

2024 - 2026



**GCSE SUBJECT INFORMATION AT SHEBBEAR COLLEGE**



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# WELCOME TO YOUR GCSES AT SHEBBEAR COLLEGE

Welcome to the GCSE Subject Information Guide for 2024–2026. As you look towards moving into Form 4 (Year 10) next September you have a lot to look forward to. This is an exciting time in your education as it will be the first opportunity for you to start to focus on the subjects that you are most interested in.

The decisions that you make as you choose your GCSE subjects are important, as they will have an impact on your future studies at A-Level or BTEC and beyond – universities are also paying closer attention to your GCSE grades and so it is important that you choose the subjects that are right for you. This can seem like a difficult decision if you are uncertain about which subjects you would like to focus on, but please don't worry – our teachers are very experienced in guiding pupils through this process and helping you to make the right choices.


This guide contains information about which subject choices are available, detail about the course content and how to make your choices. Please take time to read it carefully and discuss any queries you have with your tutor, subject teachers and parents.

Please remember that throughout this process your HsM, tutor and teachers are all here to help and guide you. I wish you every success in your GCSEs and look forward to seeing you grow in confidence and make excellent progress.

**Good luck!**

**Mr Jenkins, Head**





# ACADEMIC CURRICULUM FOR PUPILS ENTERING FORM 4 (YEAR 10)

**Our aim at Shebbear College is to create a learning community that will enable all of our pupils to look back on their school days with fond memories and a real sense of achievement.**

Our GCSE curriculum is planned to ensure a breadth and balance of subjects over the two years. While we follow the intentions of the National Curriculum, we broaden and adapt its scope to ensure that courses are constructed to suit the abilities and interests of our pupils. In addition to the curriculum, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities, giving them experiences beyond the classroom in addition to academic studies.

We are always looking for what is best for each individual pupil, so that they can achieve *their* best. We work hard to make sure that school life here is engaging and challenging, enabling our pupils to focus on their studies but providing them with the right amount of support, care and communication depending on their individual needs.

The GCSE curriculum consists of core subjects, which everybody takes (although not necessarily following the same course within each subject), and option subjects, from which pupils make a choice. The aim is the same for all pupils whatever they study - for a successful and rewarding programme leading to the best possible GCSE results, and the widest possible opportunities for each individual as they go on to the Sixth Form.

Please note that our GCSE subjects require a minimum of six students for us to be able to run the course effectively.

## Which GCSE subjects are compulsory?

All pupils at Shebbear College will study the following compulsory subjects at GCSE:

- English Literature
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Double or Triple Award Science (you will be advised by the Science Department)

Non-examined subjects:

- PE
- Games
- PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education)

## Which GCSE subjects can I choose from?

- Art
- Music
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- History
- PE
- Business
- Philosophy

## How do I choose my GCSE subjects?

Our advice is to choose subjects that you enjoy! Keep your future doors as open as possible and listen to the advice of those around you who care!

You will have plenty of opportunity to discuss your choices with your HsM, tutor and subject teachers who will be able to offer you advice and support in choosing your options.

The best advice is to be guided by the subjects that you find most interesting. Interest and enthusiasm for your GCSE subjects will help you to gain the best grades possible at the end of Form 5 (Year 11), providing you with a pathway to Sixth Form and beyond.



## The Options Process

The options process for choosing your subjects consists of:

- Taster sessions of GCSE subjects
- GCSE Subject Fair – speak to the teachers and students currently studying the subjects.
- An Option Subject Choice Microsoft Form will be sent to pupils' emails after the Subject Fair. This form is open for pupils to choose the three subjects plus two reserves that they are keen to study for GCSE. This form is to be completed by **Tuesday 6th February**.
- Option blocks will be created and sent to pupils' emails via Microsoft Form by **Friday 9th February**.
- Final Options are to be returned via Microsoft Form by **Tuesday 20th February** which gives pupils enough time to discuss these with subject teachers.

## LESSON HOURS PER FORTNIGHT

- English Language and Literature: 8 hours
- Maths: 7 hours
- Science (Double and Triple) – 9 hours
- Option 1 – 6 hours
- Option 2 – 6 hours
- Option 3 – 6 hours
- Games – 4 hours
- PSHE – 2 hours
- PE – 2 hours

# ASSESSMENT & EXAMINATIONS



Our subject examinations are set by the AQA, Edexcel or OCR exam boards. Written papers are marked by external examiners. Internal assessment is carried out in school but is submitted to the exam boards for external moderation.

