



DOVER COLLEGE GCSE PROGRAMME

SEPTEMBER 2025



HEADMASTER'S WELCOME

Which subjects to study at GCSE, is an important part in your development as a person. The decisions you make now will help influence your future, so think carefully before choosing your options and think also about building upon success and what you find enjoyable and worthwhile.

In order to ensure that every Dover College pupil is equipped with a good balance of skills and knowledge, certain subjects are compulsory at GCSE level. These subjects constitute what is known as the 'core curriculum', and include subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science. In addition, pupils choose a number of optional subjects. The decision regarding which of these optional subjects should be studied is an important one. I hope that this booklet will provide you with some important information concerning the subjects that are available and will, in turn, help you to make a sensible and informed choice.

Of course, your time at school is not simply about academic work and examinations. To get the most out of Dover College, every pupil is urged to become involved in a wide range of sporting, cultural and recreational activities. It is very much the case, however, that the basis for a happy and fruitful time at school is also about getting the academic side of life right. Making the correct choices for GCSE should certainly put you on the path to achieve this.

Mr Simon Fisher



OUR GCSE+ PROGRAMME

At Dover College, pupils will prepare for their GCSE qualifications over three academic years (Third Form to Fifth Form), during which they will develop a range of skills and knowledge.

Assessment is mainly led by end of course examination but there might be an element of coursework i.e. a module of work carried out throughout the course. For this reason, pupils starting a course must be advised that it is important to make the right choice and that changing from one course to another might prove difficult.

There will however be a review in week four of the Michaelmas term at which point pupils will be able to change subject if necessary.

Qualifications include GCSEs, iGCSEs and BTEC Level 2s and will be offered to best suit the pupil intake in that subject. English as an Additional Language lessons will be timetabled once pupils are assessed on arrival.

The following subjects are compulsory for all pupils:

- **English Language and Literature OR English as an Additional Language (EAL)**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science (Double)**

The remainder of a pupil's programme of study is made up of optional subjects. These may be chosen from a range of subjects that will be arranged in FOUR blocks that allow a number of choices. These blocks will be defined by pupil choice. Therefore, a subject in heavy demand may also appear in another column/ block and therefore increase the combinations available.

This will enable every pupil to sit up to a maximum of nine GCSE examinations. We are sometimes asked why pupils do not take more subjects. The answer is that a total of nine passes is more than enough to meet the needs of any situation in the future, and that what matters is the standard of grades, not the number of qualifications.



OUR GCSE+ PROGRAMME

GCSEs are important qualifications for further and higher education, for careers and employment. Sometimes subjects are specified as a general entry requirement (for example, English and Mathematics). If you know already what you want to study in the Sixth form, you should check that you are choosing the right GCSE subject combination. Please bear in mind that GCSE grades are now shown as numbers 9 to 1. These are mirrored by our Assessment grade scheme.

In most subjects, you will find that the skills and topics involved are different and often more extensive than what you have been used to in Shell and Remove. It is therefore important that you find out from the relevant teachers and Heads of Departments what will be taught and expected from you.

Do bear in mind the importance of balance when choosing your options. Career aspirations are important but you must also ensure that you will enjoy the subjects and cope with the workload. Before deciding on their courses, all Remove pupils will have the opportunity to consult a number of people, including the teachers and Heads of Departments of the subjects which they are interested in but also their Housemaster and Housemistress and/or the Deputy Head, Mrs Taylor.

Miss Hedley will deliver two lessons in PSHE to help you develop your decision making skills and also to help you understand the process of making these decisions. She is also available for individual guidance meetings for any pupil who would like to take advantage of this opportunity .

ROUND SQUARE

An internationally diverse network of 200 like-minded schools in 50 countries across six continents, Round Square schools connect and collaborate to offer world-class programmes, experiences and exchanges that aim to develop global competence, character and confidence in its pupils. Built around six themes identified by German educational philosopher, Kurt Hahn, the IDEALS – International understanding, Democracy, Environmental stewardship, Adventure, Leadership and Service enable member schools to share a commitment to character education and experiential learning.

Founded in 1956, the Round Square organisation enables pupils to make positive and meaningful contributions and connections to the local, national and global society, which will enrich them for the rest of their lives. With a diverse range of experiences and opportunities extending far beyond the classroom, pupils are challenged and stimulated physically, emotionally and intellectually.

Exchange opportunities enable pupils and staff to experience other languages and cultures for extended periods of up to three months.

Service projects give pupils the opportunity to work as volunteers on community projects abroad with clear objectives such as installing clean water systems and building school buildings. In addition, there are regular opportunities for pupils to attend conferences including the International Conference, which takes place on a different continent each Autumn.

More details about the Round Square organisation can be found at www.roundsquare.org

The IDEALS of Round Square are at the core of the values our pupils embrace:

INTERNATIONALISM

Our pupils discover and embrace similarities and differences between countries and cultures, promoting lasting understanding and respect.

DEMOCRACY

Our pupils develop a moral compass for equality, fairness, justice, self-discipline, responsibility and a desire to do what is right for the greater good.

