prepare and serve dishes from all aspects of dietary needs, addressing the vegetarian, religious, cultural, health and social needs of potential customers.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

A working at grade of 2+ or higher in English is required as the course has a considerable amount of written work to accompany the practical elements. There is emphasis on practical skills and therefore students need a developed interest in cooking or baking at home, with regular opportunities to use their home kitchen and equipment to develop their skills further.

### **How will the students be assessed?**

The assessment requirements for this GCSE qualification are split into two units and are assessed in Year 11, however, there will be regular knowledge and skills assessments through Years 10 and 11. These will include 2 'formal' mock examinations in Year 11.

#### **Unit 1: The Hospitality & Catering Industry.**

A written Examination, 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration. This makes up 40% of the overall GCSE grade. Questions will be short and extended answers, based on applied situations. Students will be shown visual materials to help them respond to questions.

**Unit 2: Hospitality & Catering in Action.** This is an NEA (Non Examined Assessment) and makes up the 'coursework' element of the course. An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available to choose from and be assessed in a twelve-hour controlled assessment in school. In this unit, students will gain knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively. This makes up 60% of the overall GCSE grade.

### **How many exams will students take?**

Students will sit one exam 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration (externally marked).

### **How will each student's final performance be graded?**

Vocational Awards are awarded on an 8-point scale: Level 2 Distinction\*, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction\*, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass.

### **Careers Information and what next?**

These courses offer opportunities for progression through a variety of routes in further education, training or employment, as well as developing important life skills. Students may wish to go on to study/work within the catering, hospitality or food technology sector.



## GCSE Music

Edexcel

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

The Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Music qualification has been designed to give all students the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills of music in performing, composing and appraising.

**Unit 1: Performing Music** 30%: one solo performance and one ensemble performance.

**Unit 2: Composing Music** 30%: two compositions from different musical genres.

**Unit 3: Music – Listening and appraising** 40% written paper based on the set works. The listening paper includes the anthology with four areas of study with two set works from each

- Instrumental Music 1700–1820
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Fusions

Theatre trips and workshops are offered as part of this course. Ensemble performances are assessed as part of wider school events in Year 10 such as Christmas Concert and Bandjam. Students have the opportunity to complete Arts Award Silver alongside this GCSE.

### What are the entry requirements?

GCSE Music requires students to be competent musicians; it involves note reading and dictation skills. Students should have a desire to perform and to develop performance skills.

**Students taking GCSE Music must play an instrument and be having instrumental/vocal lessons now, be undertaking graded examinations, or working at an equivalent level.**

### How will the students be assessed?

Performances and compositions will be completed in controlled conditions under staff supervision. Listening and appraising will be assessed by an external exam.

### How many exams will students take?

1 listening exam. Performance and composition controlled assessments: internally marked and externally moderated.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

GCSE 9-1.

### Careers Information and what next?

Do you want to develop the confidence to stand on stage? Do you want to master the discipline of practice and the thrill of creation? Music students are highly sought after by universities and employers because they demonstrate incredible self-motivation, emotional intelligence, and advanced problem-solving skills.

Whether you dream of a career in the performing arts, music production, or sound engineering, or you want a "facilitating" subject that proves you have the grit and creativity to succeed in Law, Medicine, or Business, GCSE Music is a brilliant choice. Beyond the classroom, music offers UCAS points for higher grades (6-8) and opens doors to a lifetime of performance and appreciation. Who knows where your talent could take you?



## GCSE Physical Education

OCR

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of physical education, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity.

The GCSE course is split into 4 different components:

**Component 1:** Physical Factors affecting Performance is the module where students will learn about the different body systems, movement analysis and aspects of physical training.

**Component 2:** Socio-cultural Influences and Sports Psychology, where students will learn how social-cultural influence impacts health and performance, and how sport influences our body and mind through sports psychology.

**Component 3:** Practical Performance where students will be taught core and advanced skills. They will be assessed across 3 different sports and activities

**Component 4:** Analysis and Evaluation of Performance, this coursework draws upon the knowledge, understanding and skills a student has learnt and enables them to analyse and evaluate and improve their own performance in one activity.

### What are the entry requirements?

The GCSE has been designed to build on and embed the physical development and skills learned in Key Stage 3, encouraging learners to become more competent, confident and expert in their techniques, and apply them across different sports and physical activities whilst deepening their knowledge of content studied previously.

Due to the practical nature of this course, **it is recommended that students participate in at least one sport to a good standard outside of school** and have a keen interest in a variety of other sports and activities.

### How will the students be assessed?

Students are assessed through 2 external exams, their practical performance across 3 different sports, and their theoretical understanding and application by producing a piece of course work.

**Component 1:** A written examination of 1 hour and is worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

**Component 2:** A written examination of 1 hour and is worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

**Component 3:** An internally assessed aspect where students are evaluated practically in person or via video across 3 different sports. These have to be 1 team sport, 1 individual sport and 1 from either a team or individual sport. This component is internally marked and worth 30% of the student's overall grade.