Our normal end of year examinations in June of Form 4 (Year 10) are followed by mock GCSE papers in November or December of Form 5 (Year 11). GCSE written papers take place in May and June of Form 5.

All GCSEs are graded on the GCSE 9-1 scale with 9 being the highest possible grade. As a guide, grades 7-9 are equivalent to the old A-A\* grades, grades 5 and 6 are equivalent to the old B grade and grade 4 is a standard pass, equivalent to the old grade C. Each subject has exams at the end of the course and some subjects have non-exam assessments (coursework).

More information on the content of the following courses can be found on the Awarding Body websites:

- 🌐 [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)
- 🌐 [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)
- 🌐 [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)



# ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS



The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Department is a busy and thriving part of Shebbear College, helping all our pupils to achieve their full learning potential. We provide specific and structured support in a non-pressured environment for all pupils with any type of additional learning needs, including dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyspraxia and processing, among others. Pupils eligible for academic support will have been identified through diagnostic and formal assessment as they have moved through the school.

The aim of the ALN department is to provide all of our pupils with the best possible teaching and help, enabling them to access the curriculum irrespective of their learning needs. The department is small enough to be able to individualise the nature of the support we give, and large enough to be able to deliver that support as and when it is required.

Generally, pupils who need academic support would normally take one fewer GCSE, which frees up five hours per fortnight for a combination of academic support and independent study. The lesson content is fluid and teaching and learning is structured, multi-sensory and cumulative, and considers the learning style of the individual pupil. There are opportunities to discuss and receive advice and support regarding various coursework assignments including proof-reading, discussion of course texts and essay planning.

When it comes to exams, pupils requiring assistance receive help and support to allow them to compete with their peers on a level playing field. Exam Access Arrangements (EAA) are easily put in place thanks to our strong connections with local Educational Psychologists and specialists. Depending on need, concessions can include reading, scribing, word-processing, prompts and extra time.



# HORIZONS CAREERS AND GUIDANCE



Our innovative careers department, Horizons, is run by Mrs Aliberti, preparing all of our pupils for their lives beyond school. It includes:

- Oxbridge & Russell Group Pathway Programme
- International University Pathway Programme
- Apprenticeships Mentoring
- Medics Academy in partnership with the NHS
- One-to-one Careers Guidance with Specialist Teachers
- Volunteering & Work Experience
- Subscription to Unifrog for pupils and parents

The programme starts at Form 1 (Year 7) and goes right through to the Upper Sixth, guiding our pupils through those all important decisions for their future. The many, varied opportunities offered to pupils include visits from outside speakers and participation in the scheme 'National Citizens Service', amongst others. Form 5 (Year 11) pupils have sessions on study skills and revision techniques and Lower Sixth pupils visit the annual UCAS Fair in Exeter.

We also work with Futuresmart, who provide independent professional advice through an expert careers service, and we have access to the fantastic Unifrog resource which offers comprehensive information about university courses and apprenticeships schemes in the UK and overseas.

In Form 4 (Year 10) pupils have an in-depth look at careers, subjects, skills and temperament needed for these, as well as a workshop on 'Study Skills'.

In Form 5 (Year 11) pupils begin the detailed Careers Guidance Programme. This Futuresmart programme offers one-to-one careers and higher education guidance which lasts until they are 23 years old, taking them through A-level choices or other post 16 studies, researching and selecting universities, planning a gap year and preparing for employment. Psychometric profiles are followed by personal interviews and the report and resulting action plan are available for pupils and parents online. They are offered further support in the form of one-to-one guidance interviews in the Lower Sixth and mock university interviews in the Upper Sixth as well as being able to email Futuresmart directly at any time with queries.

# CORE SUBJECTS

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE



**Studying English Language GCSE at Shebbear College will enable pupils of all abilities to 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. They will learn to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.**

Pupils will read a range of engaging and diverse texts including poetry and prose, as well as literary non-fiction. They will read and respond to material from a variety of different resources, as well as being able to make comparisons between texts and analyse the ways in which writers achieve their effects. Pupils will also be able to construct and convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.