ENVIRONMENTALISM

Our pupils broaden their horizons to understand mankind's place in the universe, the forces that shape our surroundings and the impact we have.

ADVENTURE

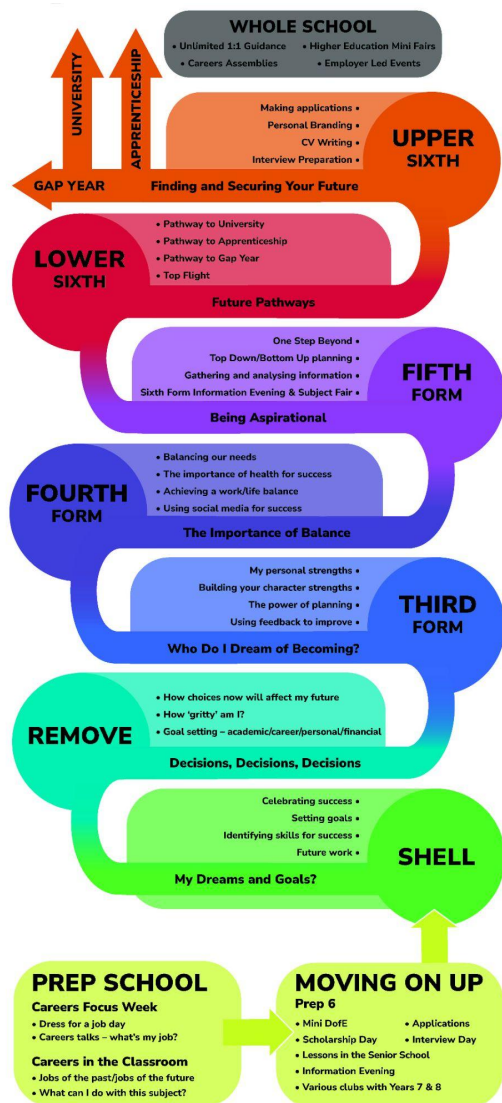
Our pupils push themselves beyond perceived limits, cross boundaries and discover that they are capable of more than they thought possible.

LEADERSHIP

Our pupils recognise that leaders are driven by a desire to be of service to others and to nurture, guide, develop and help them to succeed.

SERVICE Our pupils are ready and willing to volunteer where we are needed, applying and developing our skills and understanding in support of individuals and communities both close to home and further afield.

CAREERS PROGRAMME



It is important to everybody at Dover College that all pupils are fully supported and guided through the process of planning their futures. With a full time, highly experienced and qualified careers professional, a whole school commitment and a programme of education, information, advice and guidance for all pupils, we believe Dover College pupils are well prepared for their futures.

All staff at Dover College play an active role in preparing them. We have a full programme of careers education which will help pupils to develop the knowledge and skills to understand themselves, research the opportunities available, make decisions and move successfully on to the next stage. The programme is delivered through PSHE, special events, enrichment programmes, visits, trips and assemblies and also within individual departments and form time. Careers Focus Week runs annually and ensures that careers is fully embedded into the curriculum.

All pupils will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of themselves and their abilities
- Gain a greater knowledge of the range of opportunities open to them
- Take part in work related activities in and out of school
- Understand unbiased information on current labour market information and trends and expectations of employers
- Learn to make decisions wisely about their future
- Be fully prepared to manage change and be fully supported through key transition periods
- Learn how to improve their own employability: how to find work, how to get work and how to progress their careers
- We are proud of our links with employers who work closely with pupils through visits, talks, interview preparation, and work related learning events.

MAKING CHOICES

This is an exciting point in your learning journey - the first time you can make decisions for yourself about what you want to study. Because it is, you want to make sure that you are making informed decisions.

An informed decision is one where you have gathered information, taken advice, and then decided what is right for you. You are the only person who really knows what is right for you. Other people can give you their views: your teachers, your friends, your family - and they are worth listening to as they each know you in different ways - but you should then listen to yourself. You will know what is right for you if you ask the right questions. So think carefully about the following questions:

Do I enjoy this subject? When you go to lessons, or sit down to do homework in the subject, do you enjoy the time spent on it? Do you feel more motivated to spend time learning the content, or completing your homework? If so, follow your heart and choose this subject.

Am I doing well in this subject? Is this a subject where you get good feedback, good grades, and usually meet, or exceed, your target grade? Doing well in a subject, makes it more enjoyable. If you are doing well in it, play to your strengths and choose this subject.

Do you have interest in a subject outside of the classroom? You might read about this subject outside of the classroom, or get involved in activities that relate to it. For example, getting involved in drama productions, or doing additional sport, or music, or art, or debating would indicate these are good subjects for you. So think about your interests and find subjects that relate.

Do you know what you want to do in the future? It might be that you already know what you want to do in the future. If so, are there particular GCSEs that you need for that pathway? Or perhaps there are subjects that relate?

Does my preferred way of working fit with the demands of the subject? If it is a subject where you will need to write essays, is that something you enjoy doing? If you have to work with your hands in a creative way, is that something you feel you are good at, and like spending time doing? If you enjoy project based work, or you enjoy performing, or working with numbers, then use that knowledge of yourself to pick the right subjects.

If you reflect on who you are and what you enjoy doing you won't go far wrong in your choices.

Who can help me? It is a really good idea to speak to teachers, your friends and family, but there are lots of other people who can help you. Your form tutor will know you really well and they can be good to talk to. Staff in your houses also get to know you well, whether you are a day pupil or a boarder.

The Head of Careers is available to talk to - you can have unlimited 1:1 guidance appointments where you can talk through everything about your choices, your future and your concerns. Email her on hedley@doovercollege.org.uk If you would like to include your parents in that meeting, or if your parents would like to be involved, then that can be arranged too.

THE GCSE+ CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is well planned, wide ranging and enriching. Its balance and focus on individual development, helps us to stimulate an enquiring mind, establishing key skills and a wealth of experience in our pupils that will be of great benefit to them for the future.

The range of choices available at GCSE level is shown below.

CORE SUBJECTS

English Language and Literature
(or English as a Second Language for non-native speakers)
Mathematics
Combined Science or Applied Science

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Art	Geography
Business Studies	History
Computer Science	Media Studies
Design & Technology	Music
Drama	Spanish
French	Sport



ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

London Academy of Music and
Dramatic Art Courses (LAMDA)

Voice and Instrumental Music Lessons

Free Standing Mathematics
Qualification (FSMQ)

Lunchtime and After School Activity
Programme

Top Flight Society

Careers Programme

THE TIMELINE

MARCH

6

Remove Parents' Evening

You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to discuss their progress so far and their suitability to study their subject as an option. They will also give you further details about schemes of work and methods of assessment.

MARCH

7

Options Form (Phase 1) Issued

Over and above the core subjects, pupils will typically study four optional subjects (this might be reduced to less in some cases). You will be sent a form (3rd Form option form phase 1) in which you will be asked to give us an indication of which five optional subjects your child would be interested in studying (in rank order 1 to 5, with 1 being their most desired subject and 5 being their least desired subject).

The reason why we ask for five subjects at this stage is that, due to timetabling constraints, some pupils might not be able to study their four most desired options and might need to resort to studying their fifth "reserved" option. Please note that we will do our best to ensure that all pupils are able to study their first two most desired options but this is not always guaranteed.

The deadline for this form to be returned is 11th March.

MARCH

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Options Form (Phase 2) Issued

Based on the trends identified in phase 1, we will construct option blocks, which will reflect the most popular combinations of subjects. You will be sent another form (3rd Form option form phase 2) in which your child will need to choose **one option in each subject block**. It will not be possible to choose 2 optional subjects in the same block and these will be taught at the same time.

The deadline for this form to be returned is 24th March.

It will be possible for pupils to change their mind about their options until the start of the academic year in September 2023, providing that there is still enough space in the subject they opt for and that the swap does not entail choosing two subjects in the same block.

Q1 - Explicit / Implicit

Q2 - Compare & Contrast

Q3 - Language & Structure

- Compare + Evaluate

CORE SUBJECTS

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION: J351 and J352

“English has helped me to develop useful life skills.”

Why study this as a GCSE subject?

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day – and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life!

Topics of study at GCSE:

- Communicating information and ideas
- Exploring effects and impact
- Exploring modern and literary heritage texts (including ‘An Inspector Calls’ by J B Priestley and ‘Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ by R L Stevenson)
- Exploring poetry and Shakespeare (including ‘Macbeth’ by W Shakespeare and conflict themed poetry)

Method of assessment:

English Language: Two x 2 hour written papers

English Literature: Two x 2 hour written papers

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

Theatre trips when available. Students have the opportunity to have short stories put in print as a result of entering into national competitions and are also encouraged to enter poetry competitions

What this subject might lead to:

Both English Language and English Literature provide the foundations for all A Level subjects. Both GCSEs are highly regarded and recognised as offering employers and higher education institutions a clear indication of a pupil's literacy and ability to communicate. Students who excel at English go on to work in marketing, publishing, law, journalism, teaching, academic pursuits and within the television and film media.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Literacy skills
Language analysis
Critical thinking
Critical evaluation
Formal writing
Informal writing
and many more...



IGCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

EXAM BOARD: CIE
SPECIFICATION: 0991

"I have really enjoyed the course and my English has definitely improved."

Why study this IGCSE subject?

You have come to England to study and improve your English, pass your exams in a variety of subjects and then go to university. This course will give you the opportunity not only to obtain a useful Qualifications in English, but also enhance your general English skills and assist you in preparing for the more demanding IELTS course later. Candidates who achieve grade 4 overall in Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) English as a Second Language 0991 (Count-in Speaking) can be considered to be at a level equivalent to B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). Plus, it's fun.

Course content at IGCSE:

Pupils receive practice in all the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. Language work includes topic-based material, grammar, vocabulary building, spelling, functions, register, colloquial and formal language, punctuation and paragraphing. Different writing styles are analysed and practised: letters, emails, summaries, report and discursive essay writing.

Method of assessment:

Assessment is by examination only.

- 25% Reading
- 25% Writing
- 25% Listening
- 25% Speaking - the speaking exam is internally assessed.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

Ideally pupils will follow a two year course during Fourth and Fifth Form. However, many international pupils entering Lower Sixth with an appropriate level of English can attend courses which enable them to take the exams in May. If necessary, the exams can be retaken in Upper Sixth, although this should be avoided if possible, as the main focus should be on the IELTS.

What this subject might lead to:

Cambridge IGCSE qualifications are accepted as equivalent to UK GCSEs by leading universities worldwide. The IGCSE ESL is accepted as proof of English proficiency (equivalent to an IELTS grade 6) by most British universities.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Literacy
skills
Language
analysis
Critical
thinking
Critical
evaluation
Formal
writing
Informal
writing
**and many
more...**





GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION: 8464

“Science is deepening my understanding of how the world works.”

Why study this GCSE subject?

Most pupils study a combined science course. This course aims to explore the world around you from the perspective of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Topics of study at GCSE:

Biology: Cell Biology, plant Biology, human organisation, health, homeostasis and control, genetics, inheritance, evolution, and ecology.

Chemistry: Atomic structure, the periodic table, bonding, quantitative Chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, organic Chemistry, chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere, and material Chemistry

Physics: Energy, electricity, the particle model of matter, radioactivity, forces, waves and magnetism and electromagnetism.

Method of assessment:

This is a linear course with all exams being taken at the end of the course. There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

There are a wide range of visits and trips. We are planning to visit the Dungeness Power Station and where possible specific GCSE science conferences and competitions.

What this subject might lead to:

Students may wish to continue to study science on our A-Level programmes (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) or the BTEC Applied Science. The skills that pupils gain studying science are applicable to a wide range of careers. Students will develop skills in problem solving and data analysis which are highly sought after in a wide range of industries.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Evaluation
Presentation
Interpretation
Precision
Logic
Communication
Research
Experimentation
and many more...



LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION: 600/4787/2

Why study this subject?

Some pupils will be advised to study BTEC Applied Science rather than the GCSE Combined Science. The Principles of the Applied Science Award covers the key scientific principles which are vital for both scientists and citizens of the future. It develops and exemplifies these principles in real world contexts, leading to an understanding of how the principles are applied in practice.

Topics of study:

There are four main units.

Unit 1: Principles of Science, this covers a number of fundamental KS4 scientific ideas.

Unit 2: Chemistry and Our Earth.

Unit 3: Energy and Our Universe.

Unit 4: Biology and Our Environment.

Method of Assessment:

The BTEC is the equivalent of one GCSE and is assessed by internal and external units.

Unit 1 is assessed externally (examination) and pupils can be entered for this twice. Units 2-4 are assessed internally through a range of independent tasks supported by our Science teachers.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

There are a wide range of visits and trips. We are planning to visit the Dungeness Power Station and where possible specific science conferences and competitions.

What this subject might lead to:

Students studying Applied Science may wish to go on to studying Level 3 Applied Science in the Sixth Form. Students will develop skills in problem solving and data analysis which are highly sought after in a wide range of industries.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Evaluation
Presentation
Interpretation
Precision
Logic
Communication
Research
Experimentation
and many more...





OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

GCSE ART & DESIGN

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION: 8201

"I like GCSE Art and Design because it gives you the opportunity to fully express your creative skills."

Why study this GCSE subject?

GCSE Art and Design is designed to encourage pupils to develop skills, creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience, taught skills and critical understanding. The course allows pupils to develop knowledge and understanding through a variety of learning experiences and approaches, including engagement with sources. This will allow them to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate their own ideas. Students will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of their ideas through a portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment.

Topics of study at GCSE:

Coursework portfolio: Pupils produce a portfolio of work covering several topics or themes. Work must show exploration, research, acquisition of techniques and skills.
Externally set task: Pupils select one starting point from an early release examination question paper.

Method of assessment:

Work is internally assessed and externally moderated. There are four assessment objectives, these include a pupils' development, refinement, recording and presenting.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

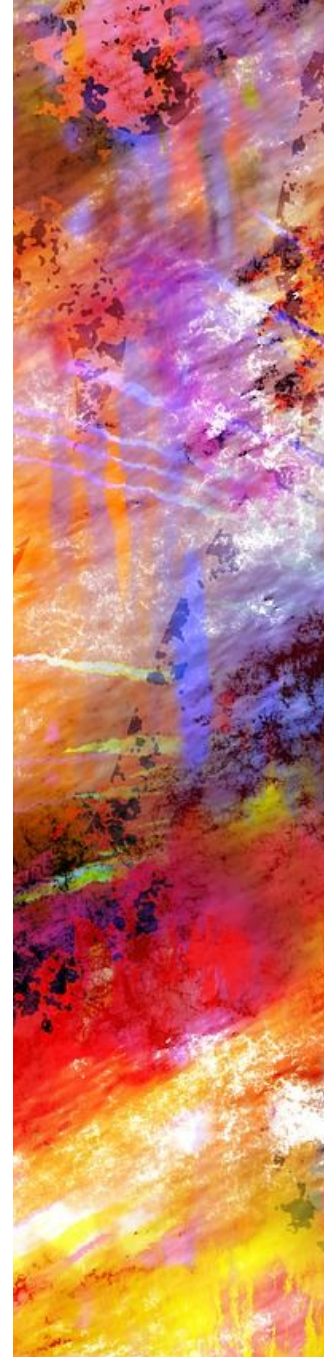
You will have access to the department's studio space and will be encouraged to visit galleries and exhibitions. Visits have included the Tate Galleries, The Turner Contemporary, Victoria and Albert Museum, as well as other independent galleries and exhibitions.

