YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET

2026/27

Chilmington Green School

Message from the Principal

It gives me great pleasure to inform you of the GCSE options process for our founding cohort of students. This process presents a unique opportunity for your child to shape their curriculum for the next two years.

At this crucial stage in your child's education, we believe it is important for them to have a say in the subjects they study. Our aim is to provide a well-rounded education that not only prepares them for their future careers but is also aligned to their individual interests and strengths.

To assist you and your child through this process, we have prepared a comprehensive booklet that outlines all the available options and provides detailed information about each subject. Please do take the time to read this booklet carefully as it will help you make informed decisions regarding your child's educational journey.

We encourage you to sit down with your child and discuss their options. This is an excellent opportunity for them to explore their passions and consider the subjects that align with their further aspirations. By engaging in these conversations, you can support your child in making choices that will benefit and inspire them in the years to come.

We understand that this process can be overwhelming for both students and parents alike; we are here to support you every step of the way. Our staff members are available to answer any questions you my have and provide guidance throughout the decision-making process.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's education. Together, we can empower them to make the best decisions for their future.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Rutland
Principal

Chilmington Green School
The best in everyone™

Making Options Choices

All students will study the following core curriculum:

- GCSE English (9 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- GCSE Mathematics (9 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- GCSE Combined Science (9 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- PSHE Careers, Relationships & Sex Education (1 lessons per 2-week cycle)
- Core P.E. / Games (3 lessons per 2-week cycle)

Students will then choose 3 subjects from the option subjects outlined in this booklet:

- For the vast majority of students, a choice between either History or Geography (6 lessons per 2-week cycle)

And

- Two from 'Other GCSE Options' (6 lessons per 2-week cycle)

GCSE Exam Boards are subject to change.

Please note that the courses available are subject to change and is dependent on student demand. Where the number of students opting for a course is too low, the subject may no longer be available. Students will be advised and supported in selecting an alternative subject.

Key Dates

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 – Year 9 Options Evening

Wednesday 29th April 2026 – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Friday 1st May 2026 – Deadline of first submission of initial GCSE subject preferences. (Information shared on options evening and on school website)

Wednesday 13th May 2026 – Final submission date of GCSE options

Staff Contact Details

Head of Year 9 - Miss Kirsty Wigg

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Core Subject

English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Mrs Ardizzonne

Subject Content

Shakespeare: *Macbeth*. Students will be expected to relate the play to its social, cultural and historical context. They will also need to identify and comment on the structural, organisational and presentational features of the text, as well as the writer's use of language.

Nineteenth Century Fiction: Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.* Students will comment on conventions of the novel and develop a sustained critical analysis of how the text relates to its context and literary tradition. Students will comment on writer's viewpoint and purpose and the overall effect of the text on the reader.

Modern Text: J B Priestley's play *An Inspector Calls*. Students will develop a clear critical stance with a coherent interpretation of text. They will need to draw on imaginative insights and support their inference with reference to their wider textual knowledge.

Poetry: Fourteen poems in total from the AQA Power and Conflict Anthology; seven are linked by the theme of 'power' and seven by the theme of 'conflict.' The expectation is they will produce a comparative essay focusing on two poems. Students will focus on developing a personal response to the poems and finding judicious quotations for poetical form, structure and language.

Assessment Overview

Paper 1: Written exam (1 hour and 45 mins, worth 40%).
Section A - Shakespeare: Students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.
Section B - The 19th-century novel: Students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Written exam (2 hours and 15 mins, worth 60%).
Section A - Modern texts: Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.
Section B - Poetry: Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.
Section C - Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

This is a rigorously academic course that develops analytical skills and critical thinking. Students will learn to explore different interpretations of texts and learn how to create convincing arguments to support their views and ideas.

English Language

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Mrs Ardizzonne

Core Subject

Subject Content

The English Language GCSE will focus on the students' ability to write clearly and accurately, in good Standard English. They will be expected to use a range of writing skills, to suit different purposes and audiences. Students will also be required to read a wide range of literature and non-fiction texts from a range of genres and types. 20% of the marks for the written exams will be allocated to accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. Speaking skills will also be assessed but will not contribute to the overall grade.

Assessment Overview

All papers are unseen.
Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing. (1 hour 45mins, worth 50%).
Section A: Reading - Extract from a literature text.
Section B: Writing - Descriptive or narrative writing.

Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and perspectives (1 hour 45 mins, worth 50%).
Section A - Reading - one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text linked by theme.
Section B - Writing to present a viewpoint.

Non-examination assessment: Spoken Language (0% weighting of GCSE, set and assessed by class teacher).
Skills assessed: Presenting, responding to questions and feedback, and use of Standard English.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

There is a strong focus on writing accurately and with precision; this high expectation of literacy will support all students in their GCSE options as they will develop fluency in their writing.

Progress and Career Opportunities

A pass in GCSE English Language is a necessary life skill and for progression to Further or Higher Education and all careers.

English students can find opportunities with many different employers, across a range of public, private and charity sectors. Careers include: administration, advertising, marketing and public relations agencies, media organisations & publishing companies, the NHS, arts management, education, legal firms, local and national government, events management, finance, general management leisure and hospitality, research retail and tourism.

Core Subject

Combined Science: Trilogy

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Ms Robinson

Subject Content

Biology:

- Cell biology: Structure and function of cells, microscopy, cell division.
- Organisation: Digestive system, circulatory system, plant transport.
- Infection and response: Pathogens, immune system, vaccination.
- Bioenergetics: Photosynthesis, respiration.
- Homeostasis and response: Nervous system, hormones.
- Inheritance, variation and evolution: Genetics, natural selection.
- Ecology: Ecosystems, biodiversity.

Chemistry:

- Atomic structure and periodic table: Elements, isotopes, trends.
- Bonding, structure and properties: Ionic, covalent, metallic bonding.
- Quantitative chemistry: Calculations, moles.
- Chemical changes: Reactivity series, acids and bases.
- Energy changes: Exothermic/endothermic reactions.
- Rate and extent of chemical change: Factors affecting rate, equilibrium.
- Organic chemistry: Basic hydrocarbons.
- Chemical analysis: Test for ions and gases.
- Chemistry of the atmosphere: Composition, climate change.
- Using resources: Water treatment, sustainability.

Physics:

- Energy: Stores, transfers, efficiency.
- Electricity: Circuits, resistance, power.
- Particle model of matter: States, density, pressure.
- Atomic structure: Radioactivity, nuclear decay.
- Forces: Motion, Newton's laws, momentum.
- Waves: Properties, sound, electromagnetic spectrum.
- Magnetism and electromagnetism: Magnetic fields, motors.

Required Practicals (21 total):

Biology (7):

- Use of microscopes.
- Food tests (carbohydrates, proteins, lipids).
- Effect of sugar concentration on osmosis in plant tissue.
- Investigate the effect of pH on enzyme activity.
- Investigate the effect of light intensity on photosynthesis.
- Investigate the effect of different antibiotics on bacterial growth.
- Investigate the effect of exercise on the human body (pulse rate).

Chemistry (6):

- Making a salt from an acid and a base.
- Electrolysis of a solution.
- Temperature change in neutralisation (energy changes).
- Rates of reaction (effect of concentration).
- Chromatography.
- Water purification.

Physics (8):

- Specific heat capacity.
- Resistance in circuits.
- BI-V characteristics of components.
- Density of solids and liquids.
- Acceleration using a trolley and light gates.
- Force and extension (Hooke's law).
- Reflection and refraction of light.
- Ripple tank (waves).

Assessment Overview

- 100% Exam based (no coursework).
- 6 exams total (two Biology, two Chemistry, two Physics).
- Each exam: 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 70 marks.
- Foundation or higher tier.
- Each paper covers half of the content for that subject. The second paper for each science builds on knowledge from Paper 1 and the second half of the topics.
- Grades awarded: 9-9 to 1-1 (double grade).

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

Combined Science builds strong foundational knowledge across Biology, Chemistry and Physics, where students develop practical laboratory skills, safe working practises, problem solving and data handling abilities. This subject encourages logical thinking and clear scientific communication whilst supporting mathematical fluency through clear scientific calculations. It also promotes teamwork, organisation, and resilience.