## Course Outline

100% Examination.

### Paper 1

(40% of GCSE): Fiction and Imaginative Writing

Written Examination

Section A: Reading (20%) one 19th century literature fiction text.

Section B: Writing (20%) imaginative writing.

### Paper 2

(60% of GCSE): Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

Written Examination

Section A: Reading (30%) one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text from 20th – 21st Century.

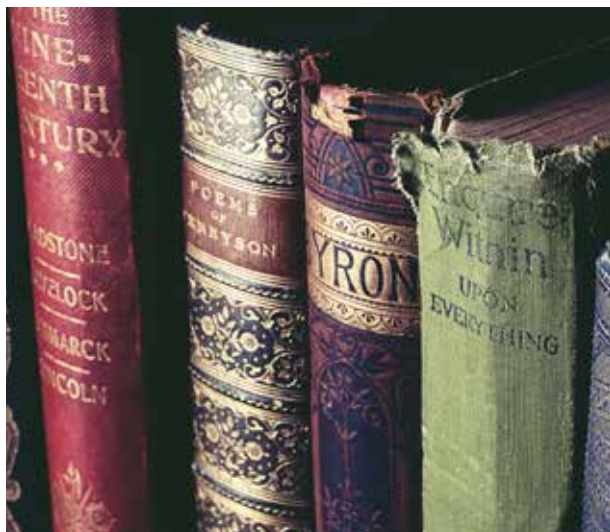
Section B: Writing (30%) transactional writing.

Non-Examination Assessment

Speaking and Listening. Presenting; responding to questions and feedback; use of Standard English.

At Shebbear College, pupils take both Language and Literature and the specifications are co-taught. Pupils will benefit from the transferable skills developed across the two subjects.

# ENGLISH LITERATURE



**Reading English Literature is a personal (and entertaining) voyage of discovery into human experience and imagination as it has been expressed in written form over five centuries. As well as the inherent pleasures of great art, studying English Literature will develop pupils' skills in detailed observation, analytical writing and comparing texts, as well as introducing them to writers who will be companions for life and developing a love of reading.**

Pupils can look forward to creative and engaging lessons. A range of texts will be taught that will inspire our young readers; from Shakespeare to Shelley, Dickens to Doyle, Bennett to Byron. In studying set texts, pupils will have the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- Literal and inferential comprehension
- Critical reading
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features

- Comparing texts
- Producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes
- Accurate Standard English

## Course Outline

### Paper 1

(50% of GCSE): Shakespeare and Post - 1914 Literature

Written Examination

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: Post - 1914 British play or novel

### Paper 2

(50% of GCSE): Modern Texts and Poetry

Written Examination

Section A: 19th Century novel

Section B: Poetry and unseen poetry

At Shebbear College, pupils take both Language and Literature and the specifications are co-taught. Pupils will benefit from the transferable skills developed across the two subjects.

# MATHEMATICS



**Mathematics uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulas, to explore the rules we need to measure or identify essential problems like distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities. Maths helps us to understand how things work or predict how they might change over time and under different conditions**

At Shebbear College our team of specialist mathematics teachers encourages enjoyment of and enthusiasm for Mathematics. We aim to stretch and challenge students through mathematical activities whilst developing their skills and confidence. All students study Maths in groups best suited to their ability throughout Forms 4 & 5 (Years 10 & 11).

As well as developing traditional oral and written skills, GCSE Maths develops each pupil's practical and problem-solving skills.

There are two tiers of entry. The Higher Tier covers grades 9 – 4 and the Foundation Tier covers grades 5 – 1. The entry level of each pupil will be decided after the mock exams in Form 5 (Year 11).

## Course Outline

The GCSE Mathematics course builds on the curriculum that has already been studied at Key Stage 3. The content is common to all exam boards and is organised into the following broad topic areas:

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

GCSE Mathematics is examined by three equally weighted, written exams at the end of Form 5 (Year 11). There is no coursework.

### Paper 1

Non-calculator

### Paper 2 and 3

Calculator

## Further Maths

We also offer the Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths, a unique qualification designed to stretch and challenge high achieving mathematicians.

Further Maths is an optional qualification offered to high achieving pupils in the top set in Form 5, and is delivered as an additional subject outside of curriculum time.

# SCIENCE



**Pupils will have the opportunity to either study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate sciences (3 GCSEs) or the Double Award Combined Science (2 GCSEs). Pupils will start their GCSE studies in Form 3 (Year 9) and then sit their exams at the end of Form 5 (Year 11).**

Pupils entered for the Combined Science GCSE will sit a total of six 70 minute exams (two per subject). Pupils who are entered for the three separate science GCSEs will sit six 105 minute exams (two per subject). There is no coursework, but the courses contain 16 core practicals that pupils are required to complete; knowledge of these and their methods will form part of the final exams.

The majority of pupils will follow the Combined Science route, which offers the chance to study all three sciences and build a solid understanding of the world around them. The course is designed to cover a range of topical issues while also deepening their overall understanding of Science. The separate sciences route is identical to the Combined Science but has additional material and goes into greater detail. Both routes rely on sound literacy and numeracy skills.

Through studying Science, pupils will gain problem solving, analytical and evaluative skills which are transferable to a range of A-Levels, apprenticeships and professions. Either route, (the three separate sciences or Combined Science) will enable you to progress to study any of the sciences at A-Level.

## Course Content:

### Biology

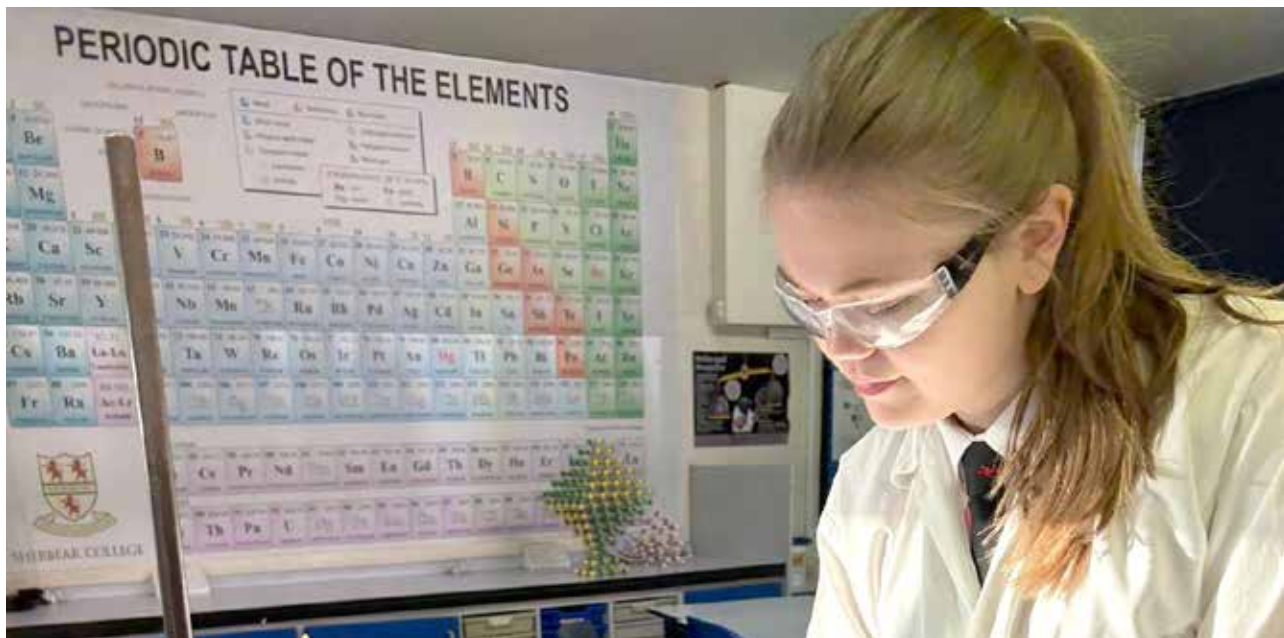
- Cells and control
- Genetics
- Natural selection and genetic modification
- Health, disease and the development of medicines
- Plant structure and their functions
- Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Exchange and transport in animals
- Ecosystems and material cycles

### Chemistry

- States of matter
- Methods of separating and purifying substances
- Atomic structure
- The periodic table
- Ionic and covalent bonding
- Acids and alkalis
- Calculations involving mass
- Electrolytic processes
- Obtaining and using metals
- Reversible reactions and equilibria
- Fuels, earth and atmospheric science







## Physics

- Motion
- 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

The course content above is indicative but the topics studied may vary slightly.

The demand (difficulty) of questioning will increase both within questions and also across the papers as it encourages students of all abilities to engage with each part of the paper and persevere through the exam.



# OPTION SUBJECTS



# ART & DESIGN



**GCSE Art & Design offers an exciting opportunity for pupils to develop their creativity and imagination as well as practical, analytical and communication skills. Studying Art & Design will develop these valuable skills, and is essential for those wishing to pursue one of the many exciting careers in the creative industries.**

This engaging course provides pupils the opportunity to experiment with a diverse range of media such as print-making, painting, sculpture, and textiles. Autonomy and independence are fostered through a course structure which equips students with the knowledge and tools to go on to make their own creative decisions. The teacher

is an integral part within this process, offering guidance, feedback, and inspiration. As well as looking at art history for contextual links, students are encouraged to engage with the modern world and seek out culturally diverse and contemporary artists. There is a real emphasis on encouraging pupils to express themselves through their individualised projects.

## The course consists of:

- **Unit 1: Portfolio (coursework, 60%).**

Projects are based on a theme or area of study often of the pupil's choosing. Each pupil will produce a portfolio of work during their lessons that demonstrates their own personal response to the themes and subjects decided upon. Discussing with their teacher throughout, pupils are encouraged to develop their ideas through investigation and refine ideas through experimenting with various media, materials, processes and techniques.

- **Unit 2: Externally Set Task (examination, 40%).**

Pupils will receive an early release question paper, usually in January, from which they will research, plan and develop their response for their exam in the spring, discussing with their teacher throughout. The final examination will take up to 10 hours, which is spread over three days.

# BUSINESS



**Business GCSE is perfect for anyone that enjoys communicating and explaining ideas, thinking creatively, making decisions, working with numbers to solve business problems and learning about the world of business through real and relevant brands.**

The majority of pupils will not have studied Business prior to taking this course but might have an interest in the subject or want to start their own business one day. Pupils should have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more.

After this qualification, pupils will have a greater understanding of the world of business and have developed skills in:

- Decision making and developing persuasive arguments
- Creative and practical problem solving
- Understanding data, finance and communication.

Business GCSE is also a great stepping stone for further and higher education such as A-Levels and BTEC courses as well as helping to prepare you for an entrepreneurial role and giving you an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing or the Leisure and Tourism industry.

## Course Content

The qualification will be assessed in two equally weighted exam papers. There is no coursework.

### Paper 1: Theme 1: Investigating small business

Written exam: 50% of GCSE

Multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended writing questions on the following topics:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

### Paper 2: Theme 2: Building a business

Written exam: 50% of GCSE

Multiple choice, calculation, short-answer and extended writing questions on the following topics:

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making product decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions



# DRAMA



**GCSE Drama is a creative, fun subject, with both practical and theoretical elements, offering something for everyone with an interest in Drama and the Performing Arts. The course is hard work and intense but we never lose sight of the main reason that most pupils choose to study it in the first place – the thrill of performance, of working their imaginations and of developing their creativity.**

Pupils are given the opportunity to work collaboratively with others and take charge of the direction of their learning. They will develop valuable communication skills and learn how to create their own devised work for performance and to analyse play texts practically. There is also the opportunity to watch and review a range of professional theatre productions and attend workshops with professional companies.

GCSE Drama is an excellent subject to study if you intend to go into any profession which would involve public speaking, creativity and working with customers

or if you wish to study the subject at A-Level, BTEC or degree level.

## Course Content

There are three main components:

### Component 1: Understanding Drama

Open Book Assessment – 40% of GCSE

This unit assesses the pupils' knowledge of how theatre works through the study of a set play (Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*) and is examined through an open-book test at the end of the course.

### Component 2: Devising Drama

Performance – 40% of GCSE

This unit assesses the pupils' ability to devise, and perform in, their own plays. This will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

### Component 3: Texts in Practice

Performance – 20% of GCSE

This unit assesses the pupils' ability to perform two extracts from a chosen play text (Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*). This is marked by AQA.



# GEOGRAPHY



**Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. We study a wide range of physical and human topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions that affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change it.**

## Course Content

This qualification is linear, meaning that pupils will sit all their exams at the end of the course. There are three papers:

### Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Written Exam – 35% of GCSE

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world
- Geographical skills

### Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written exam – 35% of GCSE

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

### Unit 3: Geographical applications

Written exam – 30% of GCSE

- Issue evaluation – evaluation of an issue which can be selected from any part of the specification based on secondary material in a pre-release booklet.
- Fieldwork – two fieldwork enquiries of physical and human environments.
- Geographical skills





# HISTORY



**History is fascinating. Studying it will feed your curiosity about the world and help you to understand today's cultures and world events through what you have learnt about the past. You will develop skills such as analysis, evaluation and discussion.**

GCSE History is a great basis for many A-Level subjects and is highly regarded by universities and employers. Pupils who have studied history often study A-Level qualifications in subjects such as English or Economics, and some enjoy it so much they carry on with it even if they are studying Maths or Science subjects.

Many people working in Law and Accountancy have studied history because of the skills that can be developed in reasoning and arguing your point. A history qualification is also appealing to a wide range of other employers including Publishing, Journalism, Business Management and Human Resources.

## Course Content

At GCSE we study a range of British and World History topics which are assessed across three externally examined papers:

### 1. Thematic Study and Historic Environment - Medicine in Britain (c.1250-present)

Written exam – 30% of GCSE

*'Why were there so many medical breakthroughs in the C19th?'*

This unit looks at a broad sweep of history from medieval Britain to the present day. You will study events such as the Black Death, the creation of the NHS and the discovery of Germ theory. You will delve deeper into the theme by learning about a particular place at a particular moment in history; illnesses, wounds and treatments in the Western Front of World War One.

### 2. Period Study and British Depth Study

Written exam – 40% of GCSE

**Depth study - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England - 'How did William secure control after the Invasion of 1066?'**

This medieval depth study will offer an insight into a key moment in our history, the Norman Conquest. We will study some of the key individuals, events and situations that have shaped Britain.

**Period Study - The American West c.1835-1895 - 'Why was there tension and conflict between settlers and Plains Indians?'**



With the period study you have the chance to study ideologies and civilisations that have shaped the world we live in today. It reflects the diversity of human experience and allows you to explore different societies and cultures.

### 3. Modern Depth Study - Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

Written exam – 30% of GCSE

*'Why did ordinary Germans vote for a dictator?'*

You will learn about another nation's history in depth, exploring the complexity of the historical situation that helped to cause the Second World War. What were the causes of this situation, and how did it affect the people of the period?



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## (French)



**A GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language is an invaluable skill, and many of our pupils choose to take a language at GCSE.**

For 2023–2024 we will be offering French as our main language, as our current pupils are studying this at Form 3 (Year 9). Pupils are also encouraged to take a GCSE in their native language whether this is Chinese, Italian, German, Spanish or something else.

By studying a Modern Foreign Language, you will not only add an international dimension to your GCSE subjects and learn more about the countries where the language is spoken, but you will also create greater opportunities to work abroad, or in UK companies with international links. Many employers look for people who speak a foreign language.

### Course Content:

You will study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: Identity and culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

This qualification is linear: pupils will sit all their examinations at the end of the course. GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Pupils must be entered for a single tier across all papers and this will be determined after the mock exams in Form 5 (Year 11).

#### Paper 1: Listening, understanding and dictation

(25% of the total qualification)

#### Paper 2: Speaking

(internally conducted, externally assessed – 25% of the total qualification)

Includes Role Play, Photocard, Reading aloud and Conversation sections.

#### Paper 3: Reading and understanding

(25% of the total qualification)

Includes questions in English, questions in French and translation from French.

#### Paper 4: Writing

(25% of total qualification)

Includes writing in French and translation from English.





#### Paper 4: Writing

(25% of the total qualification)

##### **Foundation Tier:**

Includes a list task, a message task, a translation from English to French and a structured writing task.

##### **Higher Tier:**

Includes a structured writing task, an open-ended writing task and a translation from English to French.