**Component 4:** Internally assessed course work and is worth 10% of the student's overall grade.

### How many exams will students take?

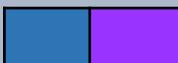
There are two exams as part of the GCSE Physical Education course which are taken in Year 11.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Students are graded using the 9-1 grading structure.

### Careers Information and what next?

The OCR GCSE in Physical Education provides a strong base for progression to further education, whether it is on Level 3 BTEC Sport or A Level Physical Education. These can lead onto courses at college or University relating to sports coaching, sports science, physiotherapy, psychology, medicine or teaching and education to name a few. It can also lead onto an apprenticeship or work in any sports related industry, for example fitness instructors, personal trainers and coaching.



## GCSE Psychology

Exam Board TBC (AQA or OCR)

Graded 9 – 1

### What does the course involve?

Have you ever wondered why we dream, how our memory works, or why people behave differently in a crowd? Psychology is the fascinating scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. It is a unique subject that sits at the intersection of Science and Humanities, offering deep insights into how we think, feel, and interact with the world.

In this course, you will explore the "big questions" of human nature. You will study how our brains develop from birth, the secrets behind why we forget things, and the psychological roots of mental health. You will also look outward at society, investigating topics like social influence e.g. why we conform to groups or obey authority, and how we communicate through body language. More than just learning facts, Psychology teaches you how to think like a researcher, allowing you to design your own investigations and analyze data to find out what truly makes people tick.

### What are the entry requirements?

Psychology is a rigorous social science that requires strong literacy and numeracy skills. As the exams involve both extended essay writing and the analysis of scientific data, students should be working at a **Grade 3+ in English and Maths**. A curious mind and an interest in human behaviour are the most important tools you can bring to the classroom.

### How will the students be assessed?

The course is 100% exam-based and is assessed through two written papers at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework, but you will engage in practical "hands-on" research throughout the two years to prepare for the Research Methods questions in your exams.

- **Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour** – Focusing on internal processes like memory, perception, and brain development.
- **Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour** – Focusing on external factors like social influence, psychological problems, and communication.

### How many exams will students take?

Students will sit **two** written exams. Each exam usually lasts between 1 hour 30 minutes and 1 hour 45 minutes (depending on which exam board is selected).

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Students are graded using the 9-1 grading structure.

### Careers Information and what next?

Do you want to develop an "edge" in understanding people? Psychology provides a powerful toolkit of analytical and empathetic skills that are highly valued by employers in every sector.

A GCSE in Psychology is an excellent foundation for A-Level study in Psychology, Sociology, or Biology. Looking further ahead, it is a key subject for careers in Healthcare, Law, Teaching, Marketing, Criminal Justice, and Management. Even if you don't plan to become a professional Psychologist, the ability to analyse data, evaluate evidence, and understand human motivation will make you stand out from the crowd in any profession. If you are interested in the "why" behind human actions, Psychology is the subject for you.



## GCSE Religious Studies: Religion & Applied Ethics

**AQA Religious Studies Specification A**

**Graded 9 – 1**

### **What does the course involve?**

The GCSE specification in Religious Studies will look in depth at two world religions – **Christianity and Judaism**. These religions will be taught in unison with the focus being on critical comparison and thematic learning.

The topics are broken down into two components, the first concerns the Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of both Judaism and Christianity and will look at the philosophical background that these two world religions have on God and what makes up the 'core' of their faith.

The second component will explore thematic issues where students will study four themes and consider how a Jew and a Christian might react in each case. The themes include:

- Theme A: Relationships and families,
- Theme B: Religion and life,
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice.

Students will approach this from a critical position, looking at the arguments presented by both those in support of faith and those who challenge it (evil, science and modern society). By completing this course students will have a much richer understanding of the varieties and complexities in faith and will be able to demonstrate the skills of comparison, empathy and critical examination.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

Religious Studies is a literacy based subject and students taking the course will need to be able to structure their arguments clearly and write in timed conditions. As a result, it is recommended that students will be most successful if they are working at a grade of a 3 or above in their English and Humanities subjects in Year 9.

### **How will the students be assessed?**

Religious Studies will be examined through terminal exams at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework element in the GCSE. Students will be graded on the scale of 1-9.

### **How many exams will students take?**

This GCSE is split into 2 exams. Component 1 is assessed in a single 1 hour 45 minute exam paper. Component 2 is also assessed in a single 1 hour and 45 minute exam paper. Questions are broken down into 1, 2, 4, 5, and 12 mark questions which will allow for the full range of responses.

### **How will each student's final performance be graded?**

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

### **Careers Information and what next?**

Religious Studies will equip students with the skills of analysis, empathy, evaluation and critical thinking. This will be of value to any subject but is particularly beneficial for students looking to study English, History, Law, Sociology, Psychology at A-level (as well as Philosophy and Ethics). Religious Studies can be beneficial for a wide range of careers and has been respected at university for many years. In particular, Religious Studies can help with journalism, law, politics, health and social care, publishing and more.