STEM clubs and visits to science centres and museums (through enrichment week). Possible fieldwork experience in ecology and environmental science.

Progress and Career Opportunities

Further studies: A-Levels, Level 3 BTECs in Applied science, Health & Social Care, or engineering, and T-Levels in Health, Science, Engineering or Digital. Apprenticeships in healthcare, engineering or laboratory support.

Careers include: nursing, midwifery, paramedic science, engineering, environmental and conservation work, laboratory technician, forensics and policing, IT, data analysis, and digital technology, food science, agriculture and biotechnology.

Core Subject

Triple Science

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Ms Robinson

Subject Content

The triple science award covers all subject content and required practical's from the combined science GCSE and also includes the following:

- Biology: More detail on genetics, plant hormones, cloning.
- Chemistry: Extra organic chemistry (alcohols, carboxylic acids, polymers), more quantitative work.
- Physics: Additional topics like space physics, more complex electricity and forces.

Required Practicals (28):

Biology:

- Investigate effect of light or gravity on plant growth (phototropism).
- Decay investigation (temperature effect on decay).

Chemistry:

- Rates of reaction with different variables.
- Identification of ions using flame tests and precipitation.

Physics:

- Infrared radiation absorption and emission.
- Measuring radiation from radioactive sources.
- Investigating lenses.

Assessment Overview

- 100% exam based (no coursework).
- 6 exams total (two per subject).
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes, worth 100 marks.
- Foundation or Higher Tier.
- Grades awarded: Separate grades for Biology, Chemistry, Physics (9-1 each).
- All Students in Set 1 at the start of Year 10 are enrolled on this Triple Science course.

Skills, Enrichment and Career Opportunities

Triple science deepens scientific understanding and strengthens high-level analytical and mathematical skills. It builds confidence in planning, conducting, and evaluating complex practical's.

Microbiology practical techniques, ions identification via flame testing and fieldwork experiences in ecology and environmental science.

Progression includes further studies in the individual sciences at A-Level, BTEC, T-Level and within STEM focused apprenticeships. Careers include: medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, biomedical research, pharmaceuticals, architecture, product design, environmental science and forensics.

Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Lead: Mr Cosser

Core Subject

Subject Content

GCSE Mathematics is a core subject studied by all students in Years 10 and 11. The course covers a broad range of mathematical concepts, including number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry, and statistics. Students will build on topics previously studied while also learning new content.

Topics Covered

- Algebra
- Number
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry
- Statistics

Required Equipment

- Scientific calculator (Casio fx-83GT recommended)
- Compass
- Protractor
- Ruler (marked in centimetres and millimetres)
- Pencil

Assessment Overview

Assessments consist of three written examinations, each lasting 90 minutes and worth 80 marks. There is one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. Students will sit either the Foundation Tier (Grades 1–5) or the Higher Tier (Grades 4–9), depending on ability.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

The Edexcel GCSE Mathematics course is designed to develop problem-solving skills, logical reasoning, and the ability to apply mathematics in real-life contexts. Students will learn to interpret and analyse data, work with algebraic expressions, and understand geometric principles. The course encourages fluency in mathematical techniques and aims to prepare students for further study and employment where numeracy is essential.

Progress and Career Opportunities

Achieving a level 7 or more: A-Level Mathematics
Achieving a level 6 or more: AS-Level Maths, A-Level Science, Economics and Computer Science
Most Level 3 BTECs and T Levels require a level 4 Maths Qualification.
Careers include: Engineering, finance, banking, data analysis, architecture, teaching and software design.

Core Subject

History

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Course Lead: Miss Collis

Subject Content and Assessment Overview

The course is broken down into three papers. These include:

Paper 1 (30%)

Section A: Historic Environment (10%) - The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Section B: Thematic Study (20%) - Medicine in Britain, c.1250-present.

Paper 2 (40%)

Section A: The Period Study (20%) – Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Section B: British Depth Study (20%) - Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88

Paper 3 (30%)

Section A & B - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Course Aims:

- Equip students with transferable skills that are valuable both beyond the classroom and across other subjects.
- Develop strong written communication abilities, including effective essay writing.
- Foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the historical events that have shaped today's world.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

GCSE History will help you to:

- Formulate clear and effective questions.
- Express your opinions logically with confidence.
- Analyse information.
- Think independently.
- Structure arguments.
- Understand the views of others.

Progress and Career Opportunities

According to the Higher Education Statistics Agency, history ranks among the top five subjects for graduate employability within six months of completing a degree. The broad range of skills developed makes history graduates highly attractive to employers across diverse sectors. Career paths can include roles in libraries, museums, galleries, law, healthcare, journalism, the armed forces, policing, tourism, teaching, and research. This course can also serve as a foundation for progressing to A Level studies. History is a valuable academic discipline that showcases strong written communication and analytical abilities, complementing and enhancing English qualifications.

Geography

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Miss Collis

Subject Content and Assessment Overview

Paper 1 (35%) – Living with the Physical Environment
Students will study the challenge of natural hazards, physical landscapes in the UK and the living world.

Paper 2 (35%) – Challenges in the Human Environment
Students will study urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management.

Paper 3 (30%) – Geographical Applications
Students are assessed on issue evaluation through pre-released material (provided in March in the year of the exam) and fieldwork.

Course Aims: By studying GCSE Geography, students will have broadened and deepened their understanding of locations, places, environments, and processes across a range of scales, including global. They will also explore the social, political, and cultural contexts that shape these areas. In addition, students will develop insight into the interactions between people and their environments, the changes that occur in places and processes over time and space, and the interconnected nature of geographical phenomena at different scales and in varied contexts.

Entry Requirements: Students should be prepared to work independently on the Geographical Applications paper, applying the skills they have developed in previous years. Since 10% of the exam marks are based on mathematical skills, a good grasp of basic numeracy is essential.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

- Do you understand why our climate is changing and what that means for your future?
- Ever wondered how to survive in a desert or why conserving water is so important?
- Want to know why some places are poorer than others—and how that gap could be closed?
- Interested in why some cities are growing so quickly or how breathtaking landscapes are formed?
- Ready to make informed decisions for yourself?

If these questions spark your curiosity—or if you simply want to learn more about the world—GCSE Geography is for you. This course will help you explore the planet you live on, develop valuable skills that support other subjects and future careers, and take learning beyond the classroom through hands-on fieldwork. As part of the course, students will complete two compulsory fieldwork trips, which are assessed in Paper 3 of the GCSE exam.

Progress and Career Opportunities

GCSE Geography also provides a strong foundation for A Levels in Geography, Geology, Environmental Science/Studies, and Travel & Tourism. It's equally useful for those considering Economics or Business Studies. With its blend of numerical, scientific, and literacy skills, Geography complements a wide range of courses and career paths.

Core Subject

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Design and Technology

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

Course Lead: Miss Woollard

Subject Content

Design and Technology is a dynamic and creative subject that combines logical thinking with practical skills, giving students the chance to apply what they learn in other subjects such as maths and science to real-world problems. It's not just "craft" – it's a sophisticated and comprehensive subject that prepares you to thrive in an increasingly technological world. Students will develop creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills while learning how design impacts daily life and future industries.

Students will explore modern and innovative technologies, including the use of CAD/CAM (Computer-Aided Design and Computer-Aided Manufacture), which allows you to design digitally and produce prototypes using advanced machinery such as 3D printers. This experience mirrors the processes used in industry today, making learning relevant and future-focused.

Alongside practical work, students will also study the theory of materials properties and applications and industry processes. This knowledge is reinforced through hands-on projects, such as using a metal lathe to shape components or laminating timber to create strong, durable products. By linking theory with hands-on practice, students gain understanding into how design concepts are applied in the workshop.

Assessment Overview

Written Examination - (2 hours, 50% of the qualification).

This theory-based exam develops students' understanding of material groups, systems, processes, and the impact of modern technology on daily life. Students also explore how design influences society, with a focus on sustainability and creating solutions for a more responsible, forward-thinking world.

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) - (Approx 35-40 minutes, 50% of the qualification).

Students will design and create a prototype based on a client's needs, applying technical principles and creative problem-solving. Starting with identifying a context and defining a problem, students will research and develop ideas through a digital portfolio, documenting investigations, concept development, and evaluations. This ensures the project involves thorough research, iterative design, and critical evaluation—not just making a product—before producing your final prototype.

Progress and Career Opportunities

Design and Technology can lead to a wide range of careers and opportunities which may include:

- Trades: Carpenter, Plumber, Electrician, Joiner, Toolmaker
- Design Careers: Product Designer, Graphic Designer, Architect, Fashion Designer, Interior Designer
- Engineering & Technology: Engineering, Automotive Design, Game Design, Sustainable Product Development

Food and Nutrition

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Miss Woollard

Subject Content

Food Preparation and Nutrition is a practical subject that equips students with essential life skills and a deeper understanding of food and the science behind food preparation. This course goes beyond cooking, exploring nutrition, food science, and the factors that influence what we eat alongside practical lessons. Students will learn how to prepare and cook a wide range of dishes safely and creatively, while understanding the impact of diet on health and wellbeing.

The course combines hands-on practical work with theory. Students will develop strong technical skills such as knife techniques, sauce-making, baking, and presentation, alongside scientific investigations into the functional and chemical properties of ingredients. They will study nutrition in detail, learning how to plan balanced meals for different life stages and dietary needs, and explore issues such as food provenance, sustainability, and global food security.

Assessment Overview

Written Examination – (1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of the qualification).

Covers nutrition, food science, food safety, and the social, cultural, and environmental factors influencing food choice. Students will also consider technological developments and sustainability in food production.

Non-Exam Assessment - Food Investigation Task – 15% of the qualification.

A scientific investigation into the working characteristics and chemical properties of ingredients.

Non-Exam Assessment - Food Preparation Task – 35% of the qualification.

Plan, prepare, cook, and present three dishes in a single three-hour practical session, demonstrating a wide range of skills and techniques.

Progress and Career Opportunities

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition opens doors to a wide range of professional careers, skilled trades and further study.

Careers include: Chef, Event Caterer, Hotel Manager, Food Technologist, Product Developer, Quality Assurance Specialist, Nutritionist, Dietitian, Public Health Advisor, Food Scientist, Sustainability Specialist, Food Security Analyst.

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Drama

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Lead: Miss Fox

Subject Content

The Drama course at Chilmington Green School will offer a practice-based approach to attaining a GCSE qualification in Drama. It will combine theatre skills workshops and theoretical studies exploring different performance techniques through a range of play texts and live theatre review skills. This GCSE will equip students with acting and performance skills alongside integral, transferable life skills. Students will find confidence in public speaking, collaborative skills, leadership qualities, problem solving, textual analysis, analytical and evaluative skills, academic literacy skills, improved communication skills such as oracy, listening and an awareness of emotional intelligence for the feelings of others.

Assessment Overview

Component 1: Devising theatre – (Non-Exam Assessment and Coursework – 40%).

Students collaborate in groups to create a piece of live, devised theatre based on prompts given in class. This is assessed internally and externally moderated. After the live performance, students will produce a written portfolio that will be assessing their analytics and evaluative reflections of the creative process, their involvement, key moments and their achievement of key aims. This will be assessed through practical performance, but there are a limited number of design routes available for students if required.

Component 2: Performing from a text – (Non-Exam Assessment – 20%).

Students must rehearse and perform two extracts of live performance work that are either a Monologue, a Duologue or a small group piece. The key focus here is that students show their adaptation skills from text to stage. This will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner, in school, at a live performance event.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – (Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes – 40%).

The written exam is divided into two parts; bringing texts to life and live theatre review. We will closely study a play text which students will have to critically think about from the perspective of a performer, designer and director. Students will be required to write about the intended aims from each of these perspectives and how they would theoretically achieve these aims. We will also attend at least one off-site excursion to see a piece of professionally produced live theatre and students will have to write about this live performance in detail during the exam.

Progress and Career Opportunities

Drama GCSE naturally leads to further studies in Drama and Theatre Studies A-Level, BTEC and vocational courses in Performing Arts or Musical Theatre/Technical Theatre courses, alongside other performing arts training. Drama has been proven to be grounding for careers such as Law, Business and Sales/Marketing fields, Managerial roles, Theatre Management, Technical Theatre Arts, Arts Management, Teaching, Social Work, Semantic (language) studies, Live Art, Education, Anthropology and Hospitality.

Music

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

Course Lead: Mrs Peers-Jonson

Subject Content

Classroom activities could be:

- Performing (playing music) on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice, including DJ skills, rapping, singing, band and orchestral instruments.
- Exploring how great pieces of music were put together, then when you have learnt some of the techniques, composing your own music. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc.
- Listening to a variety of music and learning how to identify the facts about what you hear.

The Eduqas GCSE Music course has three components: Performing, Composing and Appraising (Listening.)

Assessment Overview

Component 1: Performing - (30%, Teacher assessed).

A minimum of two pieces, lasting a total of 4-6 minutes, recorded in the year of assessment:

- One piece must be an ensemble (group piece) lasting at least one minute.
- One piece linked to an Area of Study (see below).
- Grade 3 music is the standard level and can score full marks if played perfectly.
- You can use any instrument or voice, or choose a technology option.

Component 2: Composing - (30%, Teacher assessed).

Two pieces:

- One in response to a brief set by WJEC – there are 4 to choose from each year.
- One free composition – ANY style you want to write in.

Component 3: Appraising - (40%, Externally assessed examination).

Listening examination: 8 questions, 2 on each area of study:

- AoS 1: Musical Forms and Devices (including a set work*).
- AoS 2: Music for Ensemble.
- AoS 3: Film Music.
- AoS 4: Popular Music (including a set work*).

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

Your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills. Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. Through studying music, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Mr Moore

Subject Content

There are two main components to the course – practical (40%) and theory (60%); therefore, candidates should be interested in the theoretical aspects of sport, as well as being committed to improving their own practical performances. It is strongly advised that students who choose GCSE PE take part in extra-curricular sports and be actively involved in a sports club or team outside of school. They must also have the desire to continue to participate in physical activity throughout the duration of the course. This course requires an expected Grade 4 and above in Science and you should compete to high standard of sport outside of school.

Assessment Overview

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 are 1 hour 15 minutes (30% of GCSE). The non-exam assessment is assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA (40% of GCSE).

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

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

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

- 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 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 individual activity).
- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

GCSE P.E. helps students develop a wide range of physical, academic, and life skills that support success in school and beyond. These include: improved fitness, coordination and movement skills, strong evaluation and analysis skills and building confidence, resilience, and self discipline.

Progress and Career Opportunities

Further studies include A Levels, BTECs and vocational courses—further leading into degrees in sport, health or science. Careers include: coaching, sports administration, therapy and fitness instruction.

Health and Fitness

Exam Board: NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award

Course Lead: Mr Moore

Subject Content

This qualification builds on the core themes delivered in Key Stage 3 PE curriculum. This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in any of the health and fitness contexts such as exercise, lifestyles and diet. This course is appropriate for learners who are looking to develop significant core knowledge and understanding. This hands on course will help pupils apply that knowledge in preparing, planning and developing a health and fitness programme. If you are Grade 4 and above in Science and compete to high standard of sport outside of school) we recommend choosing GCSE PE.

There are 8 key content areas that will promote the learners understanding to:

- Develop a broad understanding of the structure and function of the body systems.
- Identify the effects of health and fitness activities on the body.
- Understand health and fitness and the components of fitness.
- Apply the principles of training.
- Understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness.
- Test and develop components of fitness.
- Apply health and fitness analysis and set goals.
- Plan, develop and take part in a health and fitness programme and understand how to prepare safely.

Assessment Overview

The NCFE level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness compliments GCSE qualifications. The qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded at Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1). Pupils will be expected to complete regular topic homework as a requirement for the course.

This qualification has 2 assessments set by NCFE:

- 1.5 hour exam (40%) Examination paper.
- NEA (Non-examined assessment - 60%) Completing a training programme.

Progress and Career Opportunities

NCFE Health and Fitness provides a good foundation for further study and future careers. Students can progress to A Levels such as PE, Biology or Psychology, or vocational courses like BTEC Sport. These pathways can lead to degrees in areas such as sports science, coaching, physiotherapy, teaching or sports management, or into apprenticeships in coaching, fitness and leisure.

NCFE also helps develop useful skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication and understanding of health and fitness, which are valuable in sport-related careers and many other job sectors.

Careers include: Sports coaching, sports administration, therapy and fitness instruction.

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Religious Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Course Lead: Miss Collis

Subject Content and Assessment Overview

Paper 1 (50%) - Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.

Students will look at the beliefs, teachings and practices of the following religions:

- Christianity.
- Islam.

Paper 2 (50%) - Component 2: Thematic Studies.

Students will study four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Course Aims:

This course is designed to be accessible to all students, regardless of religious belief or background. It does not assume that learners hold any particular faith. The course aims to help students:

- Gain knowledge and develop an understanding of the beliefs, values, and traditions of different religions.
- Explore the influence of these beliefs, values, and traditions on individuals and societies.
- Examine religious and non-religious perspectives on key moral issues.
- Identify, investigate, and respond to fundamental life questions raised by religion and human experience, including questions about meaning and purpose.
- Develop skills essential for the study of religion, such as critical thinking and analysis.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

Religious Studies is an inclusive subject, open to everyone—whether you follow a faith, belong to a religion, or have no religious belief at all. Through this course, students will:

- Develop transferable knowledge, skills, and attitudes that can be applied in many areas of life.
- Explore, apply, and analyse real-world issues that impact daily life, such as abortion, war, drug misuse, and the death penalty.
- Express their own viewpoints confidently while respecting and listening to the perspectives of others.

Progress and Career Opportunities

This qualification is highly regarded by sixth forms, colleges and employers because of the valuable and transferable skills that it nurtures.

Media Studies

Exam Board: WJEC EDUQAS

Course Lead: Miss Goodchild

Subject Content

The GCSE in Media Studies offers an exciting and broad study of the media that surrounds us in our everyday lives. You will analyse, plan and produce a range of media texts from the TV, film, radio, newspapers, magazines, print advertising, online social media and music video industries into the following areas:

- **Media Language**: How the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings.
- **Media Representation**: How the media portray events, issues, individuals and social groups.
- **Media Industries**: How the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms.
- **Media Audiences**: How media forms target, reach and address audiences, how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves.

Assessment Overview

At GCSE there is one Controlled Assessment component and two examination components to complete.

Component 1 (Exam - 35% of GCSE): This is an examined component that is externally assessed. Candidates will develop their understanding of how to analyse a media product through the use of media language, representations, how it attracts audiences and through the institutions.

Component 2 (Exam - 35% of GCSE): This is an examined component that is externally assessed. Candidates will study two media forms in depth for media language, representations, audiences and institutions for specific products. This will be done in the form of a case study where candidates will study the wider campaign and marketing for media texts.

Component 3 (Controlled Assessment - 30% of GCSE): This is a controlled assessment component that is internally assessed and externally moderated. Candidates work individually to produce a major practical production from a selection of set briefs by the exam board. Each student produces their own evidence of research and planning alongside a short written statement of aims and intentions for their product.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

Key skills include: analytical skills, creative thinking, research, communication and teamwork. You can also gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas.

Progress and Career Opportunities

Studying Media Studies opens up opportunities in the creative and media sector including working in TV, Radio or Film broadcasting. Careers include: editor, sound engineer or script writer, sales, advertising, event management and journalism.

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

French

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Lead: Mr Comparetto

Subject Content

Year 10 Themes:

- Leisure & Free Time – film, TV, sport, hobbies, online life.
- Family & Relationships – friendships, celebrations, family life.
- Health & Wellbeing – lifestyle, healthy habits, daily routine.
- Future Aspirations – jobs, ambitions, future plans.
- GCSE Skills Development – building confidence across all four skills.

Year 11 Themes:

- Travel & Tourism – holidays, accommodation, destinations.
- Local, National & Global Issues – environment, volunteering, your town.
- Mock Exams & Feedback – improving exam technique.
- Speaking Exam Preparation – role-plays, photo cards, conversation.