What this subject might lead to:

An A Level Art and Design subject, for example Fine Art or Photography. Creative skills are much in demand by many employers and are a real strength in the workplace.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Self expression
Creativity
Confidence
Self identity
Critical thinking
and many more...



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

EXAM BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION: J204

“Business Studies is crucial in understanding how the world of business works.”

Why study GCSE Business Studies?

GCSE Business Studies will encourage you to develop an effective and independent learners. You will use a critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements. You will develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in local, national and global contexts and will consider the extent to which business activity can be ethical and sustainable.

Topics of study at GCSE level:

You will cover two units that will give you an understanding of how businesses are set up and run. The units will cover Business Activity, Marketing, People, Operations, Finance Influences on Business and The Interdependent Nature of Business.

Method of assessment:

Students are assessed in two exam papers at the end of Year 11, each paper is 90 minutes.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

Students will conduct a visit to a local business and have the option of joining the junior enterprise scheme.

What this subject might lead to:

Business can be a gateway into a number of great career choices and is a useful subsidiary subject alongside almost any degree course at university. Courses commonly combined with Business Studies include: Law, Accounting, Economics, Journalism, English, ICT and Engineering. We live in a corporate world and the markets operate around us constantly. Business Studies is key to attaining highly paid and challenging roles within all sorts of exciting industries.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Public speaking
Teamwork
Planning
Communication
Numeracy
Creativity
and many more...



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD: OCR
SPECIFICATION: J277

"We live in a technology focused world, to understand IT is to be ready for whatever the future holds."

Why study this GCSE subject?

This course encourages mental versatility – Students use their new-found programming skills on independent coding projects by solving real-world problems. Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to the real world. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. The qualification will value computational thinking and will help learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

Topics of study at GCSE:

Computer Systems: Systems architecture; Memory; Storage; Wired and wireless networks; Network topologies, protocols and layers; Network security; System software and Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns. Computational Thinking :Algorithms and Programming; Translators and facilities of languages; Algorithms; High- and low-level programming; Computational logic and Data representation. Programming in Python: Design; Development; Effectiveness and efficiency; Technical understanding and Testing, evaluation and conclusions.

Method of assessment:

The units on Computer Systems and Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming are examined in 2x 1 hour 30 exams worth 50% each.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

We run an AI and programming club where students can gain extra experience writing programming code and discuss the ethical impact of computers and AI on society.

What this subject might lead to:

The course will prove highly relevant in a wide range of careers such as data and system analysis, web development, software engineering, game design and artificial intelligence. Additionally, computers are used in all careers so the more you know about how they work the more opportunities may arise.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Problem Solving
Creativity
Numeracy
Communication
Independence
Time Management
Research
and many more...



GCSE **THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN**

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION: 8205

"Three-dimensional design GCSE offers a hands-on journey into creativity, where imagination takes form and innovation thrives."

Why study this GCSE subject?

Studying three-dimensional design at the GCSE level offers hands-on exploration of space and form, fostering creativity and problem-solving. Practical work develops skills with various materials, nurturing craftsmanship. This subject can lead to further study or careers in art and design, boosting confidence and perseverance. With its focus on creativity and practical skills, three-dimensional design provides an enriching educational experience for creatively inclined students.

Topics of study at GCSE:

In Components 1 and 2 of the three-dimensional design GCSE, students engage in various design areas such as architecture, sculpture, ceramics, product design, and more. They can explore overlapping areas and combinations, fostering a diverse understanding of three-dimensional design concepts.

Method of assessment:

100% coursework over 2 years, split into Component 1 (60% of total marks) and Component 2 (40%). Each component requires a portfolio covering four assessment objectives, including a sustained project and additional work. Component 2 also includes a 10-hour practical exam.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

Students will meet current industry designers and go on trips to learn more about different aspects of three-dimensional design. These experiences provide real-world insights and broaden their understanding of various skills and practices in the field.

What this subject might lead to:

Studying three-dimensional design can lead to many exciting careers. Graduates might become product designers, architects, interior designers, sculptors, ceramicists, jewellery designers, exhibition designers, set designers, landscape designers, or 3D digital designers. These careers offer opportunities to express creativity and shape the world around us through tangible or digital design.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Problem solving
Logic
Pragmatism
Design
Attention to
detail
Numeracy
Communication
Independence
Self motivation
**and many
more...**



GCSE DRAMA

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS
SPECIFICATION: C690QS

"I regard the theatre as the greatest of all art forms, the most immediate way in which a human being can share with another the sense of what it is to be a human being."

- Oscar Wilde

Why study this GCSE subject?

Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course which promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers, designers, and directors. It provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Pupils will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama, also to investigate a practitioner or genre of drama, work collaboratively to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Pupils will experiment with dramatic conventions to produce and realise a piece of original theatre. In addition, pupils will have the chance to participate in a performance of an extract from a play text.

Topics of study at GCSE:

Component 1: Devising Drama - Performance (40% of qualification)

Component 2: Performing from a Text - Performance (20% of qualification)

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre - Examination (40% of qualification)

Pupils will be asked questions on:

Section A: Set Text and Section B: Live Theatre Review

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

Pupils will attend a number of theatre trips, in order to meet the assessment demands of Component 3 and to develop their experience, knowledge and understanding of professional, live theatre performances. Pupils will also get the chance to be involved with school productions either acting or backstage.

What this subject might lead to:

A GCSE in Drama provides pupils with a wide range of transferable skills, which are important in many career fields. These include creative thinking, critical evaluation, organising, planning, presentation, and teamwork.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Communication
Confidence
Teamwork
Leadership
Listening
Responding
Creativity
Critical thinking
Problem solving
Time management
and many more...



GCSE FRENCH

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION: 1FR1

"I love French. There is a lot of vocabulary to learn so you have to be committed but it is worth the effort because now I feel so much more confident in communicating in the language. The lessons are interactive and fun and I really enjoy learning about the French culture and lifestyle".

Why study this GCSE subject?

The course is designed to continue developing the pupils' ability to communicate in this language and to create an awareness of and thereby foster an understanding and appreciation of a different culture. The course is delivered through five engaging contemporary and cultural themes that will enable pupils to manipulate and start using the language effectively, independently and creatively, so that they have a basis from which to progress to A Level or employment.

Topics of study at GCSE:

The six themes studied are: My Personal World, Lifestyle & Wellbeing; My Neighbourhood; Media & Technology; Studying & My Future; Travel & Tourism.

Method of assessment:

Pupils are assessed in all four language skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing at either Foundation or Higher Tier at the end of the course. Each skill accounts for 25% of the final grade and all the exams are externally assessed.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

All pupils are encouraged to take full advantage of the wide range of resources available to them in the department, as well as consolidate and further practise their language skills through a variety of interactive learning websites. Opportunities to participate in immersion days and educational outings are also available.

What this subject might lead to:

Today, the study of a foreign language is becoming increasingly important as employers actively seek people who can communicate in another language and have good analytical skills. Careers opportunities are wide-ranging, within fields such as Teaching, Translation, Interpretation, Travel and Tourism, Business, Journalism, Law and Diplomacy.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Research skills
Communication
Teamwork
Open-mindedness
Organisation
Logic
Problem solving
Memory skills
Independence
Resilience
and many more...



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION: 8145

"Geography teaches me about my environment and environments throughout the world."

Why study this GCSE subject?

Geography allows you to learn about people and their societies, economies, cultures and the environment. It enables you to learn and develop a wide range of skills. As a facilitating subject, Geography compliments all the other subjects at KS4.

Topics of study at GCSE:

Physical Geography- Paper 1:

Natural Hazards
Weather Hazards
Climate change
Ecosystems and Tropical Rainforests
Hot Deserts
Rivers and Coasts

Paper 2: Human Geography

Challenging Urban Issues
Changing Economic World
The challenge of Resource management

Paper 3: Geographical skills paper. This paper is based on a pre-release material as well as your fieldwork, students will complete.

Method of assessment:

There are 3 written papers. They examine Geographical themes (which are listed above), Map work skills and Fieldwork techniques as well within paper 3.
Two fieldwork investigations - urban and coastal geography.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

There are local field trips as well as a residential field trip to develop understanding of both human and physical topics.

What this subject might lead to:

Geography is both an Art and a Science. It provides an excellent grounding for pupils who want to study Geography at A Level or degree level and develops skills that are transferable to all other subjects and a variety of employment.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Problem solving
Analytical skills
Statistical analysis
Map skills
Reports writing
Critical thinking
Empathy
Teamwork
Independence
Debating
and many more...



GCSE HISTORY

EXAM BOARD: AQA
SPECIFICATION: 8145

“Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.”

Why study this GCSE subject?

History is a subject that encompasses much of our everyday lives and it helps us to understand how we have developed as humans over time. Understanding the problems and triumphs of human history helps us understand the modern world and our place within it, which is perhaps why it remains one of the most highly prized academic disciplines. History allows pupils to not only explore what happened but, more importantly, why.

Topics of study at GCSE:

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

Method of assessment:

Two papers, two hours each in length.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

History ties in well with English and as such both subjects complement each other. Academic trips to museums and sites of historic interest are on offer where appropriate to the course.

What this subject might lead to:

A good grade in GCSE history shows employers and providers of further education that you have the skills to tackle a rigorous, academic subject. A grasp of modern life, and the things that led us here, are well accepted as the outcome of this subject. Furthermore you will develop range of skills that are important to employers including critical evaluation and research skills, particularly analysis of resources.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Problem solving
Analytical skills
Critical thinking
Evaluation skills
Understanding of
fact vs opinion
and many more...



MATHEMATICS (ADDITIONAL)

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL, AQA

SPECIFICATION: 1ST0H, 8365

Pupils can also study the following two qualifications independently:

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Statistics 9-1 Foundation or Higher Tier

This GCSE extends pupils' knowledge and understanding of statistics and ensures that pupils develop the confidence and competence with statistical techniques to enable them to apply those techniques flexibly to solve statistical problems through a practical programme of study.

AQA Certificate Level 2 Further Mathematics

This qualification fills the gap for high achieving pupils by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at Level 3. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the GCSE curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to the GCSE Mathematics. It covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem solving skills. It also gives an introduction to calculus and matrices and develops further skills in trigonometry, functions and graphs.

Both additional qualifications above are recommended for learners who:

- Either already have, or are expected to achieve, grades 7, 8 and 9 in GCSE mathematics
- Are likely to progress to A-Level study in Mathematics and possibly Further Mathematics.

Pupils will receive all resources for both courses and full support from the Mathematics department when studying independently. Workshops and support sessions to aid study are also provided.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Critical thinking
Problem solving
Analytical
thinking
Reasoning
Logic
Communication
Time
management
Teamwork
Independence
and many
more...

...makes a circular orbit around the
...makes a circular orbit around the
...represent the speed of a satellite
...the following choices gives the

(A) $v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} v_1$; $a_2 = \frac{1}{4} a_1$
(B) $v_2 = \frac{1}{2} v_1$; $a_2 = \frac{1}{4} a_1$
(C) $v_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} v_1$; $a_2 = \frac{1}{2} a_1$

23. A car moves with constant speed. The arrows in the figure show the direction of the average velocity.

(A) ✓

24. A mass moves with constant speed. The arrows in the figure show the direction of the average velocity.

GCSE MEDIA STUDIES

EXAM BOARD: EDUQAS
SPECIFICATION: C680QS

“Building skills for a connected world”

Why study this subject? Why media?

In a time of growing demand for digital media this sector is expanding like never before. Films, television, computer games, social media, podcasts, radio and print are all finding their place in our global community. This course builds the skills of an enquiring mind and helps you to understand how various media create meaning. You will also learn technical skills.

Topics of study at GCSE

The course will look at media sectors (film, TV, computer games etc.) and analyse why they are so popular with audiences. We will then look at what engages an audience and how the public are influenced by the media. This will be mixed with developing and applying practical skills, making films and magazines using professional standard equipment and techniques.

Method of assessment:

The course is made up of four modules, one of which is a one-hour exam with the other three being practical assessments within school, the final assessment piece will be a short film. The Level 2 BTEC is equivalent to a GCSE but has the advantage of a greater focus on practical skills that the media industry desire.

What this subject might lead to:

With the growth of the creative digital media industry, there are a number of job and further studies opportunities. This could lead to careers in the media, cultural and creative industries and any industry where your understanding of media and audiences will be an asset. Areas of employment include television and radio, film and video, digital media, computer games, journalism, writing and publishing, PR, marketing and media practice.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Communication
Creativity
Research skills
Critical analysis
Persuasive writing
and many more...



LEVEL 2

EXTENDED CERTIFICATE IN THE CREATIVE MUSIC INDUSTRY

EXAM BOARD: RSL

SPECIFICATION: 603/6432/4

“Music improves your creativity and develops you as a person, it isn’t just about exams.”

Why study this subject?

Music is one of the Creative Arts and as such involves several disciplines that you won't necessarily find in other subjects. Performing both as soloist and in an ensemble is an excellent preparation for doing anything in front of other people and the creative outlet is further enhanced through individual composition of music. On the academic side, there is plenty of aural analysis, refining one's listening skills, and the study of a variety of music from different eras and cultures to give pupils a broader appreciation of the creative process over several centuries.

Topics of study:

Pupils will complete three units across the course. There is some flexibility in the choice of units which means the course can be shaped around the skills and interests of the pupils. The choice of units can be chosen around practical music making or music technology and will also include aspects of the business side of the music industry by, for example, planning and organising a music event.

