

Year 8 Options Booklet



**Cardinal Pole
Catholic School**



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February 2021

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INTRODUCTION

Over the coming weeks Year 8 students will make their options choices. This booklet is intended to help you to select the best curriculum pathway for GCSE. It contains information about all the courses we offer at Key Stage 4. There is a very wide range of subjects to choose from, including familiar subjects and new GCSE courses you have not studied at Key stage 3.

You should bear in mind that all students are now required to continue their studies until they are 18.

We recommend all students to opt for a broad and balanced curriculum. Whilst all GCSEs have equal status, they do require different skills and ways of learning. When making choices students must balance their skills and learning styles in order to keep options open for later life, such as choosing college or A level courses.

Courses are divided into ***Core*** and ***Optional***.

The Core subjects, to be taken by everyone, are:

- Religious Education (one GCSE)
- English Language (one GCSE)
- English Literature (one GCSE)
- Mathematics (one GCSE)
- Science (Combined Sciences - two GCSEs or Single Sciences: Biology, Chemistry & Physics – Three GCSEs)

All Students also follow core PE and PSHE which are not taken as public exams.

What are GCSEs?

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education.

What is V-cert and Cambridge Nationals?

Vcert qualifications and Cambridge Nationals are particular types of work-related qualifications. Courses have been designed in collaboration with industry, so they can prepare students with the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for. The qualifications offer a mix of theory and practice.



What is the English Baccalaureate?

This was introduced by the Government in 2011 as a standard that some students can aim for in their GCSE studies. To achieve the English Baccalaureate, students must complete and obtain a C grade/Grade 4 or higher in the following subjects:

- Maths
- English Language or English Literature
- Two Sciences (either combined Trilogy Science or Separate Sciences). Computer Science may be counted as a Science qualification
- a Language (e.g. Spanish or French) and
- either Geography or History

This cohort of students will undertake the new GCSE qualifications and will be awarded a number from 9 to 1 (9 being the highest) rather than a grade. Current advice indicates that a grade 4 is equivalent to a grade C. In order to obtain the English Baccalaureate, students will therefore need at least grade 4s in the subjects listed above.

Progression to Sixth Form

Universities, including The Russell Group of Universities (a collaboration of 20 leading UK universities) are not only interested in the results that pupils achieve at GCSE and A Level, they are increasingly expecting pupils to have breadth of study as well as rigour in what they study. This generally means they consider the traditional academic subjects such as those included in the EBacc as more appropriate for entry to their universities.

Pupils of high ability should aim to stretch themselves by considering choosing options that have academic rigour, such as History, Geography or a Modern Foreign Language.

As a high achieving school, we have an outstanding Sixth Form and we encourage our students to apply here.

Students will be able to make their option choices electronically on the "sims-options" online platform. An email containing the link and guidance on how to choose options will be sent to all students.



Support for Options

Students are encouraged to think carefully and discuss with parents/carers their choice of subjects, ensuring that they enjoy the subject and want to do it. A range of support has been put in place to help you make the right choices:

- Meetings with the careers advisor
- Special assemblies led by Heads of Department
- PSHE programme around careers and options

You must think whether the options you are choosing now fit with what you will need for further education or career choice in the future.

Before making your choice, first consult:

- Your Parents/Carers
- Your Teachers
- Your Form Tutor
- Your Head of Year
- The Careers Advisor, Mr Howard

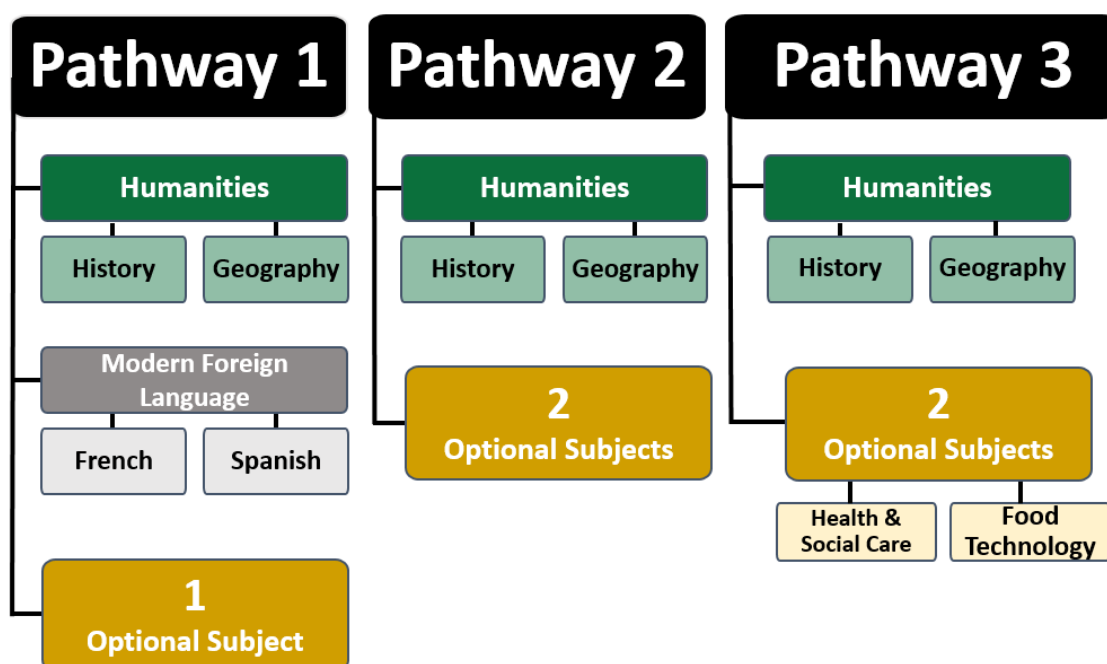
Finally, check for any particular requirement for the course.