Assessment Overview

25% - Listening – understanding conversations and recordings.
25% - Reading – interpreting texts, adverts, articles.
25% - Speaking – role-play, photo card, general conversation.
25% - Writing – short tasks, extended writing, translation.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

- Boost your confidence as a communicator.
- Stand out to employers and universities.
- Improve your English and problem-solving skills.
- Enjoy richer travel experiences.
- Gain a respected, versatile qualification.

GCSE French is ideal for students with strong communication skills who enjoy expressing ideas and are curious about different cultures. Students will have access to a structured subject with clear progression, allowing them to practice language skills little and often. A modern foreign language qualification also helps strengthen students' academic confidence and their future career pathway.

Progress and Career Opportunities

By the end of the course, students will speak with greater confidence, understand authentic language and write accurately using a range of tenses in the target language. Students will also build strong communication and memory skills and be well equipped for further study, travel, and work in the future.

Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Lead: Mr Comparetto

Subject Content

Year 10 Themes:

- Leisure & Free Time – film, TV, sport, hobbies, online life.
- Family & Relationships – friendships, celebrations, family life.
- Health & Wellbeing – lifestyle, healthy habits, daily routine.
- Future Aspirations – jobs, ambitions, future plans.
- GCSE Skills Development – building confidence across all four skills.

Year 11 Themes:

- Travel & Tourism – holidays, accommodation, destinations.
- Local, National & Global Issues – environment, volunteering, your town.
- Mock Exams & Feedback – improving exam technique.
- Speaking Exam Preparation – role-plays, photo cards, conversation.

Assessment Overview

25% - Listening – understanding conversations and recordings.
25% - Reading – interpreting texts, adverts, articles.
25% - Speaking – role-play, photo card, general conversation.
25% - Writing – short tasks, extended writing, translation.

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

- Boost your confidence as a communicator.
- Stand out to employers and universities.
- Improve your English and problem-solving skills.
- Enjoy richer travel experiences.
- Gain a respected, versatile qualification.

GCSE Spanish is ideal for students with strong communication skills who enjoy expressing ideas and are curious about different cultures. Students will have access to a structured subject with clear progression, allowing them to practice language skills little and often. A modern foreign language qualification also helps strengthen students' academic confidence and their future career pathway.

Progress and Career Opportunities

By the end of the course, students will speak with greater confidence, understand authentic language and write accurately using a range of tenses in the target language. Students will also build strong communication and memory skills and be well equipped for further study, travel, and work in the future.

Optional Subject—Other GCSEs

Art

Exam Board: OCR (Fine Art)

Course Lead: Mrs Jeffs

Subject Content

The Art and Design course follows a progression moving on from teacher-led workshops in Year 9, to foundation studies of a technical, contextual or conceptual nature. This develops into more independent and negotiated personal choices during Year 10 and 11. Journal/sketchbook work encourages the use of a visual diary which is highly personal to each student.

Year 10: Students will explore and extend their skills in a wide range of media. Contextual investigations will become more robust ahead of starting their Portfolio task. The Portfolio topics include 'Food', 'Natural Forms' & 'Texture'. Students pick one theme to develop, this is 60% of their GCSE grade.

Year 11: Students continue to develop their Portfolio project for completion by December. They will then commence their final exam preparation which will culminate in a 10-hour practical exam over 2 days that takes place in April. This is worth 40% of their grade.

Assessment Overview

GCSE Art is made up of two components:

Unit 1: Portfolio of work (Controlled Assessment - 60 %).

Unit 2: Externally set task (40 %).

Skills and Enrichment Opportunities

GCSE Art and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests. They will build creative skills through learning and doing, discover imaginative and intuitive ways of working and develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.

Progress and Career Opportunities

GCSE Art offers a natural progression to studying Art at A-Level and then a related foundation course or degree.

Careers include: animator, antique dealer, architect, art gallery curator, art therapist, art valuer, community arts worker, costume designer, exhibition designer, fashion designer, fine artist, florist, furniture designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, jewellery design, landscape architect, make-up artist, museum curator, photographer, product designer, set designer, sign writer, stonemason, textile designer, web designer.