Method of assessment:

There are no external examinations for this unit. Pupils develop portfolios of evidence across the course which could include written work and video evidence of their practical skills and development.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

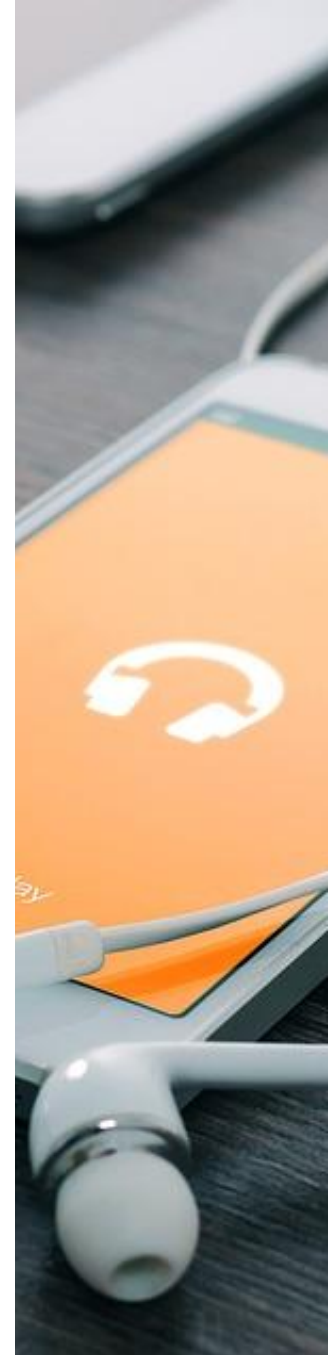
Pupils would be expected and encouraged to be in the Chapel Choir and Orchestra or other ensembles. Pupils perform regularly in informal concerts. Links with Drama can also be found, providing music for productions and Musicals. Visits to concerts or similar musical events outside school are arranged.

What this subject might lead to:

The skills of performing, intense listening and independent learning, coupled with creativity produce strong, confident pupils, who can adapt to any number of courses and professions. It will also lead to a lifelong love of making music.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Confidence
Self-esteem
Wellbeing
Listening
Concentration
Creativity
Self expression
Teamwork
Cognition
and many more...



GCSE SPANISH

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL
SPECIFICATION: 1SP1

"I'm really glad I chose Spanish. The lessons are very absorbing, rewarding and fun. I am learning a lot about the Spanish culture and way of life too. I know that learning Spanish as a second language will help me in my future career and life"

Why study this GCSE subject?

The course is designed to continue developing the pupils' ability to communicate in this language and to create an awareness of and thereby foster an understanding and appreciation of a different culture. The course is delivered through five engaging contemporary and cultural themes that will enable pupils to manipulate and start using the language effectively, independently and creatively, so that they have a basis from which to progress to A Level or employment.

Topics of study at GCSE:

The six themes studied are: My Personal World; Lifestyle & Wellbeing; My Neighbourhood, Media & Technology, Studying & My Future, Travel & Tourism.

Method of assessment:

Pupils are assessed in all four language skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing at either Foundation or Higher Tier at the end of the course. Each skill accounts for 25% of the final grade and all the exams are externally assessed.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

All pupils are encouraged to take full advantage of the wide range of resources available to them in the department, as well as consolidate and further practise their language skills through a variety of interactive learning websites. Opportunities to participate in immersion days and educational outings are also available.

What this subject might lead to:

Today, the study of a foreign language is becoming increasingly important as employers actively seek people who can communicate in another language and have good analytical skills. Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world and, as such, it is extremely useful when considering a career in: International relations, Engineering, Law, Business, Tourism, Journalism, as well as in the Diplomatic World.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Research skills
Communication
Teamwork
Open-mindedness
Organisation
Logic
Problem solving
Memory skills
Independence
Resilience
and many more...



LEVEL 2 BTEC FIRST AWARD IN SPORT

EXAM BOARD: PEARSON
SPECIFICATION: 603/7068/3

"I found the Level 2 BTEC challenging and rewarding and it really suited my natural abilities."

Why study this BTEC subject?

This course offers a practical and theoretical study that prepares pupils for progression onto the advanced level courses in Sport Coaching and Development or Sport and Exercise Sciences. The course is structured into three years, and you are expected to complete one unit in each academic year. Students will investigate provisions for sport including equipment and facilities, plan and deliver sport drills and sessions and develop their knowledge and understanding of fitness testing, anatomy, and physiology.

Topics of study at BTEC:

Unit 1: Fitness for sport and exercise
Unit 2: Practical performance in sport.
Unit 3: Applying the principles of personal training
Unit 4: Leading sports activities

Method of assessment:

Unit 1 is on externally assessed controlled examination. Units 2, 3 & 6 are internally assessed coursework-based tasks.

Opportunities beyond the classroom:

Pupils are given the chance to experience adventurous sports with a visit to local sports provisions, such as rock climbing. Pupils are also afforded opportunities to host and organise sporting events. In addition, sport pupils are given the chance to coach small groups and risk assess sporting situations.

What this subject might lead to:

Pupils have the opportunity to continue their enjoyment and interest in this subject by going onto study AS and A2 Physical Education or Level 3 BTEC National Award or Certificate in the Sixth Form. Moving forward, a sport and exercise science degree is a great start for a variety of careers in the sports industry where you can work with children, athletes or the general public.

SKILLS YOU WILL DEVELOP INCLUDE:

Communication
Teamwork
Leadership
Flexibility
Adaptability
Patience
Resilience
Time
Management
Organisation
**and many
more...**





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