Subject Choices

Students are provided with the opportunity to take **three** subjects from a range of courses available following one of three pathways.

Most students will be expected to take EBACC subjects in line with current government policy (Pathway 1).

Pathways will be explained in more detail at the Options Evening Event (04.02.21)





You should select three subjects from the following:

Art & Design
Business Studies
Computer Science
Drama
Hospitality & Catering
Design & Technology: 3D Design
French
Geography
History
Music
P.E. GCSE
Sociology
Spanish
VCert Health & Fitness

Option selections should be **completed online by Thursday 25th February 2021**



Subject Breakdown List

Subject	Breakdown	Exam Board
Art & Design	Coursework 60%. Exam 40%	Edexcel
Business Studies	Exam 100%	Edexcel
Computer Science	Controlled Assessment 20%. Exam 80%	OCR
Design & Technology: Hospitality & Catering	Coursework 50%. Exam 50%	Eduqas (WJEC)
Design & Technology: 3D Design	Coursework 60%. Exam 40%	AQA
Drama	Controlled Assessment 60% (External 20%, Internal 40%). Written exam 40%	Edexcel
English Language	Exam 100%	AQA
English Literature	Exam 100%	AQA
French	Exam 100%	AQA
Geography	Exam 100%	Edexcel
History	Exam 100%	Edexcel
Mathematics	Exam 100%	Edexcel/AQA
Music	Controlled Assessment 60%. (30% Performing, 30% Composing) Exam 40%	Eduqas
PE (GCSE)	Practical Assessment 60%. Exam 40%	AQA
Religious Education	Exam 100%	Edexcel
Single Sciences (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)	Exam 100%	AQA
Science Combined Trilogy	Exam 100%	AQA
Sociology	Exam 100%	AQA
Spanish	Exam 100%	AQA
VCert Health and Fitness	Exam 40% Coursework 60%	NCFE



GCSE ART AND DESIGN

Edexcel

Overview

A GCSE in Art and Design requires that you have an adventurous and enquiring approach to the subject area. The course encourages you to develop, to investigate, analyse and experiment, allowing you to express ideas, meaning and emotions in imaginative and creative artwork. Students should have a commitment to and a love of the subject and feel motivated to develop their visual skills and desire to build a comprehensive portfolio of artwork mainly presented in A3 sketchbooks with larger final outcomes.

GCSE Art and Design builds upon the skills and knowledge that students have developed at Key Stage 3. There is an emphasis on *individuality* and *independence* in the process of developing ideas as well as high quality skill areas. This means that if you have done well in 'design' in KS3 and are willing to analyse, improve and evaluate your work high achievement within the subject is possible even if you need to improve skills such as drawing and painting. Top students research a wide range of artists independently and evaluate their ideas to gain diverse inspiration for their own ideas.

Assessment

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio 60%

This consists of two coursework projects set by the teacher and presented in sketchbooks. They will include research into and investigation of ideas, informed by contextual and cultural sources (artist research). Students will experiment with and develop skills in variety of media, techniques and processes including observational drawing, printmaking, painting, and digital media. Their supporting studies will lead to the completion of a finished piece of artwork.

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment 40%

The externally set paper contains possible starting points from which students should develop and explore ideas over a period of eight weeks. At the end of this period students will sit a timed ten hour examination to produce a final piece/pieces of work. The preparatory and development work along with the final piece will then be submitted for assessment.

Students will develop practical skills to express ideas and use visual language. As well as this students will be able to expand their skills in ICT, creative problem solving, analytic, investigative and interpretative capabilities. All these skills are essential in whatever courses or employment the student aspires to in later life. They will also have the opportunity to experience art first hand through gallery and studio visits and visiting artists and designers.

Progression Pathways

Students can continue their studies in Art and Design through an A-level or BTEC National Diploma. Art and Design GCSE is recognised by Schools, Colleges and Universities as enabling students to develop problem solving skills in a creative way which means students can apply this to more specific subject areas. These include Architecture, Textile and Fashion Design, Interior Design, Photography, Graphic and Product Design, Jewellery Design, Graphic Illustration and Film and Animation. Students may wish to diversify in KS5 or wait until they apply to University courses.

Careers

The main Art and Design based careers are listed in Progression Pathways although there are specific jobs such as stage set design, ceramicist, special effects make up artists and many more. In the current economic climate, creative problem solving, research and development skills are considered priorities in many diverse industries, including engineering, marketing, science and commerce.



GCSE Business Studies

Edexcel

Overview

GCSE Business Studies is suited to students who have an enquiring mind and are keen to understand more about the business world around them. It does not matter if you have not studied business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more. If you enjoy communicating and explaining your ideas, thinking creatively and making decisions, working with numbers to solve business problems, learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands then the GCSE Business course is the right subject for you.

You will start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You will learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Then you will move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You will learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You will learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and you'll explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

Assessment

You will sit two exam papers of 90 minutes each. Each paper is worth 50% of the total GCSE

Paper 1 - Theme 1: Investigating small Business.

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

Paper 2 - Theme 2: Building a business.

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper.

Progression Pathways

The Business GCSE can help you prepare for further education such as AS/A2 Levels and vocational courses. You will become skilled in making decisions and developing persuasive arguments creative and practical problem solving, and understanding data, finance and communication.

Careers

GCSE Business could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing, finance, politics, or the leisure and tourism industry.



GCSE Computer Science OCR

Overview

GCSE in Computer Science has been developed in response to a number of recent initiatives aimed at promoting computer science as a rigorous, knowledge-based subject discipline that should be part of every young person's education. Relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, GCSE Computer Science is designed to boost computing skills essential for 21st century.

Assessment

Unit 01 Computer systems written exam 40%

This component will introduce learners to the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It is expected that learners will become familiar with the impact of Computer Science in a global context through the study of the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with Computer Science. It is expected that learners will draw on this underpinning content when completing the Programming Project component.

Unit 02 Computational thinking, algorithms and programming written exam 40%

This component incorporates and builds on the knowledge and understanding gained in Component 01, encouraging learners to apply this knowledge and understanding using computational thinking. Learners will be introduced to algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation. Learners will become familiar with computing related mathematics. It is expected that learners will draw on this underpinning content when completing the Programming Project.

Unit 03 Programming Project 20%

Learners will need to create suitable algorithms which will provide a solution to the problems identified in the task. They will then code their solution in a suitable programming language. The solution must be tested at each stage to ensure they solve the stated problem and learners must use a suitable test plan with appropriate test data. Learners must think computationally to solve a task and while doing so create a report detailing the creation of their solution, explaining what they did and why they did it.

Progression Pathways

The course provides an excellent grounding in computer science, preparing Students for computer related A-Level and vocational courses and careers in a range of professions.

Careers

Careers directly related to your Computer Science include:

- Database administrator.
- Games developer.
- Information system manager.
- Multimedia programmer.
- Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) specialist.
- Systems analyst.
- System developer.



GCSE Design & Technology: 3D Design AQA

Overview

GCSE Design and Technology-3D Design develops the skills and knowledge that students have gained at Key Stage 3. Students will also develop awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise to a wide range of different projects. If you enjoy designing to solve problems or modifying items to make them look or work better then GCSE Three Dimensional Design allows you to continue to experiment. You will design new products and use the CAD/CAM equipment to make quality products that will be a proud addition to any interview portfolio.

Three-Dimensional Design is not just about designing and making, it can develop skills in Art and Design, CAD/CAM, ICT and Business and enables you to work cooperatively or be a team leader and manage others. 3D Design develops problem solving skills as it builds awareness of the world and helps you discover why products are made the way they are. Employers, Universities and Colleges routinely look out for students who have a wider understanding of the world and life skills

Assessment

Component 1 (portfolio 60%) A coursework portfolio which is determined by the student and teacher, areas of expertise and interest form the basis of this work. This is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 2 (exam 40%) An externally set assignment internally assessed and externally moderated. Following the pre -release material in January of Year 11, students prepare and work towards a sustained and focused piece of work carried out over sessions amounting to 10 hours.

Progression Pathways

After completing the GCSE in 3D Design students can continue their studies in Design Technology through an A-level and then a University Degree. Some courses are more specifically focused on products, furniture and fashion/textiles or combinations of these.

Careers

Jobs directly related to a 3D Design degree are; Clothing/textile technologist, colour technologist, exhibition designer, industrial/product designer and interior designer. Jobs where your degree would be useful are advertising art director, automotive engineer, graphic designer, materials engineer, product manager, purchasing manager, stylist and production designer in theatre/television/film. GCSE 3D Design will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Skills which can adapt to most career paths, some of the skills students will develop are: problem solving, research and development including engineering, marketing, design, science, ICT paths and commerce.



L2 Award in Hospitality and Catering WJEC

Overview

L2 Award in Hospitality and Catering builds on the knowledge and skills learnt through Food Technology in KS3. It equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

Assessment

The assessment is broken down into two coursework tasks and a written exam.

Component 1: Written Exam (50% of Qualification)

This will test student's knowledge of food commodities and a health balanced diet. It will look at the health risks when not following a healthy diet and the science of food. Finally it will address how to prepare food safely and successfully.

Component 2: Food in Action (50% of Qualification)

The Food Investigation

A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

The Food Preparation Assessment

Students prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

Progression Pathways

After completing a GCSE in Food Prep and Nutrition students can carry on the studies at A-Level or Vocational qualifications which are recognised within the catering industry.

Careers

Jobs directly related to Food Technology are food technologist, nutritional therapist, product/process development scientist, quality manager, regulatory affairs officer, scientific laboratory technician and technical brewer. Jobs where your degree would be useful are chef, production manager, purchasing manager, research scientist (life sciences) and a toxicologist.



GCSE Drama Edexcel

Overview

Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy:

- Expressing yourself in an active and exciting way
- Working with other people
- Exploring ideas by putting yourself in other people's shoes
- Playing many parts in different imaginary situations
- Creating your own drama work
- Performing plays written by other people
- Taking part in performances to other students and in public
- Rehearsing in your own time after school
- Attending theatre visits and workshops, including evening trips to the theatre

...then GCSE Drama is the ideal subject for you!

You must be hardworking, enthusiastic and self-disciplined. This is not a subject for the faint hearted.

Assessment

Component 1: Devising

40% of the GCSE: Performance and portfolio internally assessed

- **15 marks** for **performance** of devised piece of theatre
- **45 marks** for **portfolio**: An account of the devising process (1500 words max)

Component 2: Performance from Text

20% of the GCSE: Performances externally assessed

- **48 marks** for **two performances** from one play text
- Each performance is worth **24 marks**

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

40% of the GCSE: Written exam externally assessed (1 and a half hours)

- **Section A: Bringing text to life** (45 marks)
- **Section B: Live theatre evaluation** (15 marks)

Progression Pathways

After you have completed GCSE Drama you can go on to higher levels of study such as: GCE Drama and Theatre at AS and A Level, BTEC National Performing Arts. Continued study of Drama may lead to Drama School or BA Drama at University and ultimately a career in the rapidly expanding creative arts industry.

Careers

In the current economic climate, creative problem solving, research and development skills are considered priorities in many diverse industries. Studying Drama does not mean you will necessarily become an actor; there are many professions in the creative arts industry such as costume designer, production assistant and director etc. Away from the creative industries, studying Drama is particularly useful for those wanting careers linked to English, Psychology and Law. The transferrable skills developed through the study of Drama such as leadership, communication, confidence and teamwork can be applied in almost every career and will give students a boost when applying for jobs.



GCSE English Language - 8700

AQA

Overview

English Language is a core subject that covers all of the essential communication and creative skills: reading, writing and speaking and listening.

For GCSE English Language students will:

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism.
- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts.
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts.
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately.
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately.
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

Assessment

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Non examination Assessment: Spoken Language
Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one literature fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • descriptive or narrative writing 	Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 non-fiction text and 1 literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writing to present a viewpoint 	Key skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presenting • responding to questions and feedback • use of standard English
Assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language AO1, AO2, AO4, AO5, AO6 • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 50% of GCSE 	Assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language AO1, AO2, AO3, AO5, AO6 • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 50% of GCSE 	Assessed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teacher set throughout course • marked by teacher • separate certificate • 0% of GCSE

Progression Pathways

A grade '5' in English Language is considered a minimum standard for employers and further education colleges and universities. **A grade 6 or better in this subject will enable you to continue study in this subject at A level.**

Careers

English Language is key to all career pathways. It is essential for all university courses and sixth form colleges. With the key communication skills, as well as the knowledge, understanding, analysis, evaluation, writing and planning skills, gained in English, most career paths will be open to you.

GCSE English Literature - 8702

AQA



Overview

English Literature is studied alongside English Language and through a range of texts allows students to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking.

For GCSE English Literature students will:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, making connections
- read in depth, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- develop the habit of reading widely and often
- appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology they need to criticise and analyse what they read

Assessment

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry
<p>Section A: Shakespeare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 question on the studied play • writing in detail about an extract and the play as a whole <p>Section B: the 19th-century novel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 question on the studied novel • writing in detail about an extract and the novel as a whole 	<p>Section A: Modern texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 essay question from a choice of 2 on the studied modern prose or drama text <p>Section B: Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 comparative essay question on poems from the Power and Conflict Anthology <p>Section C: Unseen poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 question on an unseen poem • 1 question comparing the unseen poem with a second unseen poem
<p>Assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 40% of GCSE 	<p>Assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literature AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4 • Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 60% of GCSE

Progression Pathways

English Literature further develops the skills studied in Language; it develops students' communication and outlook on the world. Studying a range of Literature can be empowering and equip you with wider cultural capital. **A grade 6 or better in this subject will enable you to continue study in this subject at A-level.**

Careers

English Literature is a highly desirable GCSE going into sixth form and university. It can lead to careers in almost any field as the skills it embeds are so varied and wide reaching. Careers in the media, broadcasting, journalism, law, teaching, advertising, marketing, publishing and politics are all made possible with qualifications in English Literature.

GCSE French

AQA



Overview

The GCSE course in French is delivered through the following contexts:

Lifestyle including Relationships and culture

- Relationships with family and friends
- Free time activities
- Technology
- Future plans regarding: marriage/partnership.
- Customs and festivals in French speaking countries.

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and their consequences
- The environment

Current and future study and employment

- Education and careers

Assessment

The GCSE course is made up of 4 exam papers. Listening (25%), Speaking (25%), Reading (25%) and Writing (25%).

All papers are tested at either Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher Level (Grades 4-9), under examination conditions, at the end of the two year course.

All papers are assessed by the exam board and will be conducted at the end of the two year course.

Progression Pathways

Linguists develop a range of transferable skills which have a life long value. The course can be used to progress to A-Level Spanish. GCSE French helps students develop their language skills in a variety of contexts and a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

Careers

Whatever job or career you end up doing; did you know that with a language you can earn even more than people who don't? Did you know that if you speak another language you could do your job in a foreign country? It's all true! If you speak French, you have skills that are highly in demand with recruiters and all sorts of industries around the world. Want to be a doctor? You could work in France or Canada or even in London where over 300 languages are spoken. Our world is increasingly getting smaller and it's become even more important to speak another language.



GCSE Geography

Edexcel

Overview

Geography is the study of the earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is, quite simply, about the world in which we live. Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun.

Assessment

- The Physical Environment 94 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes written paper 35% GCSE
- The Human Environment 94 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes written paper 35% GCSE
- Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges 68 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes written exam 30% GCSE

Progression Pathways

Geography will help you develop your communication and teamwork skills, as you'll often work on group projects. You'll also develop your research and analysis skills including in IT, lab and fieldwork, which means you will be able to collect and look for patterns in data.

Employers love the mix of technical and social skills people get from studying geography, which they see as very **transferable**, i.e. useful for a whole range of jobs.

Careers

According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, and weather forecasting.

Geography will support the study of sciences, especially health and social sciences, like Biology, Sociology and Psychology.

Geography A-level is also a facilitating subject, which means that it can be useful for a whole range of university courses and will help you keep your options open.

GCSE History

Edexcel



Overview

A GCSE in History allows you to develop your analytical skills, an understanding of the past and become an extremely effective communicator. GCSE History explores a range of different time periods, from the Norman period to Elizabethan England through to Weimer Germany and the end of the Cold War in 1991. GCSE History develops the skills and knowledge that students have developed at Key Stage 3 but with a greater understanding of chronology and a focus on the bigger historical skills, such as interpreting sources and reaching a substantiated judgment. There are three exams at the end of the course in the Summer of Year 11 as shown below.

Assessment

Paper 1: Thematic study: Crime and Punishment C1000-2000

Students explore the history of crime and punishment in the UK between 1000AD and today. They explore how crime and punishment, and attitudes to them, have changed over the period. The module concludes with a source based depth study on Whitechapel C1880 and explores the conditions that led to the Jack the Ripper murders and why the police never caught the famed murderer.

Paper 2: Period study and depth study: The Cold War 1945-1991 and Elizabethan England 1558-88

Students explore the Cold War, from its ideological beginnings through to the collapse of the USSR in 1991. This allows them to explore international, superpower relations and provides them with an understanding of the world today. Students then study Elizabethan England and this turbulent time in English history, investigating how Elizabeth maintained power in a male dominated world.

Paper 3: Modern depth study: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

Students study the development of Germany from a democracy to a dictatorship, investigating the ways in which a political system can be manipulated. This provides students with a detailed understanding of what a dictatorship looks like and how the Nazis were able to use the political system to create an autocratic state.

Progression Pathways

After completing History GCSE students can continue their studies in AS and A-Level History, which builds further on the skills they have developed at GCSE. History provides students with the knowledge, understanding and analytical skills for a range of different university courses with particular links to international relations, politics, law and economics or further history studies.

Careers

Studying GCSE History helps to open doors for students as the skills they develop are much sought by employers as history students are creative, able to read critically, time manage effectively, write concisely and think in a critical manner. It is an excellent GCSE to take.

GCSE Mathematics

Edexcel



Overview

The GCSE Syllabus builds on the knowledge and skills that students have acquired at Key Stage 3, in the following five main topic areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics and probability

While studying GCSE Mathematics, students will extend their mathematical skills and understanding, and will learn to apply them to real life situations. They will be encouraged to think and communicate mathematically and to approach problem solving in a logical and systematic way. Students will be taught how to plan, monitor and evaluate their learning of mathematics and will be encouraged to develop a positive and confident attitude to the subject.

Assessment

Students are taught in sets according to ability and will follow Edexcel Linear Mathematics (1MA1). Entry is at one of two tiers, Foundation or Higher.

- The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or higher tier.
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 mark

Available grades:

- Foundation tier: grades 1 to 5.
- Higher tier: grades 4 to 9

Students are expected to bring a scientific calculator and a maths set to all Mathematics lessons. GCSE Maths at C grade from the legacy specifications is pegged to a grade 4 in the new specification.

Progression Pathways

Mathematics A level and Further Mathematics A Level are available at Cardinal Pole. The entry requirement is a Grade 7, which is equivalent to an old Grade A, or a Grade 8 for Further Mathematics. Mathematics A Level is required to study a degree in many scientific fields, as well as Mathematics itself.

Careers

Numerical skills are essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject. Almost all jobs will require a minimum of a Grade 4 (Grade C), and a higher grade will open doors and give students a range of options.

GCSE Music

AQA



Overview

GCSE Music is a challenging but enjoyable course that will appeal to students with wide-ranging musical interests. You will develop **performing, listening** and **composing skills** through study of a variety of musical styles. You will learn a range of methods employed to create musical compositions, including the use of music technology. Performing music forms 30% of the course, and the required standards are high, therefore **it is essential that you already play an instrument or take singing lessons if you wish to choose GCSE music**. As well as your timetabled class lessons you will also have a weekly instrumental/singing lesson weekly, and will need to practise every day.

Assessment

Component 1: Performing music 30%

You will develop your instrumental or vocal skills throughout the course (through lessons with an instrumental tutor and regular practice), and prepare two pieces to perform in Year 11 – one solo and one ensemble (in a group). The performances are recorded and internally assessed (marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board).

Component 2: Composing music 30%

You will learn how composers create music and you will be taught techniques that will help you develop your compositional skills. You will compose **two** final original pieces of music, either using technology (on Mac computers) or on an instrument with traditional notation. The compositions are internally assessed (marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board).

Component 3: Appraising (Listening to and Understanding Music) 40% (1hr 30 min exam).

You will learn about a range of musical styles, genres and traditions. You will develop your knowledge of music history and how different cultures developed their own styles. You will learn how to read music and interpret music through listening to it, reading about it and writing about it. This will be assessed by a listening exam at the end of Year 11.

Progression Pathways

After completing GCSE Music students can continue their studies through an A-level or vocational course, and onto degree course. Students may wish to study music GCSE to further develop the skills mentioned above or to pursue a career in the diverse music industry.

Careers

Music is a rapidly growing profession and along with other creative and performing arts is one of the UK's largest exports. Studying music may lead to a career in performance, production, sound engineering, teaching, music therapy, theatre or broadcasting. The personal skills learned through the study of music such as confidence in performance, problem solving, team work and commitment (to learning an instrument) could be beneficial in many areas of work/careers.

GCSE Physical Education

AQA



Overview

Students have the opportunity to develop their Physical Education knowledge further by choosing to opt for GCSE PE. These students will gain a further three lessons per week of GCSE PE lessons. This course is currently broken down into 40% practical and 60% theory. The practical element of the course involves students participating in a number of activities throughout the three years to gain three practical assessments by the end of the course. Students will also create a piece of written coursework as part of the PE exam which involves answering questions about an activity of the students choice and then analysing and evaluating their performance in that specified sport.

Assessment

This course is 40% practical and 60% theory. It enables students to be assessed in 3 practical activities as well as learn many different aspects of sport such as biomechanics, physiology, psychology and sociological factors, which impact on PE, and Sport.

Unit 1: The Human Body and Movement in Physical Activity and Sport

This unit covers modules such as Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis and Physical Training. It is assessed by a 1 hour and 15 minute exam and is worth 30% of the total mark. Students will learn how the body works and how its structure enables movement and how it adapts to short-term and long-term exercise.

Unit 2: Socio-Cultural Influences and Well-being in Physical Activity and Sport

This unit covers modules such as Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural Influences, and Health and Well-being. Students will learn how sports performers react to various situations and how it affects their performance. Also, students will learn about the social and cultural importance of sport and recreation and how it can also affect one's participation in sport. Furthermore, we will also explore the effect that physical activity has in improving health in schools and as a nation.

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 in an individual activity. Each activity worth 25 marks. Students will then analyse and evaluate their performance to bring about improvement in one activity as a written piece of work worth 25 marks.

Progression Pathways

After completing a Physical Education GCSE students could continue their studies in Physical Education through A-Level or Sport and Exercise Science BTEC National Diploma. There are also many Leisure, Fitness & Sport Apprenticeships available for students 16-18.

Careers

There are many career pathways that skills learned from GCSE PE would benefit. These include jobs in the fitness and leisure industry, retail, health care, civil service and education. Popular job roles include PE Teachers, Personal Trainers, Sports Coaches, Youth Workers, Physiotherapists and Sports Development Officers, to name but a few.

GCSE Religious Education Edexcel



Overview

Students study in depth Catholicism, Christianity and Judaism as a lived religion within the United Kingdom and throughout the world. The course looks at common and divergent views within Catholicism, Christianity and Judaism, in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed. They examine the significance and importance of the various beliefs and practices to Catholics and Jews today. Students also study Philosophy and Ethics in the context of Christianity, through examining arguments for the Existence of God and Religious teachings on relationships and families in the 21st century.

The course aims to develop extensive knowledge and understanding of a complete range of beliefs and practices, enabling students to make references to sources of wisdom and authority. It gives students an opportunity to develop empathetic understanding of both common and divergent views and practices within and between religions or belief systems. Students will be equipped with the skills to construct a sustained and convincing argument on matters of religion or belief, based on critical analysis and evaluation of different perspectives.

Assessment

Paper 1: Catholicism Christianity 50%

This area of study is assessed by a written examination that lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. The paper consists of four units: Beliefs and Teachings; Practices; Sources of Wisdom and Authority; Forms and Expressions of the ways of life.

Paper 2: Judaism 25%

This area of study is assessed by a written examination that lasts 50 minutes. The paper consists of two units: Beliefs and Teachings; Practices; Sources of Wisdom and Authority; Forms and Expressions of the ways of life.

Paper 3: Philosophy and Ethics 25%

This area of study is assessed by a written examination that lasts 50 minutes. The paper consists of two units: arguments for the Existence of God and Religious teachings on relationships and families in the 21st century.

Progression Pathways

After completing Religious Studies GCSE students can continue their studies Religious Studies through an A-level. Students may wish to do Religious Studies GCSE to develop the skills mentioned above or to pursue a career/higher education.

Careers

Religious Studies will equip students for a variety of positions that require the analysis of texts and complex issues, reasoned decision-making and problem-solving, sensitivity to cultural and religious diversity, and the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and effectively. In addition, the influence of religion on society, whether in faith communities or elsewhere, is such that you will be in a position to make a valuable contribution across a range of careers. Students of Religious Studies can go into career areas such as law, teaching, journalism and publishing, politics, and the charity sector.

GCSE Science Biology, Chemistry & Physics

AQA



Overview

This course option is for those students who wish to gain a deeper insight into the three Sciences. Compared with combined science, this course allows students to go into more depth with their scientific understanding and is equivalent to three GCSEs as opposed to two. Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be assessed at the end of Year 11. To be considered for this course option, you should at least be 'on track' in your assessment points and show enthusiasm for the subject.

GCSEs in Separate Sciences aim to further develop skills and knowledge that students have been introduced to at KS3 and provide a bridge between the usual GCSE subjects and the A level sciences. Each topic will provide students with the opportunity to develop in three key areas; knowledge of the curriculum, application and evaluation of this knowledge, and analysis of information or ideas provided to them.

There is a huge amount of content within GCSE Science and so successful students will be expected to consolidate their learning outside of directed science lessons. Guidance will be provided to students to allow them to develop their independent learning skills; skills that can then be applied to all subjects.

Assessment

The final assessment will consist of two Biology papers, two Chemistry papers and two Physics papers. Each paper for each subject, Biology, Chemistry and Physics is 1 hour 45 minutes long, is out of 100 marks and is worth 50% of the GCSE in that subject. Exams will include questions that assess skills across the four main strands: 1. the development of scientific thinking 2. experimental skills and strategies 3. analysis and evaluation 4. vocabulary, units, symbols and nomenclature. The types of questions contained in each paper are:

- Closed – multiple-choice, link boxes, sentence completion, labelling diagrams.
- Open – labelling/drawing diagrams, short answer, calculations, extended response.

Throughout the course students will develop practical skills through 28 Required Practicals set out by the exam board. Whilst these are not assessed as such, questions relating to these practical activities will feature on the various exam papers at the end of the course.

Progression Pathways

After completing Separate Sciences GCSE students will be in an advantageous position to continue their Science learning on into A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Students may wish to do Separate Science GCSE to develop the skills mentioned above and/or to pursue a career/higher education in a wide range of options available to successful students of science.

Careers

There are many careers that require a GCSE or above in Science. Such careers include jobs within the fields of medicine, geology, astronomy, forensic science, research and development, sport and exercise, health care, engineering and conservation. However the skills that a GCSE Science student develops are also applicable to whole range of other options. The ability to be analytical, to question and to evaluate are skills that are invaluable in so many areas of industry today.

GCSE Science Combined Trilogy AQA



Overview

Science is becoming increasingly multidisciplinary, with employers and Governments seeking scientists with skills spanning traditional subject definitions. Our Science course combines relevant, inspiring content with engaging practical work. Students will study modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be assessed at the end of Year 11 in which they will acquire two GCSEs.

GCSE Science Combined Trilogy aims to develop skills and knowledge that students have been introduced to at KS3. Each topic will provide students with the opportunity to develop in three key areas; knowledge of the curriculum, application and evaluation of this knowledge, and analysis of information or ideas provided to them.

There is a huge amount of content within GCSE Science and so successful students will be expected to consolidate their learning outside of directed science lessons. Guidance will be provided to students to allow them to develop their independent learning skills; skills that can then be applied to all subjects.

Assessment

The final assessment will consist of two Biology papers, two Chemistry papers and two physics papers. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minute long, is out of 70 marks and amounts to 16.7% of the overall GCSE. Exams will include questions that assess skills across the four main strands: 1. the development of scientific thinking 2. experimental skills and strategies 3. analysis and evaluation 4. vocabulary, units, symbols and nomenclature. The types of questions contained in each paper are:

- Closed – multiple-choice, link boxes, sentence completion, labelling diagrams.
- Open – labelling/drawing diagrams, short answer, calculations, extended response.