# **GCSEs in the Separate Sciences**

## **(3 GCSEs: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics)**

**AQA** *Three separate grades achieved*

Graded 9 – 1

## What does the course involve?

This course is similar in content to GCSE Combined Science but with added depth of knowledge. Students will be expected to remember key formulae and apply them to a range of questions.

The three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will enable students to:

- Develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific and separate disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them
- Develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills in the laboratory, in the field and in other learning environments
- Develop their ability to evaluate claims based on science through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

## What are the entry requirements?

Students must achieve a 3+ in both Maths and Science in their End of KS3 Year 9 assessments and be recommended for Separate Sciences by their current Science teachers. Separate Scientists typically come from Science set 1 and the highest achievers in set 2.

## How will the students be assessed?

Students will be assessed using examinations only, all of which will be written in Year 11. Practical work is still carried alongside theory units and will also be examined at the end of Year 11 as skills questions in the final papers.

## How many exams will students take?

There are two exams for each GCSE subject: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. (Total: six exams)  
Each exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

## How will each student's final performance be graded?

Higher tier: grades 9 to 4 Foundation tier: grades 5 to 1

The Head of Science, in conjunction with the subject specialist teachers will determine the most appropriate tier of entry based upon prior and current exam performance.

## Careers Information and what next?

Do you want to be at the forefront of innovation? Do you want to develop the analytical mindset that top universities and global employers crave? Separate Science is the ultimate "facilitating" qualification, opening doors to almost any career path.

While further study at A Level in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics is an obvious and exciting next step for those heading toward University, the skills you gain—problem-solving, logical reasoning, and technical literacy—are equally valuable for high-level apprenticeships or immediate entry into the workforce. Whether you dream of a career in medicine, engineering, environmental research, or even finance and law, Separate Science proves you have the intellectual stamina and curiosity to succeed. The world is waiting for the next generation of scientists—will you be one of them?



## Level 2 in Sport Studies

OCR (Cambridge National)

Graded Level 2 Distinction\* to Pass

### What does the course involve?

This is a vocational qualification that aims to develop the students' own performance and how to effectively lead others as well as gain knowledge about the national sports context. This is excellent preparation for roles such as sport development or sport leadership.

Students will produce a portfolio of evidence to support their assessment across a broad range of sport studies disciplines.

The course aims to produce well rounded and technically accurate sports students who are able to apply their theoretical knowledge to real life, sporting situations and leadership opportunities.

The students will study the following 2 units in Year 10:

- Performance and Leadership in sports activities (practical content)
- Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

Students will continue with one unit and prepare for the examination unit in Year 11:

- Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities
- Contemporary Issues in Sport (exam)

### What are the entry requirements?

Due to the high volume of coursework students need to have a grade 3 in English and Maths. There is also a large practical element within the course and therefore students are recommended to have a keen interest in sport and participate regularly in at least one sport.

### How will the students be assessed?

Students will be assessed through a variety of methods. Each student will produce a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate that they have met the learning objectives.

The portfolio will include:

- Word processed document
- Research tasks
- PowerPoint presentations
- Practical workshops
- Video evidence
- Teacher/observer witness statements

Students will also sit a 1 hour external assessment (Contemporary Issues in Sport).

### How many exams will students take?

There is only 1 exam for the CNAT Sports studies course which is 40% of the overall grade.

### How will each student's final performance be graded?

Students are graded as either, fail, level 1 pass, merit, distinction, or a level 2 pass, merit, distinction or distinction \*

### Careers Information and what next?

Cambridge Nationals provide a strong base for progression to further education as well as vocational qualification for example health and social care, child care or public services. These can lead onto courses at college or University relating to sports coaching, sports science, or teaching and education to name a few. It can also lead onto an apprenticeship or work in any sports or leadership related field.



## GCSE Statistics

**Edexcel**

**Graded 9 – 1**

### **What does the course involve?**

This course involves supplementing your studies in Maths by having the opportunity to achieve a GCSE in Statistics. By following this course students will be able to deepen their knowledge and further develop the mathematical skills required for handling, presenting and interpreting statistics and Probability.

### **What are the entry requirements?**

This opportunity is available for students in the top 2 sets. All students will study the higher tier.

### **How will the students be assessed?**

The students are assessed in exams at the end of the course. This is taken at the end of Year 10.

### **How many exams will students take?**

Students will take two 1 hour 30 minute exams at the end of the course.

### **How will each student's final performance be graded?**

Students can be entered at either higher grades 9 to 4 (3).

### **Careers Information and what next?**

This course is designed to support students who are intending to stay on into the Sixth Form to study A-Level qualifications. It also provides a strong foundation for students intending on studying A-Level Maths.

# Notes:

