



The
Castle
School

**YEARS 10 & 11
CURRICULUM AND OPTIONS
2017 – 2019**

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INTRODUCTION

January 2017

Dear Year 9 Students, Parents / Carers

This booklet is intended to help students and their parents make the transition from Year 9 to Year 10. During the Spring Term in Year 9, all students, together with their parents and under the guidance of their teachers and tutors at the school, have to make some limited choices about the courses they wish to follow in Years 10 and 11.

Some subjects must be taken by all students; they are compulsory and no choices are available. In this booklet, these are called the **CORE** subjects and occupy up to 70% of a student's time in Years 10 and 11. The remainder of their time is given to **OPTION** subjects which are chosen from a list of possible alternatives. These optional subjects are arranged in three option blocks and **ONE** subject from each block must be chosen. Students will receive a separate option form on which to indicate their choices.

In order to help you think about you son / daughter's choices, I hope you will be able to join us for:

- (a) Parents Information Evening on Thursday 26 January (7-9pm)
- (b) Year 9 Subject Evening on Thursday 2 March (4.30-7.30pm)

Could I draw your attention to the fact that while we are making available all the option courses listed in this booklet, the running of any course is dependent on having sufficient students interested to create a viable class. Equally, it has very occasionally been the case that we have had more students wanting to do a course than we have had capacity – for example, in some practical classes. Again, please be aware that in such cases we cannot give a guarantee of being able to do a preferred course – but we will, of course, try to do our best to match your request. This is why we ask students to choose some preferred reserve choices also.

Until all initial option forms have been returned, we have no way of predicting these levels. Therefore, could I please urge you to ensure your son / daughter's option form is returned by **Tuesday 7 March**.

As you will read in subject pages, significant national changes to all GCSE courses have been taking place since September 2015, affecting different subjects in each of the three subsequent years. This means some subjects are still waiting to begin their new-style GCSE in September 2017. While these should not affect your choice of subjects, at this point in the year the exam boards have not yet finalised exact details of the 2017 – 19 subject content. Hence some particulars in these pages are examples, rather than specifics, on topics or exam details.

If you have any queries during the process, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



MR A BETHELL
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

CORE CURRICULUM IN YEARS 10/11

In line with national requirements and The Castle School curriculum policy, the core curriculum for nearly all students will involve the following subjects:

Mathematics	English
Science	Modern Foreign Language
Religious Education	Physical Education (core activities)
Life Skills	

Key elements of the core curriculum are noted below:

- Mathematics leads to a GCSE for all students.
- English leads to GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.
- Science will lead to either 2 or 3 GCSEs – ‘Double’ or ‘Triple’ Science
- Most students will continue with their study of French or German as their Modern Foreign Language. A small number of students may be offered an alternative route later in the year.
- Religious Education leads to the award of a GCSE.
- All students continue to take part in PE lessons throughout Years 10 and 11.

OPTIONS WITHIN YEARS 10/11

30% of the Year 10 timetable is allocated to the optional subjects – 3 options per student. The main courses offered within the options are listed below:

Art	PE GCSE
Art & Commercial Design	Sport BTEC
Media	Geography
Dance	History
Drama	Sociology
Photography	Spanish (2 nd FL)
Music GCSE	French (2 nd FL)
Music BTEC	German (2 nd FL)
DT – Fashion and Textiles	Health & Social Care BTEC
DT – Electronic Products	Computer Science GCSE
DT – Product Design	ICT
ASDAN	Business Studies GCSE
Food Preparation and Nutrition	BTT (Business Travel & Tourism) BTEC

Choosing between such a range of courses is not easy. To help you, please look carefully at the guidance below:

BREADTH

For many students, the best advice is to choose a **broad** and **balanced** selection of options – this is likely to give you a wider range of choices at 16+.

SPECIALISING

Some students might want to **specialise** in an area of existing strength – for example, by choosing a second Modern Foreign Language; or, if you are very creative and artistic, for example, you may then find it appropriate to take at least 2 creative options. Choosing to specialise can be advisable as long as you are already performing well in that area.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications you obtain by the end of Year 11 are part of a national qualification framework. That allows employers to compare the level of different qualifications, as shown in the following diagram – the higher the number, the higher the qualification.

Level	Examples
Level 4	University Degrees, HNDs.
Level 3	A-levels, BTEC Advanced, International Baccalaureate.
Level 2	GCSE (higher grade range), BTEC Level 2.
Level 1	GCSE (lower grade range), BTEC Level 1.

We have two different types of qualification available for students to choose from.

1. GCSE COURSES

GCSEs have undergone big national changes, and in many subjects the new GCSE course launched in September 2016. Maths and English changed in September 2015. The remaining courses will be changing from September 2017 – so our current Year 9 will have new-style GCSEs in all subjects.

The main characteristics of the new-style GCSEs are:

- In most subjects, all the assessment is done by examinations at the end of the course.
- In some, more practical subjects there may be assessed coursework, which is marked initially by your teacher and then checked by the Exam Board.
- There is generally less coursework in new-style GCSEs than previously.
- Each GCSE is awarded a final grade. The grades available will be 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 or Fail. (9 is the highest).
- All grades from 9 – 1 are a 'pass'.

The diagram below shows these new grades, compared to the old style grades of A* - G.

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

GOOD PASS (DFE)
 5 and above = top of C and above

AWARDING
 4 and above = bottom of C and above

As you will see, the new numerical grades are deliberately designed to not match exactly with existing grades. As the grades will only be awarded in August 2017, we are waiting to see whether colleges / employers will look at Grade 5 or Grade 4 as a benchmark of a 'higher-grade pass'.

2. **APPLIED COURSES – BTEC, CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL AND OTHERS**

A number of our school-based options are Applied courses. These have the following characteristics:

- They involve much less examinations
- Assessment is continuous throughout the course, by assignments which are marked by your teacher and checked by the Exam Board
- These courses have equal weighting to GCSE courses
- Courses are available at Level 2 (higher grade) and Level 1 (lower grade)
- Grades are often Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail
eg. at Level 2, Distinction = GCSE 9/8, Merit = GCSE 7/6, Pass = GCSE 5/4
- Applied courses tend to suit students who will work consistently over 2 years, but may not perform so well in an examination setting

We offer Applied courses in:-

- Health and Social Care (BTEC)
- BTT: Business, Travel and Tourism (BTEC)
- ICT (Cambridge National)
- Music (BTEC)
- Sport (BTEC)
- ASDAN (see personalised pathways)

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

In 2011 the Government announced the creation of The English Baccalaureate – a title which has caused some confusion and misunderstandings.

The confusion arises because unlike other forms of Baccalaureate in other countries, the English Baccalaureate is not a qualification or certificate that an individual student receives.

Rather, it is a recommendation from Government that students should obtain GCSEs in all of the following areas:-

- (a) Maths
- (b) English Language
- (c) Double Science
- (d) A Foreign Language
- (e) History or Geography

Of this list, (a) to (d) automatically form part of the Core Curriculum for most Castle students – and a majority of students usually pick History or Geography as one of their options.

As there is no formal certification, completion of the English Baccalaureate is not compulsory. However, the proportion of young people obtaining all 5 of these has already increased dramatically across England, and the Government has indicated a desire for all 5 to be compulsory from 2018.

It therefore seems likely that employers and universities may well, over the next few years, see this combination of subjects as standard. Therefore, our recommendation is that you give very strong consideration to including History or Geography as one of your three option preferences.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

MATHEMATICS

Maths form a central part of the curriculum for every student in the school, and almost every student will find that their performance in GCSE Maths will be a factor in their future applications for higher education and / or employment.

During Year 9, students are already studying the GCSE course. Over the next three years, all their work is designed to prepare them for their GCSE exam in May / June 2019.

Content

There are six main content areas for the GCSE:

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

As well as the content, students will be expected to use and apply standard techniques; reason, interpret and communicate mathematically; and solve problems within mathematics and other contexts.

Students will also be expected to **know** and apply formulae across the course to answer a wide range of mathematical problems.

Assessment:

In Year 9 – there are two formal, internal assessment periods – January and summer.

Whilst these assessments do not contribute to students' final GCSE grades, they help us, students and parents to assess progress and identify any need for support/extension, including movement of groups if/when necessary.

The GCSE will be assessed at the end of the course over a 4 ½ hour assessment period, across three papers – one calculator and two non-calculator papers, all with equal weighting, i.e. each will contribute to a third of the overall GCSE grade.

There are no coursework requirements.

The exam specification currently used is: Edexcel, GCSE Mathematics.

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss H Porter (Joint Head of Maths)

ENGLISH – GCSE LANGUAGE

Your English lessons in Year 10 and 11 will cover both Language and Literature – you do not have separate lessons in the two GCSEs.

Course Title

GCSE English Language

Exam Board

WJEC Eduqas

What is the course about?

You will read and respond to a variety of texts (including literary, non-fiction and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism) from 19th, 20th, and 21st Centuries. You will write in a variety of formats, for different audiences and purposes. You will also be asked to make a speech / presentation and respond to questions and feedback.

What sort of skills will I develop?

You will develop your ability to read accurately, fluently and with understanding. You will become a more effective writer, developing a wider-ranging vocabulary and an ability to write in an appropriate style. You will also develop your ability to listen to others, respond appropriately and adapt your speech to a widening range of circumstances and demands.

What sort of exams will I sit?

GCSE English Language is 100% examination. All students will sit the same un-tiered examinations at the end of Year 11. Students will be graded from 9 – 1 (9 being the highest). 20% of the marks for the written exams will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Your skills at spoken language will be reported on separately, but do not form part of the final mark or grade.

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

Written Exam: 1hr 45 min - 40% of the qualification

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional / Persuasive Writing

Written Exam: 2hrs - 60% of the qualification

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

None – the grade is all based on final exams.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr D Hardiman (Head of English) or Mrs P Dodd (Second in English)

ENGLISH – GCSE LITERATURE

Your English lessons in Year 10 and 11 will cover both Language and Literature – you do not have separate lessons in the two GCSEs.

Course Title

GCSE English Literature

Exam Board

WJEC Eduquas

What is the course about?

Students are required to study:

- A play by Shakespeare
- A 19th Century novel
- A selection of poetry from 1789 onwards, including the Romantics
- Fiction and drama from the British Isles from 1914 onwards
- Unseen text

What sort of skills will I develop?

You will develop your ability to read accurately, fluently and with understanding. You will appreciate the ways in which authors use language to create their effects and you will develop an understanding of the social, historical and cultural contexts which have influenced literature.

You will also learn to write critical responses to literature, using aptly chosen textual references.

What sort of exams will I sit?

GCSE English Literature is assessed through linear examinations at the end of the two year course. The examinations will be un-tiered and students will be graded from 9 – 1 (9 being the highest). 5% of the total marks will be allocated for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Component 1: Shakespeare and Poetry

Written Exam: 2hrs - 40% of the qualification

Component 2: Post 1914 prose / drama and 19th Century novel

Written Exam: 2½ hrs - 60% of the qualification

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

None

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr D Hardiman (Head of English) or Mrs P Dodd (Second in English)

SCIENCE GCSE

All Students study Science in Years 10 and 11.

Most students will study for GCSE Combined Science. This results in two GCSEs, so is known as 'Double Science'.

For those students performing particularly highly in science in years 7 and 8 there is an *accelerated route* leading to three GCSEs – known as Triple Science. These students begin following the course in Year 9. (See next section).

A small number of students who find science difficult may follow Entry Level Science with the option to progress to GCSE Combined Science.

COMBINED SCIENCE

Course Title

GCSE Combined Science

Exam Board

AQA GCSE Combined Science

What is the course about?

In today's rapidly changing technological world, everyone needs to have an understanding and knowledge of science so that they can make informed judgements about its relevance in their everyday lives. You will study topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics to develop an understanding of scientific concepts and also relate them to their effects on our lives and the world around us.

What sort of skills will I develop?

You will develop scientific knowledge and understanding and also the skills of how science works. You will have opportunities to develop your ability to consider pros and cons of scientific issues and come to an informed opinion.

Practical and investigative skills are developed throughout the course.

Combined Science gives students the option to progress to A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What sort of exams will I sit?

Linear exams at the end of the course. There is no practical coursework; students' knowledge of practical skills will be tested in the written exams.

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss K Silverthorne (Second in Science)

SCIENCE – ACCELERATED ROUTE

This leads to three separate GCSEs – often known as ‘Triple Science’. The classes following this course will move at a faster pace, requiring students to work more independently and put in additional time when necessary, as they cover a greater amount of content than Combined Science students, in the same amount of lesson time.

Course Titles

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics

Exam Board

AQA

This route has the same Biology, Chemistry and Physics content as GCSE Combined Science PLUS additional content in each.

What exams will I sit?

Linear exams at the end of the course. You will sit separate ones for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

There is no coursework. Students’ knowledge of practical skills will be tested in the written exams

NOTE: Students following this route begin in Year 9. GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics give students the option to progress to A Levels in Science subjects. It is not essential to have done this route in order to progress to A Level Science as the key content is covered in GCSE Combined Science.

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss K Silverthorne (Second in Science)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES : CORE COURSES

Course Title

GCSE French
GCSE German

Exam Board

Eduqas

What are the courses about?

The main aim of the GCSE course is to expand and develop students' understanding and use of the foreign language through the study of a variety of topics. These broad topics are:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Study and Employment.

What sort of skills will be developed?

The GCSE course will develop students' ability to communicate more confidently and accurately in speech and writing in the foreign language. They will deepen their knowledge of how the language works and enrich their vocabulary so that they can become more confident using and understanding the language independently across a range of contexts. They will also develop greater awareness and appreciation of the culture and identity of the country and communities where the language is spoken.

What sort of exams will be taken?

Students will be examined in each of the four main skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) at either Foundation or Higher level at the end of the course in Year 11.

Exam component 1: Speaking (25%)

Exam component 2: Listening (25%) and Reading (25%)

Exam component 3: Writing (25%)

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr N Sansom (Head of Modern Foreign Languages – German)

Mr Y Leick (Second in Modern Foreign Languages – French)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS)

Course Title

GCSE Religious Studies

Exam Board

Edexcel

What is the Course about?

This course is part of the core curriculum studied by all students in Years 9 - 11. RS offers students a valuable opportunity to think about the BIG Questions which affect us all in our everyday lives. Students may not have all the answers by the end of the course but at least they will have had time to discuss what they think and why. They will also have a good understanding of key questions about the world around us and some possible answers to the big debates connected with religion.

As the topic summaries below will show you, RS goes beyond looking at religions in isolation. In order to be a citizen in modern Britain, we believe it is vital students develop an understanding of different cultures and religious views, and how these can exist in harmony with those holding different views. There has never been a time when students need these skills more than now.

- Study of key Christian and Islamic beliefs and practises.
- The role of the family.
- Beliefs and attitudes about life after death.
- Capital Punishment
- Forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Peace and Conflict

What sort of skills will I develop?

It is important to remember that this course is suitable for everyone and it makes no difference to your achievement whether or not you practise a religion. In RS you will develop your reasoning skills and ability to express your opinions with evidence. You will also develop your knowledge and understanding of key religious beliefs, ethical issues and reasons why people hold certain views on topics like how the world began.

What sort of exams will I sit?

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

This course is taught over three years, Years 9 – 11, so students have been studying aspects of the course since September 2016.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs M Willmott (Head of RS) or your RS teacher

LIFE SKILLS

Life Skills lessons happen each week and are delivered by tutors. The Life Skills Curriculum at the Castle School is structured around 6 key topics. Each term students will focus on a different topic. Students are taught the Awareness topic at different intervals throughout the year which includes issues such as internet safety.



Year 10

Students will complete a certificate in the Preparation for Working Life where they will:

- gain a knowledge of finance, enterprises, working practices and how businesses are organised and run
- gain employability skills, such as the ability to problem-solve, to communicate effectively and to work well in a team
- prepare for and carry out a one week Work Experience placement

All students will complete a CV, letter of application, a face to face interview with one of our Premium Partners and an exam as part of the course in Year 10, in order to achieve this certificate.

Year 11

Students build on all of the core Life Skills topics; however extra focus is placed on the Employability and Preparing for the Future topic to ensure students feel confident and well prepared to take their GCSE exams and make decisions about next steps.

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss C Corpe or Mrs M Clare-Hudson (Life Skills Co-ordinators)

PE - CORE

All students will participate in physical education as part of their programme of Core subjects. The programme allows for personal choice and encourages pursuit of an active lifestyle. The development of more advanced skills and tactics provides an opportunity to experience different roles such as coaching and officiating. Year 11 lessons also include opportunities to take part in activities that are not available at school e.g.

- Thornbury Leisure Centre - Swimming, Squash, 5-a-side, Bridges gym.
- Thornbury Golf Club - Driving Range, 9 - hole course.
- Thornbury Tennis Club - Tennis

What sort of skills will I develop?

- Leadership
- Officiating
- Coaching
- Practical Performance

In Year 10 it is also possible in the Core lessons to opt for a nationally accredited award in Sports Leadership.

Sports Leaders UK Level 1 Award in Sport Leadership

What is the Award About?

The Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership is a practical qualification in which learners must demonstrate their ability to lead others in simple sport/activity. The award is open to all students in Year 10 except those studying GCSE PE (who cover similar ground in their GCSE course). The qualification has 6 units that offer students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills within Sport:

Unit 1: Plan, lead and review a sport/activity

Unit 2: Developing leadership skills

Unit 3: Lead activities that promote a healthy lifestyle

Unit 4: The role of the official

Unit 5: Fair play in sport

Unit 6: Opportunities in sport and recreation

The majority of the course will be delivered practically, with students being taught the fundamentals of sports leadership, in preparation for them delivering within a local Primary school and assisting within Years 7 – 9. inter-house competitions.

There is a small cost of £20.55, which is to cover registration onto this optional course and insurance for when delivering your session.

The course is preparing students to deliver a 1 hour sports activity. As a result students will develop their communication and organisational skills, as well as the ability to work either individually or as part of a group.

Your teacher will assess you throughout the course, plus you will have an independent observer when delivering your session.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr M Saunders (Head of PE), Mrs J Williams (Acting Head of Girls PE) or Mr D Wills (for Sports Leadership Awards)

OPTION CHOICES

ASDAN PROGRAMME

ASDAN PROGRAMME

ASDAN is a widely-used national programme, available at many levels from primary schools to Further Education colleges. The ASDAN course offers a wide variety of activities (known as “challenges”) which together lead to a Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE). This course usually has between 10 and 20 students, who would benefit most from developing these key skills.

The CoPE qualification is available at:

- Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE at higher grades)
- Level 1 (equivalent to GCSE at lower grades)

and each year we see a mixture of Level 2 and Level 1 awards.

The CoPE programme will encourage students to gain a wider vision of learning. The activities provide a variety of challenges, allowing students to gain a range of new skills and experiences and create opportunities for learners to achieve personal and social development. Examples of the range of current activities include:

- Working with others to plan and organise a variety of problem-solving activities.
- Community work – including helping to run our Senior Citizens Christmas Party;
- Developing our school garden;
- Peer Mentoring Year 6 pupils through a Transition Programme;
- Improving own learning and performance through the Safe Drive Award Programme.

We are fortunate in having a dedicated base – the ASDAN bungalow. In here, each student has their own portfolio, in which they build up all their work and evidence as they progress through the course.

However, the course is much more than a qualification. We are proud of the way our ASDAN students also develop confidence and personal independence, which is vital to help them on the next stage of their education and their lives.

To do the whole ASDAN course, students would study this course in place of a Modern Foreign Language and one of the three option choices.

For more information please contact: Mrs D Lloyd (ASDAN Co-ordinator)

ART GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Art

Exam Board

AQA (Specification 8200, route 8202)

What is the Course About?

This broad-based art course provides students with opportunities to produce practical work in drawing, painting, collage, printmaking, graphic design, three-dimensional design, digital imaging and the context in which Art is made and how artists work. This course differs from the Art and Commercial Design course in that it does not have vocational context, but you have the creative freedom to develop your own ideas and projects.

The course initially provides a portfolio of work across a wide area of media and techniques. From this practical research, students select one or more areas for an in-depth project. The project needs to show research and development leading towards the completion of a final piece of work in any chosen media with simple explanation / annotations.

What sort of skills will I develop?

Students will explore practical and contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes, new media and technologies. Students will become confident in using appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes to create and explore ideas.

Routes after – Links well with

- A Levels in Art, Graphics or 3D
- Architecture
- Teaching
- Theatre Design
- Fashion Design
- Film Industry
- Advertising

What sort of exams will I sit?

A 10 hour externally set practical task (40% of your final grade)

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

A practical portfolio of work containing at least one in-depth project (60% of your final grade)

Who should I contact for more information?

Your Art Teacher

Miss E Wilson (Head of Art for Years 7 - 11)

Miss A Hazlehurst (Head of Faculty)

ART AND COMMERCIAL DESIGN GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Art and Commercial Design

Exam Board

AQA (Specification 8200, route 8201)

What is the Course About?

This course differs from the Art GCSE in the fact that you will be taught specific industry type skills alongside conventional art skills like drawing, painting, printing, collage etc.

You will produce a portfolio of work whilst working to a range of set briefs. This will be done in a range of media and materials. You will be taught to use Photoshop and Illustrator to create graphic images. You will work in 3D and learn to produce site-specific sculptures, maquettes and models. You will also learn how to design and develop your work in a professional manner.

This course is ideal for students who are creative or artistic but want to learn how to use and develop their skills in a more applied way.

Routes after- Links well with

- A Levels in Art, 3d and Graphics
- Architecture
- Graphic design work
- Urban planning and design
- Industrial design
- Engineering
- Packaging design
- Illustrative design

What sort of exams will I sit?

A 10 hour externally set practical task (40% of your final grade)

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

A practical portfolio of brief set work containing at least one in-depth project (60% of your final grade)

Who should I contact for more Information?

Your Art Teacher

Miss E Wilson (Head of Art for Years 7 - 11)

Miss A Hazlehurst (Head of Faculty)

PHOTOGRAPHY GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Art and Design – Photography

Exam Board

AQA (Specification 4200, route 4206)

What is the Course About?

This broad-based photography course provides students with opportunities to produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more area. These could include:

- Theme-based photography (portrait, landscape, still-life, reportage.)
- Documentary photography
- Photo-journalism
- Narrative photography
- Experimental images
- Photographic installation
- New media

The course initially provides a portfolio of work across a wide area of media and techniques. From this, students select one or more areas for an in-depth project. Each project needs to show research and development, leading towards the completion of a final piece of work.

What sort of skills will I develop?

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes, including both practical and new technologies. Students will become confident in using appropriate photographic processes to create and explore ideas.

What sort of exams will I sit?

A 10 hr externally set practical task (40% of your final grade)

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

A practical portfolio of work containing at least one in-depth project (60% of your final grade)

Who should I contact for more information?

Your Art Teacher

Miss N Knill-Jones (Head of Photography)

Miss E Wilson (Head of Art for Years 7 - 11)

Miss A Hazlehurst (Head of Faculty)

MUSIC GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Music

What is the course about?

This is a practical based course, which aims to develop an appreciation and enjoyment of music through activities related to performing, composing and appraising. Anybody who has an interest in music is able to take this course – you do not necessarily need to be having instrumental or vocal lessons currently (although you would usually need to start them when you begin the course).

You will study a wide range of musical styles, which will include:

- The Western Classical Tradition, including instrumental and vocal music from 1650 - 1910.
- Popular Music, including Rock Music, Musical Theatre, Film and Gaming Music.
- World Music, including Blues, Latin, Folk and Fusion Music.
- Western Classical Music since 1910, including Minimalist Music and Orchestral Styles.

Your study of these different styles will include the in-depth focus of set works, as well as broader listening.

What sort of skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in performing, composing, listening and appraising. You will develop analytical skills, and the ability to apply your knowledge and understanding of music to different examples and in different practical settings. In addition, you will have opportunities to develop Key Skills such as working with others; communicating; improving own learning and performance.

What sort of exams will I sit?

'Understanding Music'

- You will sit an exam to test your ability to appraise music. It will be designed to assess your understanding of the different styles of music studied. You will be required to identify features in examples heard, and to write in more detail about the set works you have studied.

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

You will be assessed on two types of coursework:

(a) Composing Music

- Two compositions – you will submit scores and lead sheets plus recordings of two pieces of work you have composed.

(b) Performing Music

Many performance opportunities will exist throughout the course. Your final submission will consist of:

- One solo performance
- One ensemble performance

These can be instrumental, vocal or through the medium of Music Technology.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs Screen (Head of Music), Mr J Rees or Mrs H Hodkinson

MUSIC BTEC

Course Title

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Performing Arts (Music)

Exam Board

Pearson

What is the course about?

This course will help you to develop many of the wide-ranging skills required to succeed in the increasingly competitive modern Music Industry. The course consists of three units:

- Individual Showcase
- Music Performance Skills
- Preparation, Performance & Production

You will perform throughout the course using a choice of guitar, bass guitar, keyboard, drums or vocals. As a BTEC course, your work throughout the two years contributes to your final overall grade.

What sort of skills will I develop?

- You will develop your skills in performance through ensemble (group) rehearsal and frequent live performance opportunities.
- You will learn to rehearse effectively and develop your repertoire in a supportive environment.
- You will also develop your understanding of the technical side of live music, and you'll learn how to set up and operate sound and lighting equipment.

In addition you will have many opportunities to develop Key Skills such as teamwork, self-organisation and independent learning.

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

You have to produce assignments on each unit, to be completed by a deadline and marked by your teachers. These may include:

- Participation in public performances
- Live music event planning
- Rehearsal and production logs
- Presentations
- Video evidence
- Teacher observations

You have to complete all the assignments to pass the course.

What sort of exams will I sit?

No written exams.

The Individual Showcase unit requires you to submit a filmed ten-minute presentation and letter of application for a specified job. This is the only externally assessed unit.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr J Rees, Mrs H Hodkinson or Mrs N Screen

DRAMA GCSE

Course Title

Drama

What is the Course About?

Students learn about a range of theatre styles and techniques through exploration, performance and experiencing live productions. Acting and design skills (costume, sound, lighting, set) are taught and students have the opportunity to specialise in one or more of these for assessments and examinations.

Lessons are mainly practical and involve a great deal of collaborative group work. However, more independent tasks will prepare students for the written exam and coursework. It will sometimes be necessary to rehearse outside lesson time and it will be important to attend as many as possible of the theatre trips that are arranged by the Drama Department.

Your GCSE lessons will take place in our specialist Drama studio.

What sort of skills will I develop?

- Creative expression – finding interesting ways to communicate to and engage an audience
- Collaboration – working with others to create, rehearse and perform
- Confidence – presentation and performance skills
- Analytical thinking & writing – detailed understanding of what / how a playwright, director, designer or actor is communicating .

What sort of assessments will count towards my final grade?

You will act in, or design, at least 1 performance to an external examiner. You will also take a written exam, and be assessed by your teacher in practical workshops.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs M Clare-Hudson (Head of Drama)

DANCE GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Dance

Exam Board

AQA

What is the course about?

Dance develops creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. This course acknowledges the important role that dance plays in young people's lives. Whilst many students will bring some previous experience of dance, others will have very little. This course aims to value and build on whatever experience they have. GCSE students will study a range of dance styles which acknowledge aspects of the repertoire of dance for theatre that can be seen in the United Kingdom today. This is an enjoyable course which develops a wide range of creative, technical and academic skills. The three elements of choreography, performance and appreciation underpin the GCSE modules.

What sort of skills will I develop?

In choreography students will learn how to respond creatively to an externally-set stimulus, and then they will choreograph their own dance in the form of a solo and a group dance.

In performance students will develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform as a soloist and in a duet/trio. Many students relish the opportunity to strengthen their techniques under guidance and sample new types of dance.

During the two years students will study a Dance Anthology which provides the focus for learning how to critically appreciate professional set works. The Anthology consists of eight short professional dance works, each between 10 and 30 minutes duration, choreographed by established and emerging artists in a range of styles and style fusions.

Students will study all 8 works in their entirety – and their analysis of them will be tested in the final exam.

How will I be assessed?

(a) Performance

You will have to do a solo performance (approximately 1 minute) and a duet / trio performance (approximately 3.5 minutes) at the end of the course. These count for 30% of your overall grade,

(b) Choreography

You will have to choreograph either a solo or group dance, performed at the end of the course. This counts for 30% of your overall grade.

(c) Written Exam

You will sit a written exam at the end of the course. This will test your knowledge and understanding of the choreographic process and performing skills. Some parts will test your critical appreciation of your own dance work. Other parts will test your critical appreciation of professional work from the Dance Anthology. This exam counts for 40% of your overall grade.

Silver Arts Award

On the GCSE Dance course, you may also have the option of obtaining a Silver Arts Award qualification. This is a nationally recognised Level 2 qualification, accredited by the Arts Council. It is exactly the kind of extra qualification which can boost your CV if you are hoping to work or study in an Arts field in the future. You would submit a portfolio of progress, which details your achievements, including a leadership project.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs James, Mrs Hall or Mrs Henderson.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION GCSE

Course Title

Food Preparation and Nutrition: GCSE

Exam Board

AQA

What is this course about?

This is a fresh and exciting GCSE course which is designed to equip students with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. It will inspire and motivate students, opening their eyes to a world of career opportunities and giving them confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe.

What sort of skill will I develop?

At its heart, this course focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills. Students will be focusing on safe preparation and cooking techniques, to develop meals and recipes considering nutritional needs and food choices. They will be required to use testing and sensory evaluation skills to improve or develop recipes.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

Topic	What this means
Food, nutrition and health	Understanding Macronutrients and Micronutrients. Understanding the link between diet, nutrition and health and how to make informed choices for a balanced diet.
Food science	Understanding changes that happen when heat is applied to food. Understanding the function and chemical properties of food.
Food safety	Micro-organisms and enzymes - food spoilage, micro-organisms and food safety.
Food choice	Factors which affect this; understanding choices related to religious, cultural, ethical and medical conditions. British and International choices
Food provenance	Understanding environmental issues associated with food. Where food comes from and primary and secondary stages of processing in food production.

What sort of exam will I sit?

There will be a written exam paper at the end of the course. This will make up 50% of your total grade.

What sort of non-exam assessment will count towards my final grade?

In Year 11 you will complete the non-exam assessment making up 50% of the final grade. You will have to complete a Food Investigation and a Practical Preparation Task.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs Fleming or Miss Osborne

DT – ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS GCSE

Course Title

GCSE: Design and Technology – Electronic Products

Exam Board

As DT will be on new national specifications from September 2017, we are still waiting for exact details before finalising this choice.

What is the course about?

Design Technology GCSE will be following a brand new national specification for September 2017. All students studying the Design Technology GCSE will study a common core of 3 topics:

Core Technical Principles	You will develop knowledge of new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, mechanical devices, and understand the working properties of a range of materials and components.
Specialist Technical Principles	Selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.
Designing and Making Principles	You will demonstrate and apply knowledge of designing and making through the iterative design process. You will cover; investigation, environmental, social, and economic challenges, the work of others, communication of design ideas, prototype development, material management, tools and equipment, techniques and processes.

These principles will be tested in the full GCSE exam at the end of Year 11. This will be the same exam for all students, so will include principles applied in all the areas of DT. This exam will count for 50% of the GCSE marks.

Your specialist area Electronic Products will then be used to apply these core principles in your 'design and make' tasks. This practical based coursework will count for the second 50% of the GCSE marks. For this you will need to produce a portfolio of evidence (20 A3 pages or equivalent) and a working prototype.

What sort of skills will I develop?

- Problem solving
- Creativity, imagination and innovation when designing
- Critiquing
- Communication, including presentation of different media and techniques to different audiences
- Practical making, including the planning and organisation of time and resources
- Knowledge of materials, components and technologies
- Becoming an informed consumer
- Awareness of new technologies and sustainability
- Understanding of safe working practices
- Practical application of mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding

Who should I contact for more information?

Ms C Nobes or Mr M Easterling

DT – PRODUCT DESIGN GCSE

Course Title

GCSE: Design and Technology – Product Design

Exam Board:

As DT will be on new national specifications from September 2017, we are still waiting for exact details before finalising this choice.

What is the Course About?

Design Technology GCSE will be following a brand new national specification for September 2017. All students studying the Design Technology GCSE will study a common core of 3 topics:

Core Technical Principles	You will develop knowledge of new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, mechanical devices, and understand the working properties of a range of materials and components.
Specialist Technical Principles	Selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.
Designing and Making Principles	You will demonstrate and apply knowledge of designing and making through the iterative design process. You will cover; investigation, environmental, social, and economic challenges, the work of others, communication of design ideas, prototype development, material management, tools and equipment, techniques and processes.

These principles will be tested in the full GCSE exam at the end of Year 11. This will be the same exam for all students, so will include principles applied in all the areas of DT. This exam will count for 50% of the GCSE marks.

Your specialist area Product Design will then be used to apply these core principles in your 'design and make' tasks. This practical based coursework will count for the second 50% of the GCSE marks. For this you will need to produce a portfolio of evidence (20 A3 pages or equivalent) and a working prototype.

Product Design is the area of DT which combines resistant materials and electronics. You will learn to design and make products using materials such as woods, metals and plastics.

What sort of skills will I develop?

- Problem solving
- Creativity, imagination and innovation when designing
- Critiquing
- Communication, including presentation of different media and techniques to different audiences
- Practical making, including the planning and organisation of time and resources
- Knowledge of materials, components and technologies
- Becoming an informed consumer
- Awareness of new technologies and sustainability
- Understanding of safe working practices
- Practical application of mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding

Who should I contact for more information?

Ms C Nobes or or Mr M Easterling

DT – FASHION AND TEXTILES GCSE

Course Title

GCSE: Design and Technology – Fashion and Textiles

Exam Board

As DT will be on new national specifications from September 2017, we are still waiting for exact details before finalising this choice.

What is the course about?

Design Technology GCSE will be following a brand new national specification for September 2017. All students studying the Design Technology GCSE will study a common core of 3 topics:

Core Technical Principles	You will develop knowledge of new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, mechanical devices, and understand the working properties of a range of materials and components.
Specialist Technical Principles	Selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms, types and sizes, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.
Designing and Making Principles	You will demonstrate and apply knowledge of designing and making through the iterative design process. You will cover; investigation, environmental, social, and economic challenges, the work of others, communication of design ideas, prototype development, material management, tools and equipment, techniques and processes.

These principles will be tested in the full GCSE exam at the end of Year 11. This will be the same exam for all students, so will include principles applied in all the areas of DT. This exam will count for 50% of the GCSE marks.

Your specialist area Fashion and Textiles will then be used to apply these core principles in your 'design and make' tasks. This practical based coursework will count for the second 50% of the GCSE marks. For this you will need to produce a portfolio of evidence (20 A3 pages or equivalent) and a working prototype.

What sort of skills will I develop?

- Problem solving
- Creativity, imagination and innovation when designing
- Critiquing
- Communication, including presentation of different media and techniques to different audiences
- Practical making, including the planning and organisation of time and resources
- Knowledge of materials, components and technologies
- Becoming an informed consumer
- Awareness of new technologies and sustainability
- Understanding of safe working practices
- Practical application of mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs I Garrett or Miss A Osborne

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BTEC

Course Title

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care

Exam Board

Pearson

What is the course about?

In Health and Social Care you will study the range of services available from health and social care providers. These can include nurseries, residential homes, hospitals and many other caring establishments. This subject includes a variety of disciplines – combining elements of Sociology, Biology, Nutrition, Law and Ethics, but all relating to the health and well-being of people.

A BTEC Level 2 is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. A BTEC Level 2 prepares you for employment and provides a good grounding to go on to a more advanced course. You will gain experience, knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the Health and Social Care Industry.

Mandatory units include:

Unit 1 Human Lifespan Development
Unit 2 Health and Social Care Values

What sort of skills will I develop?

You can gain excellent communication and “people” skills. You will become ICT literate and be able to develop research and independent learning skills. With further training or study, students go into careers such as teaching, nursing, social work and residential care management. Employers value employees who are able to communicate effectively and this qualification provides you with the opportunities to do this.

This course can lead on to our Level 3 BTEC courses in the Sixth Form (Health and Social Care, and CPLD (Children’s Play, Learning and Development), as well as other courses in the Sixth Form or at college.

What sort of exams will I sit?

- Unit 1 is a 1 hour examined unit, worth 25%. The exam is often sat at the end of Year 10 or early in Year 11.

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

- This is a two year course with coursework across the remaining units, worth 75%. Each unit is graded Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail. The overall grade is the summation of all unit grades.

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss C Bowden (Head of Business, Care and Health), Miss S Clarke, Mrs K McWhinnie or Mrs R Wheeler.

HISTORY GCSE

Course Title

GCSE History

Exam Board

OCR : History B : Schools History Project (J411)

What is the Course About?

The course consists of 5 sections:

- Thematic Study: Crime, c.1250 to present day.
- British Depth Study: The Normans
- Local Study: Thornbury Castle
- World Period Study: The Making of America
- World depth Study: Living under Nazi rule, 1933 – 1945.

What sort of skills will I develop?

A Study of History at GCSE will enable students to:

- actively engage in the process of historical enquiry to develop as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- develop their knowledge and coherent understanding of selected periods, societies and aspects of history
- develop an awareness of how the past has been represented, interpreted and accorded significance for different reasons and purposes
- develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context
- organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in creative and different ways and reach substantiated judgements
- recognise that their historical knowledge, understanding and skills help them understand the present and also provide them with a basis for their role as responsible citizens, as well as for the possible further study of history.

What sort of exams will I sit?

Students will sit 3 separate written exams at the end of the course, assessing the different sections of the course.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr E Friel (Head of Humanities and Head of History)

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Geography

Exam Board

AQA

What is the Course about?

Studying GCSE Geography will help you better understand the ever-changing world that we live in. The course is approximately a 50:50 split of physical geography (including: rivers, climate change, tectonics, coasts, extreme weather and deserts) and human geography (including globalisation, development, resource management and urbanisation). Throughout the course you will consider a broad range of issues that impact our world and some of the possible responses to the challenges we face. A number of the physical geography sections have a particular focus on the UK so you will also get to learn more about the country you live in. All topics are studied through a broad array of teaching and learning methods including fieldwork and the development of 20 specific case studies at a range of scales – some local and some global.

You will also carry out some fieldwork, outside school, during the course – covering both human and physical geography.

What sort of skills will I develop?

Geography provides you with the opportunity to learn and develop a range of transferrable skills. These are highly valued both in other subjects across the school and in the world of work. Building on Years 7 - 9, you will further develop the ability to understand and interpret information in a range of formats including graphs, tables, photographs, maps and text. You will also learn how to communicate your ideas clearly and how to present data in a number of formats.

As well as helping you further improve your literacy and numeracy skills, you will further develop your ability to analyse and evaluate information. As you work through a number of contemporary issues you will be encouraged to develop your opinion, as well as developing an understanding of the ideas of others.

What sort of assessments might count towards my final grade?

All the assessment will be through exams at the end of course. There will be a range of questions in each of these including multiple-choice, short answer and extended answer questions. This will include answering questions about what you have done during fieldwork, including how you collect and analyse geographical information in different environments. For one of the exams a resource booklet will be issued in the last three months of the course. You will work through this with your Geography teacher in advance of the exam so you are familiar with its content. In the exam you will use the information in the booklet to answer questions.

Who should I contact for more information?

Your Geography teacher or Mr Llewellyn (Head of Geography)

SOCIOLOGY GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Sociology

Exam Board

This GCSE will be following new national specifications from September 2017, and we are still awaiting full details before finalising this decision.

What is the Course About?

Studying Sociology allows you to analyse and assess the world around you from a variety of different perspectives. We investigate British society as well as exploring a range of social issues across the globe. Sociology aims to equip you with a developed understanding of social changes and policies that are relevant to your life. The sort of topics you will study are outlined below:

Sociology Basics	Can humans exist without society? What is a feral child? Is British society 'broken'?
Crime	What are the main causes of crime within society? Is the justice system fair?
Family	Why have we seen such a significant rise in divorce within British society? Should the government promote certain family types?
Education	How has the education system changed since 1944? Are boys experiencing a 'crisis of masculinity' within the education system today?
Conducting social research	How should we collect evidence about society? What makes a good piece of social research?

What sort of skills will I develop?

You will gain the ability to use evidence and to arrive at reasoned judgements based on evidence from a variety of sources. You will also develop your ability to critically evaluate media sources and political opinions. Timed essay writing is a focal skill which is developed throughout the course as it forms the majority of the exam questions.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE grade will be awarded based on written exams at the end of Year 11.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs R Wheeler (Course Co-ordinator), Miss C Corpe or Miss L Reeder.

BUSINESS GCSE

Course Title

GCSE in Business

Exam Board

Edexcel.

What is the Course About?

Theme 1	Theme 2
Investigating Small Business	Building a Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterprise and entrepreneurship• Spotting a business opportunity• Putting a business idea into practice• Making the business effective• Understanding external influences on business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Growing the business• Making marketing decisions• Making operational decisions• Making financial decisions• Making human resource decisions

What sort of skills will I develop?

A GCSE in Business enables students to:

- actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts and opinions, to build arguments and make informed judgements
- develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of local, national and global contexts
- appreciate the range of perspectives of different stakeholders in relation to business and economic activities
- consider the extent to which business and economic activity can be ethical and sustainable.

What sort of exams will I sit?

Theme 1 – 90 minute exam (50% of overall GCSE)

Theme 2 – 90 minute exam (50% of overall GCSE)

Both assessed at the end of Year 11.

Who should I contact for more information?

Ms J Turner (GCSE Business Co-ordinator), Mrs S Dolman, Mrs J Palmer or Miss C Bowden (Head of BCH Faculty)

BTT (BUSINESS, TRAVEL AND TOURISM) BTEC

Course Title

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Travel and Tourism

Exam Board

Pearson

What is the course about?

This course is taught by our Business Department, and provides an alternative route to the GCSE Business Studies course. It could suit students who are interested in learning Business principles, but prefer continuous assessment of assignments, rather than end-of-course exams.

As the course focuses on the Travel and Tourism industry, one of the most important business sectors in the UK, it can also help students who might consider a career in the Travel and Tourism sector.

What will I learn about?

The first half of the course has 2 compulsory units:

Unit 1: The UK Travel and Tourism sector - in this unit you will learn about the contribution that travel and tourism makes to the overall UK economy, and the different types of businesses that make up this sector.

Unit 2: UK Travel and Tourism Destinations – meeting different types of customer needs is a fundamental part of travel and tourism provision, so you will investigate the appeal of different types of UK destinations to different customer types.

In the second half of the course, your teacher will choose 2 more units for you to study. These will cover wider aspects of the UK and international sectors.

These might include topics like:

- how technological changes have altered marketing and selling
- factors which affect pricing
- profiling different types of visitors
- learning about international air travel routes and conventions

How will I be assessed?

There is only 1 exam – on Unit 1 – which will probably be taken in Year 10. All other parts of the course are assessed by your written assignments, which are marked by your teacher.

Who should I contact for more information?

Miss C Bowden (Head of Business, Care and Health), Mrs J Palmer or Mr Morgan

ICT

Course Title

ICT (Information and Communication Technology) Cambridge Nationals in ICT (J810)

Exam Board

OCR

What is the Course About?

ICT focuses on the different ways in which computers can be used – also is different from Computer Science, which focuses more on the principles of how computer systems work.

This is an Applied course, equivalent to a GCSE. As an Applied course, most of the assessment is done by assignments over the 2 years – there is no end-of-course exam, but there is an exam during Year 10 which counts for 25% of the final grade.

The course is modular and looks at traditional and current aspects and uses of ICT. All students will study four Units.

Unit 1 covers ICT theory and recent technological development and innovations, with an emphasis on the practical application of technology. This is examined at the end of Year 10.

Unit 2 looks at using ICT within a business context and is intended to cover essential ICT skills for the workplace. It includes the use of spreadsheets, database software, the internet and email, presentation and word processing software. This is also 25% of the final grade.

There is then the choice of two further option units which are worth 25% of the total grade each. These will be taken during Year 11. Option units include units studying sound, video, hardware configuration, basic programming, Desk Top Publishing and web graphics. The exact units will be decided with your teachers at the end of Year 10.

What sort of exams will I sit?

There is one written exam for Unit 1 which is 25% of the final grade. This will usually be sat in Year 10.

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

All other work is assessed through coursework. Unit 1 and 2 have to be completed to at least pass standard (as they are core units) before any Award can be given. It is important deadlines are met to enable the next Unit to be started on time, and that students complete tasks on time.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr A Degenkolb, Mr C Pegler or Ms M Larkin.

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Computer Science AQA

What is the course about?

This course is suitable for students who want to learn more about the principles of computer science. It has a focus on the theoretical aspects of how computer systems work, and how they can be used to solve problems. While significant parts of the course involve practical use of a computer, you should note that some of the theoretical parts involve detailed written and numerical work. For this reason, as a minimum students studying GCSE Computer Science should be ideally working at a high Level 6 or above in Maths by the end of Year 9.

What will I learn?

(a) Computer Systems, including:

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Networks
- Security
- Software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental issues.

(b) Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilitators of languages
- Data representation
- Design, development, testing and evaluation

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in 2 ways:

Exam - the majority of the final grade will be determined by your performance in 2 written exams at the end of the course. These will test your knowledge and understanding of all the theory learnt in the course. This includes problem solving type questions, and is 80% of the final grade.

Non-examined assessment - You will carry out a programming project, which will be assessed by your teacher. It is anticipated that you will use Python and / or Javascript as programming languages. This counts for 20% of the final grade.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr A Degenkolb, Ms M Larkin or Mr Pegler

MEDIA GCSE

Course Title

Media Studies

Exam Board

This will be a new national specification in September 2017, so we are still awaiting final details.

What is the course about?

Media GCSE develops critical thinking and decision-making skills. It develops an appreciation and critical understanding of the role of the media in daily life. The course combines practical and theoretical knowledge and offers varied opportunities for personal engagement and creativity. Media GCSE encourages an understanding of how to use key media concepts to analyse media products and their various contexts:

The core areas of study are:

- Advertising and marketing
- Film studies
- Television documentaries
- Newspapers
- Radio

What sort of skills will I develop?

Media Studies is a very broad subject, ultimately combining aspects of Politics, Sociology, History, Law and Economics. It encourages creativity, teaches analytical skills and introduces students to critical ways of thinking about the world around them. These skills are highly valued by schools and universities. A Media Studies qualification could lead into a career within Film Industry, Journalism, Teaching, Publishing, Public Relations, Broadcasting, Advertising and Marketing.

What sort of exams will I sit?

The course is broken down into 2 exams worth 70% and an internally assessed coursework project worth 30%. For the coursework, you will have to use practical skills to make a media product for an intended audience.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr P Howell (Media Teacher)

Miss A Hazlehurst (Head of Arts Faculty)

SECOND MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (French, German or Spanish)

Course Title

GCSE French
GCSE German
GCSE Spanish

Exam Board

Eduqas

What are the courses about?

Students who have studied French, German or Spanish as a second foreign language in Year 9 are able to study this language to GCSE level AS WELL AS their first foreign language, in a group of similar high achievers. The components of the course are the same as for GCSE French and German. The lessons are **not** after school – they will form part of your normal timetable.

What sort of skills will be developed?

The GCSE course will develop students' ability to communicate more confidently and accurately in speech and writing in the foreign language. They will deepen their knowledge of how the language works and enrich their vocabulary so that they can become more confident using and understanding the language independently across a range of contexts. They will also develop greater awareness and appreciation of the culture and identity of the country and communities where the language is spoken.

What sort of exams will be taken?

Students will be examined in each of the four main skills (Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking) at either Foundation or Higher level at the end of the course in Year 11.

Exam component 1: Speaking (25%)

Exam component 2: Listening (25%) and Reading (25%)

Exam component 3: Writing (25%)

Who can be contacted for more information?

Mr N Sansom (German)

Mr Y Leick (French)

Miss G Deschênes (Spanish)

PE GCSE

Course Title

GCSE Physical Education

Exam Board

AQA

What is the Course about?

The course provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how to lead healthy and active lifestyles, enabling them to make informed choices about their own physical development. The course consists of theoretical work (assessed by written exams, 60%), practical performance (30%) and coursework (10%)

Theoretical Element

The majority of lessons will be classroom-based, as the theoretical element is the biggest part of the course. So most lessons will involve written work.

During the course you will study a range of topics, such as the following:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well being

The work will be assessed across 2 written exams sat at the end of Year 11.

Practical Element

Students will be assessed in three different activities (i.e. 3 different sports) in the role of a performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in a team or individual activity). For each of these activities, students will be assessed in progressive drills and a game. They will also be assessed on their analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in on activity.

What sort of skills will I develop?

GCSE PE encourages candidates to:

- Become **increasingly physically competent** through being actively engaged in a range of physical activities
- Become increasingly **effective in performance** in different types of physical activity and roles such as player/performer/leader/official
- Develop their **ability to engage independently and successfully** in the processes of different types of physical activity
- **Develop and maintain involvement** in physical activity as part of a healthy active lifestyle.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mrs J Williams (Acting Head of GCSE PE)

SPORT BTEC

Course Title

BTEC First Award in Sport

Exam Board

Pearson

What is the course about?

BTEC Sport is a course where students learn in the context of a vocational setting. Students are assessed primarily through written coursework, with one online test made up of multiple choice and extended questions. Candidates will need to complete four units over the two years, with two of these being compulsory (Units 1 and 2).

Please note that most lessons on the course take place in classrooms or ICT rooms, and the majority of your assignments have to be word-processed.

Unit 1 – Fitness for Sport and Exercise

This unit is assessed externally via an online test. Students will be taught all the content during lessons and will then be assessed at the end of Year 10. The unit is focussed around physical fitness and the various training methods used by athletes to achieve excellence. The unit will be taught using a combination of both classroom and practical lessons.

Unit 2 – Practical Sports Performance

This unit introduces students to a variety of different sports, and through participation, they will develop a knowledge of the rules, regulations, skills, techniques and tactics. They will take part in practical sessions and will review the performance of themselves and others in two different sports.

Unit 4 – The Sports Performer in Action

In this unit students will study the effects of exercise on the body. They will look at the impact of both short term and long term physical activity on the muscles, heart and lungs. Students understanding will be developed through investigating the changes that occur to the body when we exercise.

Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness

This unit will see students adopt the role of a personal trainer, and links in very nicely to Unit 1. Students will build on their knowledge of physical fitness and apply it to the role of a personal trainer where they will be expected to design and carry out a six week training programme.

What sort of skills will I develop?

Students will develop aspects of independent learning skills; this type of learning encourages them to work at ways of finding information, designing and producing the work in different criteria.

What sort of exams will I sit?

There is one unit which is assessed through an online exam. For this, students will complete an online exam that consists of both multiple choice and extended answer questions.

What sort of coursework will contribute to my final grade?

Each unit consists of tasks which cross reference to the grading scheme. Students have to produce written work that covers all aspects of each assignment. All tasks are a form of coursework and will be marked by the teacher and subsequently checked by the Exam Board. In order to pass the course, all assignments have to be completed on time.

Who should I contact for more information?

Mr M Saunders (Head of PE)