Throughout the course students will develop practical skills through 21 Required Practicals set out by the exam board. Whilst these are not assessed as such, questions relating to these practical activities will feature on the various exam papers at the end of the course.

Progression Pathways

After completing Science Trilogy GCSE students can continue their studies in Science through an A-level in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. Students may wish to do Science GCSE to develop the skills mentioned above and/or to pursue a career/higher education in a wide range of options available to successful students of science.

Careers

There are many careers that require a GCSE or above in Science. Such careers include jobs within the fields of medicine, geology, astronomy, forensic science, research and development, sport and exercise, health care, engineering and conservation. However the skills that a GCSE Science student develops are also applicable to whole range of other options. The ability to be analytical, to question and to evaluate are skills that are invaluable in so many areas of industry today.

GCSE Sociology

AQA



Overview

GCSE Sociology is suited to students who have an enquiring mind and are keen to understand more about Society and the world around them. It does not matter if you have not studied Sociology prior to taking this course.

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. You will develop analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying Sociology, you will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world

You will study key ideas of classical sociologists including Durkheim, Marx and Weber, referencing their view of the world and their contribution to the development of the discipline. You will also learn how to apply various research methods to different sociological contexts. You will be introduced to sociological terms and concepts concerned with social structures, social processes and social issues.

Assessment

You will sit 2 exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each. Each paper is worth 50% of the total GCSE

Paper 1 – The Sociology of families and Education	Paper 2 –The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification
You will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sociology of families • The sociology of education • Relevant areas of social theory and methodology 	You will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sociology of crime and deviance • The sociology of social stratification • Relevant areas of social theory and methodology
Questions Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses. Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.	Questions Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses. Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Progression Pathways

The Sociology GCSE can help you prepare for further education such as AS/A2 Levels and vocational courses. You will become skilled in making decisions and developing persuasive arguments, and understanding data.

Careers

GCSE Sociology could lead to work in a Sociology-related profession such as Social work, law, politics, or journalism.

GCSE SPANISH



Overview

The GCSE course in Spanish is delivered through the following contexts:

Lifestyle including Relationships and culture

- Relationships with family and friends
- Free time activities
- Technology
- Future plans regarding: marriage/partnership.
- Customs and festivals in French speaking countries.

Local, national, international and global areas of interest

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and their consequences
- The environment

Current and future study and employment

- Education and careers

Assessment

The GCSE course is made up of 4 exam papers. Listening (25%), Speaking (25%), Reading (25%) and Writing (25%).

All papers are tested at either Foundation (Grades 1-5) or Higher Level (Grades 4-9), under examination conditions, at the end of the two year course.

All papers are assessed by the exam board and will be conducted at the end of the two year course.

Progression Pathways

Linguists develop a range of transferable skills which have a life-long value. The course can be used to progress to A-Level Spanish. GCSE Spanish helps students develop their language skills in a variety of contexts and a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

Careers

Whatever job or career you end up doing; did you know that with a language you can earn even more than people who don't? Did you know that if you speak another language you could do your job in a foreign country? It's all true! If you speak Spanish, you have skills that are highly in demand with recruiters and all sorts of industries around the world. Want to be a lawyer? You could work in Spain or even in London where over 300 languages are spoken. Our world is increasingly getting smaller and it's become even more important to speak another language.



VCert Health and Fitness

Students have the opportunity to develop their Physical Education knowledge further by choosing to opt for VCert Health and Fitness. These students will gain a further three lessons per week where they will learn about human physiology, health and fitness, how the body adapts to exercise, principles of training and how to create and perform a training programme.

Assessment

This course is currently broken down into Unit 1 Introduction to body systems and principles of training in health and fitness (40% examination) and Unit 2 Preparing and planning for health and fitness (60% coursework).

Unit 1: Introduction to body systems and principles of training in health and fitness.

This unit provides learners with the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for health and fitness. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of key body systems. Learners will know and understand the short and long-term effects that health and fitness activities can have on the body. Learners will know and understand the components of fitness and the principles of training.

Unit 2: Preparing and planning for health and fitness.

This unit provides learners with the knowledge and understanding to be able to prepare and plan for health and fitness. Learners will know and understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness and be able to apply health and fitness analyses to set goals. Learners will know and understand how to test and develop components of fitness. Learners will know and understand how to structure a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely for health and fitness activities.

Progression Pathways

After completing a vocational qualification in VCert Health and Fitness, students could continue their studies in Physical Education through A-Level or Sport and Exercise Science BTEC National Diploma. There are also many Leisure, Fitness & Sport Apprenticeships available for students 16-18.

Careers

There are many career pathways that skills learned from this course would benefit. These include jobs in the fitness and leisure industry, retail, health care, civil service and education. Popular job roles include PE Teachers, Personal Trainers, Sports Coaches, Youth Workers, Physiotherapists and Sports Development Officers, to name but a few.

Notes





**OPTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE AND
SUBMITTED BY:**

THURSDAY 25TH February 2021