##### **Tips for success**

- Learn vocabulary on a weekly basis in order to build up your knowledge. There is too much to learn if you leave it until a week before the exam!
- Read/listen as much in French as you can online – your teacher will give you some good websites.
- Practise your pronunciation and accent whenever you can (no-one can hear you in the shower!).
- Record yourself and listen over and over again.
- Practise with someone else and make sure you test yourself.
- Know all your key past/present/future verbs and structures off by heart so that you feel confident.
- Be able to give a variety of opinions and reasons.





# MUSIC

**GCSE Music is a varied and interesting subject that enables creative learning, develops expression and broadens horizons. It is fulfilling and challenging, academically rigorous and well respected by top universities, as well as offering a wealth of transferable skills, including critical thinking, social skills, teamwork, leadership and communication, which are relevant to ongoing musical and non-musical study as well as to future career development.**

The syllabus requires pupils to demonstrate their skills in performing (solo and ensemble) and composing as well as developing their understanding of a wide variety of musical genres including Instrumental and Vocal Music, Fusions and Music for the Stage and Screen. All the skills needed to complete the course are taught along the way, although it is expected that candidates choosing GCSE Music sing or play an instrument or are intending to take up instrumental or singing lessons in order to support the quality of their musicianship and the performance part of the course.

## Course Content

GCSE Music comprises 3 Components:

### Performing

Internally marked and externally moderated performance – 30% of GCSE

Pupils perform for at least four minutes' combined duration.

- Solo performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces.
- Ensemble performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one or more pieces.

### Composing

Internally marked and externally moderated – 30% of GCSE



Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes' combined duration.

- One composition to a brief set by the exam board, of at least one minute in duration
- One free composition set by the pupil, of at least one minute in duration

### Appraising

Written exam – 40% of GCSE

The paper is made up of two sections. Pupils study 8 diverse set works.

- **Section A**  
Areas of study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces. Six questions related to six of the eight set works, one short melody/rhythm completion exercise, one question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided).
- **Section B**  
Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece. One question that asks pupils to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



**The Physical Education GCSE course has been developed by working closely with the Youth Sport Trust to design a specification that will inspire teaching and learning. Contemporary topics will help students of all abilities to develop a well-rounded skill set and prepare them for progression to further studies.**

Pupils considering this option should be enthusiastic and committed participants in a range of Physical Education and Games activities. They should be prepared to develop greater knowledge and understanding of activities in order to improve performance.

Physical Education lends itself to a range of careers in sports and fitness including PE teacher; Physiotherapist; Professional Sportsperson; Sports Coach/Consultant; Sports Policy; Diet and Fitness Instructor; Personal Trainer as well as other industries that you may not have considered before.

## Course Content

The qualification is linear which means that pupils will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessments at the end of the course. There are three units:

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

Written exam – 30% of GCSE

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data

**Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.**

Written exam – 30% of GCSE

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

**Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport.**

Practical performance assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA – 30% of GCSE

- Practical performance assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA – 30% of GCSE  
Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).
- Coursework – 10% of GCSE  
Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES



**Religious Studies is a lively subject which engages pupils with contemporary issues. The course gives pupils a diverse understanding of faiths and beliefs, and many of the issues we study are part of everyday life and so are relevant to everyone.**

The subject encourages philosophical thought and decision making skills as well as developing pupils' own thoughts and opinions as they discuss and analyse topics in society from a religious perspective. We also consider and explore moral issues such as euthanasia, prejudice, abortion and poverty. Pupils will learn how to listen empathetically, speak thoughtfully and write in a convincing fashion.

## Course Content:

We follow the Edexcel iGCSE course. There are two topic areas:

### 1. Religious Beliefs & Values (1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks)

This will explore the beliefs and practices of Christianity alongside other world religions and covers topics including the nature of God, beliefs about the creation and the afterlife.

- The universe, creation and the place of human beings,
- Life and death
- Peace and conflict
- rights equality and social justice

### 2. The Religious Community (1 hour 30 minutes, 60 marks)

- Religious texts and sources of authority
- Founders and leaders
- Celebration and pilgrimage
- Worship and practice

You will have the opportunity to learn about, discuss and evaluate a wide range of topics, such as: gender and sexuality; marriage and divorce; animal rights; medical ethics; prejudice and discrimination.



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