



YEAR 10 OPTIONS

2026-2028

Name: _____

Form: _____

KEY STAGE 4 COURSES 2026 - 2028

CONTENTS

- ❖ English Language and English Literature
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English Language and English Literature

Introduction

Students will gain two separate GCSE qualifications in English Language and English Literature by the end of the course. Many of our students go on to study English-related subjects at AS and A-Level.

Course Structure

Both courses are examined at the end of Year 11.

For English Language GCSE, the areas of study are:

- Reading - demonstrating understanding of a wide range of non-fiction and fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries.
- Writing - to create descriptive/narrative and persuasive texts using correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Spoken Language - a formal presentation using Standard English and responding to questions.

For English Literature GCSE, the areas of study are:

- A Shakespeare play
- A 19th Century novel
- A modern play
- A collection of poetry from the AQA poetry anthology "Poems Past and Present" and preparation for writing about unseen poetry in the exam.

Assessment

Students' grades will be based on their performance in the four final examinations taken at the end of Year 11; two for English Language and two for English Literature.

There is no longer any coursework or controlled assessment element.

Board	Subject	Examinations	Exam Duration
AQA	English Language	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)	1 hour and 45 minutes
		Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)	1 hour and 45 minutes
AQA	English Literature	Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel (40%)	1 hour and 45 minutes
		Modern Texts and Poetry (60%)	2 hours and 15 minutes

Mathematics

Introduction

All students will follow the new GCSE course which has a linear approach to the examination of mathematics, with three exams at the end of Year 11. This qualification encourages students to develop confidence in mathematics and have a positive attitude towards the subject. Students learn to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. The qualification prepares students to make informed decisions about problem solving, logic, money management, further learning opportunities and career choices.

Course Structure

This specification comprises different units of work, with internal exam sessions throughout the year. Analysis of the results is used to identify students' strengths and areas for development.

The students will be motivated through the success they achieve throughout the course from section results.

Tiers of Entry

Foundation : Grades available 5 - 1
Higher : Grades available 9 - 4

Homework

There will be a mixture of short exercises, exam questions and online activities practising topics covered in class. Students will find the use of internet resources beneficial to support their learning.

Calculators

All students will require a calculator throughout the course and it is essential that they have their own so that they are familiar with its operation. Students require a scientific calculator with exponential, trigonometric and statistical functions. These can be purchased from the school shop throughout the year, together with geometry sets, revision guides, workbooks and practice papers to help prepare for examinations.

Assessment

Board	Examinations	Exam Duration
Edexcel	Paper 1: Non-Calculator (33 ¹ /3 %)	1 hour and 30 minutes
	Paper 2: Calculator (33 ¹ /3 %)	1 hour and 30 minutes
	Paper 3: Calculator (33 ¹ /3 %)	1 hour and 30 minutes

Science

Introduction

Science remains compulsory at Key Stage 4 and it is expected that all students will achieve at least two GCSEs by the end of Year 11. All examinations are in the summer of Year 11. The GCSEs will be assessed on the 9 - 1 grading system, with 9 being the highest grade and 1 being the lowest grade. The examinations will be available in two tiers: Foundation tier will cover grades 5 - 1, and Higher tier will cover grades 9 - 4.

Course Structure and Assessment

Students need to choose one of the following options to meet statutory requirements:

- **Option 1: Triple Science - GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics**

This option will allow students to take all three sciences as three separate GCSEs over the two years. It is for those students who are really serious about their science and are looking to take it further, beyond GCSE. Anyone considering taking A-Levels in any of the science disciplines must choose this option. As this option requires more curriculum time, **students need to select it on the options form.**

Throughout the course students will be expected to complete eight core practicals per GCSE, as specified in the syllabus. The practical skills students gain from this work will be assessed, alongside the subject content, in the written examination papers at the end of the course. Each GCSE consists of two examinations, each lasting for one hour and forty five minutes. Students must study all 3 sciences and therefore will have a total of 6 exams leading to the award of 3 separate GCSEs.

- **Option 2: GCSE Combined Science**

This option does **not** need to be selected as an option as it is covered in the core curriculum time. Students will work towards two GCSEs by studying an equal mix of units in each of biology, chemistry and physics, to provide students with a broad coverage of science.

Throughout the course students will be expected to complete sixteen core practicals, as specified in the syllabus. The practical skills students gain from this work will be assessed, alongside the subject content, in the written examination papers at the end of the course. The Combined Science GCSE consists of six examinations, each lasting for one hour and ten minutes. Students will receive two grades based on the 9 - 1 scale; for example 5 - 5 or 6 - 5.

Overview of the two options

Option	Subject	Exam board	Number of exams	Exam Duration
Option 1 - Selected on the options form as Triple Science. 3 GCSEs	Biology	Edexcel	2 - each exam counts for 50% of GCSE	1 hour and 45 minutes
	Chemistry	Edexcel	2 - each exam counts for 50% of GCSE	1 hour and 45 minutes
	Physics	Edexcel	2 - each exam counts for 50% of GCSE	1 hour and 45 minutes
Option 2 2 GCSEs	Combined Science	Edexcel	6 - each exam counts for 16.7% of GCSE	1 hour and 10 minutes

Art and Design

Introduction

Students opting for Art and Design have the unique opportunity of working in a highly individual and creative manner, whereby personal strengths and particular abilities in art can be developed fully throughout the two-year course.

Course Structure and Content

It is most important that students enjoy the challenge of drawing and show an ability to develop their own ideas imaginatively, using a variety of materials and techniques of their choice.

The art department offers students the opportunity to develop work to a high standard in the areas of drawing, painting, printing, batik, pottery, sculpture and photography.

It must be stressed that academic and personal success in art depends on a student displaying considerable interest in the subject with a very good level of commitment. There is a **drawing element** in the course and students must be prepared to work in depth and detail.

Assessment

Assessment criteria include:

- Developing ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
(Understanding and reacting to the work of chosen artists). 25%
- Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
(Plan a series of ideas for a finished piece showing experimentation and imagination). 25%
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to students' intentions in visual and/or other formats.
(Making drawings/models of objects or chosen themes). 25%
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, making connections between visual written, oral or other elements.
(Produce a finished piece with links to artists' work and in-depth planning). 25%

- It must be stressed that **75%** of marks are allocated to in-depth planning and the development of practical ideas, as set out in the assessment criteria above.

Board	Controlled Assessment Unit	Examinations
OCR	<p>Student Portfolio Learners produce a completed course unit under controlled assessment conditions over a period of 18 weeks or 45 hours. The single coursework unit will be developed from a range of different starting points given to the students.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(60%)</p>	<p>Externally Set Task (10 hours) Learners will have 10 hours of supervised time to produce a finished piece based on one starting point. Students have a 9 week period of preparation leading up to the exam.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(40%)</p>

Computer Science

Introduction

This is a course that has real relevance in our modern world. Recently updated, the qualification reflects the fast-changing world of Computer Science. Helping students develop the computational skills they need for a digital future beyond the classroom with a practical focus on real-life programming, developing skills relevant to the future.

You will gain an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will study programming, algorithms and flowcharts as well as key computational thinking skills, data representation, networking and computing fundamentals. The course is open to all who have an interest in Computer Science however, many of the components require a good grasp of mathematics and, as calculators are not allowed to be used in the examinations, it is recommended that students opting for Computer Science should be on target to achieve grade 4 or above in mathematics.

Course Structure

The course is divided into two units:

- Component 1 Principles of Computer Science
- Component 2 Application of Computational Thinking

Component 1 will cover: -

- Computational thinking - understanding algorithms, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.
- Data - understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.
- Computers - understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.
- Networks - understanding of computer networks and network security.
- Issues and impact - awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Component 2 will cover: -

- Understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs
- Understanding how to decompose and analyse problems
- Ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Assessment

Assessment is via two examinations, component 1 is examined on paper, component 2 is examined on a PC where students code solutions to problems in Python using an IDLE interface.

Board	Qualification Module	Mode of Assessment	Exam Duration
Edexcel	Principles of Computer Science	Written Examination (50%)	1 hour 30 minutes
	Application of Computational Thinking	On Screen Examination (50%)	2 hours

BTEC Tech Award in Construction and the Built Environment – Level 1 & 2

Introduction

The rationale for all qualifications in the BTEC Tech award suite in Construction and the Built Environment is:

- To provide an introduction to vocational learning,
- To inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the construction sector,
- To give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in the construction industry,
- To support progression to a more specialised Level 3 vocational or academic construction course or an apprenticeship,
- To give learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the construction industry.

This qualification has been developed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the construction industry. It includes three components which focus on the assessment of applied knowledge, skills and practices.

Course structure and content

Component 1: Construction Technology

This component covers the different forms of construction that can be used for low rise offices, retail units and homes. Students will develop an understanding of the structural performance required and explore how substructures and superstructures are constructed. This unit will be assessed with a 1.5-hour exam taken in Year 11.

Component 2: Construction in Practice

In this component, students will learn and apply vocationally correct techniques to perform construction activities which include the appropriate selection and use of a range of tools to perform construction activities. In doing this, students will develop some understanding of working safely in a craft role in the construction industry. Students will also have to analyse hazards and risks and then complete some practical carpentry and joinery tasks which will be assessed internally.

Component 3: Construction and Design

In this component, students will design a low-rise building. Students will analyse client requirements and needs for a new building, considering the external constraints on a development, and how they influence designing a solution for a client's needs. Upon completion of this component, students will be able to create a developed design brief and generate a number of concept ideas that could meet with the client's approval. These ideas may have to fit in with the style of traditional buildings within a locality or could be a more modern contemporary design when there are no such constraints. These concepts are developed into a final design solution that can utilise a number of graphical communication methods, including sketching skills. This component will be assessed internally.

Board	Controlled assessment	Examinations	Exam Duration
Edexcel	Component 2 - internal (externally moderated) Component 3 - internal (externally moderated)	Component 1 - one un-tiered written paper	1.5 hours

Design and Technology

Introduction

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Course structure and content

Students will cover the knowledge and skills that will allow them to succeed in the two assessed units. In Year 10 students will cover design issues such as new and emerging technologies; energy, materials, systems and devices; materials and their working properties; designing principles and making principles.

Throughout the course students will be given the opportunities to explore the wider issues of design and manufacture through a series of design projects. They will develop their skills and practice answering context-based design problems. There will be opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of materials, investigating working properties and techniques through these making tasks and experiments.

The design and technology approach offer opportunities for students to design and make. Students on the course might have very different approaches; some may be keen to improve their craft skills, some may want to explore electronic products or to develop ideas using computer-aided design whilst others may want to use a more graphics-based approach. All of these can be accommodated.

If you enjoy the design and technology course and intend to study the subject at A-Level, then this qualification will provide an excellent foundation in the subject. The practical aspects of the course, together with your use of cutting-edge technologies, mean that it is also very useful for those who wish to go on to college courses to study design or technology subjects.

Assessment

There will be a single written paper that will make up 50% of the GCSE grade. This will examine your knowledge and understanding of designing and manufacturing commercial products. You will also undertake a non-examined assessment, a design and make project which, in its entirety should take between 30-35 hours to complete and consist of a working prototype and a concise portfolio of design work, which illustrates the development of the idea. Students' work should consist of an investigation into a contextual challenge, defining the needs and wants of the user and include relevant research to produce a design brief and specification. Students should generate design ideas with flair and creativity and develop these to create a final design solution (including modelling).

Board	Non-examined assessment	Examinations	Exam Duration
AQA	Design portfolio and prototype (NEA 50%)	One (untiered) written paper (50%)	2 hours

Drama

Introduction

Drama is a practical subject that aims to develop not only students' love for the theatre, but also to help them to gain confidence and understand the importance of teamwork. The course involves practical drama, where students devise and develop their own drama pieces and act out key scenes from famous plays; as well as written theory work, where they explore the work of respected theatre practitioners, learn about different theatre configurations and create a portfolio of evidence to support their devised drama performances.

Lessons are designed to be largely interactive and creative, however students must note that in order to succeed at GCSE level they must be willing to perform in front of an audience, and they must be able to commit to learning lines.

Course Structure and Content

AQA GCSE Drama is a course divided into three components:

Component 1: Understanding Drama: Written Exam (40%) 1 hour and 45 mins - Open book

Section A: Theatre roles and terminology (multiple choice)

Section B: Study of a set play. For 2028 the play will be 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell.

Section C: Live theatre production. Students will answer one question on a live production they have seen as part of the course.

Component 2: Non-exam assessment: internally assessed and externally moderated (40%).

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre based on the work of a theatre practitioner/genre in response to a stimulus.

Students must also produce a portfolio which consists of:

- A process log outlining 3 significant points in the development of the piece
- A final performance
- A written evaluation of the development process and performance of the devised theatre.

Component 3: Performing from a text (20%).

Performance exam: externally assessed by a visiting AQA examiner. 20% of qualification

- Students participate in the development and performance of two key extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre, as a performance.
- The performance must be at least 20 minutes in length.

Assessment

All students have a GCSE target to aspire to that is both challenging and realistic. Progress is monitored through ongoing informal assessment and performance in the examination components. Progress is also monitored through practice examination questions and a mock examination. Individual and group feedback will be given on what has gone well and how students could improve.

Board	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Written Exam Duration
AQA	Understanding Drama written exam (open book) (40%) EXAMINED	Stimulus inspired piece of devised theatre and a performance log (40%) MODERATED EXTERNALLY	Performance of 2 extracts from a play. (20%) EXAMINED	1 hour and 45 minutes

AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition (Grade 1-9)

Introduction

This GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, where ingredients come from and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Course Structure and Content

The theory content of the course will be completed in booklets with an opportunity to apply learnt knowledge to exam-style questions throughout the course. Preparation and making activities, will develop competency and reinforce theoretical knowledge. You will develop the skills to be able to make the connections between theory and practice and apply your understanding of food and nutrition to practical preparation.

The course will focus on five key topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

You will be asked to supply ingredients for the practical lessons where a product will be taken home. Where students are undertaking shorter skill-based activities all materials will be supplied by the department in the usual manner.

Completing the Food Preparation and Nutrition course

When you have completed this course, you should be able to:

- show your knowledge and understanding of nutrition, food, food preparation and cooking
- apply your knowledge and understanding of nutrition, food, food preparation and cooking to different situations and tasks
- plan, prepare, cook and present a variety of dishes, using a range of appropriate skills and techniques
- analyse and evaluate different aspects of nutrition, food, food preparation and cooking, including food that you and others have made.

Assessment

Board	Controlled Assessment NEA 1	Controlled Assessment NEA 2	Examinations
AQA	<p>Students will investigate the characteristics, functional and chemical properties of a particular ingredient through practical investigation. They will produce a report to include research into 'how ingredients work and why'.</p> <p>Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.</p> <p>10 Hours; (15%)</p>	<p>Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes. They must select appropriate technical skills and processes and create 3–4 dishes to showcase these. They will then produce their final menu within 3 hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.</p> <p>Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence not to exceed 20 sides of A4</p> <p>20 Hours ; (35%)</p>	<p>Written exam 100 marks June of Year 11</p> <p>1 hour 45 Minutes</p> <p>(50%)</p>

Geography

Introduction

This course includes both traditional and contemporary issues in the world today. A mixture of human and physical geography units lead to a balanced and relevant GCSE.

Course Structure and Content

The students will follow the AQA GCSE Course.

Paper 1 Living with the physical environment

Consists of questions on physical geography topics from the following areas of study:

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

Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment

Consists of questions based on human geography topics from the following areas of study:

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

Paper 3 Geographical applications and skills

Consists of a series of questions related to contemporary physical and human geographical issues. Critical thinking and problem-solving task(s) that look(s) at a particular issue(s) from the course using secondary sources.

This is an interesting and rewarding course, which provides good preparation for future studies in geography, environmental studies, travel and tourism and other post-16 options including employment.

To achieve success in the examination, students must be able to take responsibility for their learning and to demonstrate an ability to learn, recall, write accurately and interpret geographical information. Enthusiasm and a desire to achieve are essentials to studying GCSE Geography.

Assessment

Board	Examinations	Exam Duration
AQA	Paper 1 Living with the physical environment (35%)	1 hour and 30 minutes
	Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment (35%)	1 hour and 30 minutes
	Paper 3 Geographical applications and skills (30%)	1 hour and 30 minutes

History

Introduction

This course covers a variety of topics, issues, themes and periods. Students examine relevant and contemporary issues, which lead to a balanced GCSE in History.

Course Structure and Content

Students will follow the Edexcel GCSE course.

The course looks at:

- Medicine in Britain c1250 - present. A case study on The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries treatment and the trenches.
- Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 88.
- The American West c1835 - 95.
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 39.

Skills developed over the course include analysis, recall and working with historical evidence. These skills are transferable and employers find them useful in many occupations.

This is an interesting course, which will provide good preparation for a variety of A-Level and post-16 qualifications.

Assessment

To achieve success in this course, students will be expected to take responsibility for their own work, to read around the subject, to participate in class discussion and to demonstrate an ability to learn, recall, organise and present material accurately.

Board	Examinations	Exam duration
Edexcel	Paper 1 - Medicine in Britain c1250 - present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914 - 18 (30%)	1 hour and 20 minutes
	Paper 2 - Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 88 and The American West c1835 – 95 (40%)	1 hour and 50 minutes
	Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 39 (30%)	1 hour and 30 minutes

Modern Foreign Languages

Introduction

The school offers GCSE Modern Foreign Languages in French and Spanish:

- French GCSE is offered to students who have studied the language in Key Stage 3
- Spanish GCSE is offered to students who have studied the language in Key Stage 3

Studying a language encourages students to:

- develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards French and Spanish and to recognise the importance of languages
- use language for authentic purposes and about subjects which are meaningful and interesting to them, build confidence and broaden their horizons
- become familiar with aspects of the contexts and cultures of the countries and communities of the language

Course Structure and Content

The students will be examined in four skill areas:

Paper 1: Listening – Format of papers at both tiers

Section A – Listening comprehension (FT 40 marks, HT 50 marks, AO1)

- All questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally.
- Each utterance is heard twice with carefully adjusted pauses to reflect the individual tasks and to include page turning and reading of the questions.
- Examples only used where necessary.

Section B – Dictation (FT 8 marks, HT 10 MARKS – AO1 and AO3)

- Students transcribe in full four short sentences at Foundation tier and five short sentences at Higher tier.
- Minimum 20 words at Foundation tier and 30 words at Higher tier, including two words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list.
- Students hear each short sentence three times: the first time as a full sentence, the second time in short sections (as indicated by the forward slashes in the transcript) and a final time as a full sentence.

Length of exam:

- 35 minutes at Foundation tier
- 45 minutes at Higher tier

Paper 2: The content of the speaking test

Test will consist of three parts (as required by DfE subject content):

- Part 1: Role-play task recommended to last one to one and a half minutes approximately at both tiers. (10 marks) 20% of the speaking test.
- Part 2: Reading aloud task and short conversation. Recommended to take between two and two and a half minutes at Foundation tier and between three and three and a half minutes at Higher tier. (15 marks) 30% of the speaking test.
- Part 3: Photo card discussion – response to the content of the photos on the card and unprepared conversation. Recommended to take in total between four and five minutes at Foundation tier and six and seven minutes at Higher tier. (25 marks) 50% of the speaking test.

- Total marks =50
- 25% of GCSE (classed as NEA)

Length of exam:

- 35 minutes at Foundation tier
- 45 minutes at Higher tier

Paper 3: Reading – Structure of question papers

Foundation and Higher tier:

- Section A – Reading comprehension. All questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally. Two inference tasks included as multiple-choice items (40 marks at both tiers, AO2)
- Section B – Translation of 5 sentences from target language into English – minimum 35 words of Foundation and 50 words at Higher (10 marks at both tiers, AO2)

Length of exams:

- 45 minutes at Foundation tier
- 60 minutes at Higher tier
- Total marks = 50
- 25% of GCSE

Paper 4: Writing

- Overlap question (Foundation tier Question 5 and Higher tier Question 2)
- Choice of two questions in Foundation tier Question 5/Higher tier Question 2 and in Higher tier Question 3

Length of exams:

- 1 hour and 10 minutes at Foundation tier
- 1 hour 15 minutes at Higher tier
- Total = 50 marks at both tiers
- 25% of GCSE

Studies will build on language learnt in Key Stage 3, which is divided into broad topic areas. The topic areas are designed to motivate and interest students as well as to prepare them to use the language effectively in real situations abroad.

Themes and topics

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle	Theme 2: Popular culture	Theme 3: Communication and the world around us
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identity and relationships with others• Healthy living and lifestyle• Education and work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free time activities• Customs, festivals and celebrations• Celebrity culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel and tourism, including places of interest• Media and technology• The environment and where people live.

Assessment

Each skill area will be assessed as a final examination at the end of the course in Year 11.

Assessment Objectives

- AO1: understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing – 35%
- AO2: understand and respond to written language in speaking and in writing – 45%
- AO3: demonstrate understanding and accurate application of the grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification.

Music

Introduction

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. It is important that students who opt for this subject are willing to develop their knowledge of a variety of styles of music throughout the course.

Students should be able to motivate themselves and have an ability to work both in groups and individually to achieve the course's requirements. The course places emphasis on performance and composition. In addition, the current study pieces are being replaced by Beethoven's Symphony No.1 (Movement 1) and Queen (Bohemian Rhapsody, Seven Seas of Rhye and Love of my Life).

Course Structure and Content

The GCSE Music course consists of three components as outlined below:

- Component 1: Understanding Music
- Component 2: Performing Music
- Component 3: Composing Music

Students will be required to submit two compositions and two performances as part of their coursework. The first composition is a free composition. Free compositions need not reference areas of study or a given brief. The second composition must be in response to one brief from a choice of four externally set briefs. The briefs will include different stimuli including: written words, poems or a piece of text, photographs, images, film or notation. Both compositions are completed under controlled assessment conditions. The performances consist of a solo and group performance. Performances are recorded in the Music Department.

Students will be studying the following study pieces as part of Component 1: Understanding Music.

Beethoven's Symphony No.1 (Movement 1: Adagio molto-Allegro con brio)
Queen – Bohemian Rhapsody, The Seven Seas of Rhye, Love of my Life.

The four areas of study which underpin the Music GCSE course are:

- AoS1: Western classical tradition 1650 - 1910
- AoS2: Popular Music
- AoS3: Traditional Music
- AoS4: Western classical tradition since 1910

Assessment

Board	Controlled Assessment	Examinations	Exam Duration
AQA	Component 2 (controlled assessment) (30%) Component 3 (controlled assessment) (30%)	Component 1 (externally marked) (40%)	1 hour and 30 minutes

Religious Education

Introduction

This course offers students the opportunity to explore two religions in-depth and apply them to contemporary issues. Through academic study, students will acquire a comprehensive knowledge of two religions, and will be able to discuss comparisons, links and controversies both within and between religions.

Course Structure and Content

Students will follow the Edexcel GCSE course.

Students will study key beliefs, types of worship, festivals and practises of both Christians and Muslims, considering the impact they have on marriage, the family, peace and conflict. They will also study how religious beliefs influence views on crime and punishment and matters of life and death e.g. How should we treat criminals? Should the death penalty be used? What happens after we die? Should abortion be allowed in the UK?

The course provides an exciting opportunity to combine an academic study of religion with open discussions about contemporary issues.

Assessment

To achieve success in this course, students will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning, be willing to fully participate in class discussion and demonstrate an ability to learn, organise and present material accurately. They will be responsible for keeping their workbooks up to date and for completing homework and revision outside of lessons. The two terminal exams will give students a full GCSE in religious education.

Board	Examinations	Exam Duration
Edexcel	Paper 1 Religion and Ethics: Christianity (50%) Paper 2 Religion, Peace and Conflict: Islam (50%)	1 hour and 45 minutes 1 hour and 45 minutes

Core Religious Education (Religious, Social and Ethical Studies)

Introduction

The course offers students the opportunity to reflect upon the links between religious beliefs and important issues in today's world. They will investigate the core beliefs and practices of major world religions and use that knowledge to study contemporary religious, social and ethical questions.

Course Structure and Content

Core Religious Education is non-examined.

Core Religious Education

Students will study key beliefs, types of worship, festivals and practises of both Christians and Muslims, considering the impact they have on marriage, the family, peace and conflict. All students will study Core Religious Education, which is a non-examined course designed to prepare students for our diverse 21st Century world, while at the same time develop a range of skills that prepare them for both work and life.

The course collaborates with the English department to develop skills in speaking, listening and written project work. It will also allow students to investigate themes and topics which support the PSHCE curriculum. Over the course, students will demonstrate their ability to research, empathise and articulate various responses to key beliefs held by other people. The course will also require that students express their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions and issues about identity, belonging, meaning purpose, truth, values and commitments. These are integral skills for those students who wish to be involved in politics, social work, education and law.

Assessment

To achieve success in this course, students will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning, be willing to fully participate in class discussion and demonstrate an ability to learn, organise and present material accurately. They will be assessed on a wide variety of activities that will be completed in class. This includes giving speeches and presentations, research and completing project work to a specified deadline. These assessment methods help to provide students with a well-rounded education that prepares them for the future.

Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Introduction

The Cambridge National in Sports Studies course offers a specialist qualification that focuses on sport. The qualification can extend a learner's programme of study and provide a vocational 'hands on' emphasis.

There is an intention that learners will get a feel of the sports industry and gain experience of some of the jobs they might consider in the future. Learners will finish the course with a portfolio of work that demonstrates the skills that they have developed.

This course is broadly equivalent to one GCSE. Level 1 and Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction grades are awarded.

Course Structure and Content

The course is assessed through three units:

Contemporary Issues in Sport

(This is assessed through a paper exam in January of Year 11. The paper is 1 hour - 15 minutes 70 marks)

In this unit you will learn about a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, relating to; participation levels and barriers, promotion of values and ethical behaviour, the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used within sport.

Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities

(This is assessed internally)

In this unit you will learn how to develop your skills as both a performer, in two different sporting activities, and as a leader in one activity. As a leader you will have the opportunity to plan, lead and review safe and effective sporting activity sessions yourself.

You will also have the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills. You will work both independently and as part of a team, including communicating with team mates as well as being in front of an audience when you perform. You will perform under pressure, both as a participant and as a leader, and will use your initiative to solve problems and make decisions. You will also deal with rapidly changing conditions and situations.

Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

(This is assessed internally)

In this unit you will learn how to find out information about what opportunities there are in your local area, as well as nationally in the UK, for all different types of activities. You will learn how you can benefit from and enjoy activities safely by finding out what equipment, clothing, facilities and technology you need, as well as completing planning to help keep you safe. You will also take part in outdoor activities and evaluate your participation within them.

Assessment

Board	Controlled Assessment	Examinations	Exam Duration
OCR	Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities	Contemporary Issues in Sport	1 hour and 15 minutes

GCSE Statistics

Introduction

Students are introduced to the skill of statistical enquiry, and practise statistical calculations and interpretation using real world data and authentic contexts. GCSE Statistics strengthens and supports GCSE Mathematics and is an excellent skills-based GCSE which will support research and data analysis for most A-level subjects.

Course Structure

This specification comprises different units of work, with internal exam sessions throughout the year, assessing what the students have studied up to this point. Analysis of the results is used to identify students' strengths and areas for development. The students will be motivated through the success they achieve throughout the course from section results. All students will study the Higher syllabus in the first instance.

Entry Requirements

Due to this course being taught over 1 lesson per week, only students with a proven track record in keeping up with homework will be considered. The course will require considerable home learning each week which much be done in order to cover all of the content. Priority will be given to students who are working above the expected standard for Maths by the end of Year 9. Those working at the top end of the expected standard may be considered if their attitude and effort in Maths has been outstanding.

Tiers of Entry

Foundation : Grades available 5 - 1
Higher : Grades available 9 - 4

Homework

Students will be expected to practise the skills they have learnt between lessons. A homework based on each lesson will be set every week. Students will find the use of internet resources beneficial to support their learning.

Calculators

All students will require a calculator throughout the course and it is essential that they have their own so that they are familiar with its operation. Students require a scientific calculator with exponential, trigonometric and statistical functions. These can be purchased from the school shop throughout the year, together with revision guides, workbooks and practice papers to help prepare for examinations.

Assessment

Board	Examinations	Exam Duration
Edexcel	Paper 1: Calculator (50 %) Paper 2: Calculator (50 %)	1 hour and 30 minutes 1 hour and 30 minutes