

A large, light blue watermark of the Wellington School crest is centered on the page. It features the same lion and 'W' design as the official crest, but in a lighter, semi-transparent color.

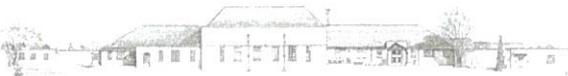
Key Stage 4 Options Booklet 2018

Wellington School

11-18 School | Headteacher Mr S P Beeley



January 2018



Dear Parent /Guardian,

In September 2018 your son/daughter will begin a two-year course leading to the award of qualifications in August 2020. In this booklet you will find details of the courses we offer and the types of assessment and examinations used.

Our aim is to allow a degree of choice whilst making sure that all students have a broad and balanced curriculum. To assist in these important decisions there will be a number of events, details of which are in this booklet.

This booklet has been designed to help parents and students in making their decisions. You are advised to read all of it and discuss its implications with subject staff before final decisions are made. Students are sometimes tempted to make choices for the wrong reasons. For example, to ensure friendship patterns can continue in Year 10 or because they like their current teacher in a particular subject. They must choose wisely having considered all the information, advice and guidance.

Inevitably, staffing levels and accommodation place constraints on the options and number of teaching groups in particular subjects which we can offer. Whilst every attempt will be made to meet students' needs, it may be necessary to offer some students alternative options from those that they initially request. This may occur if too few students opt for a subject or if there are too many to accommodate.

Please do not hesitate to contact the subject teacher, Head of Department, Mr Tomlinson, Director of Year, or Mr Fenwick, First Deputy Head (Curriculum) if you require further advice or clarification on specific subject matters or the options process itself.

Enjoy the evening.

Yours faithfully

Mr S P Beeley
Headteacher

"Excellence in Everything"

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Key Stage Four Curriculum

Core Subjects

These are the subjects all students will take; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and French or German, all lead to a GCSE qualification. All students study Physical Education and Religious Education. Students can opt to study Physical Education and Religious Education in more depth – leading to a full GCSE. Students continue to study PSHE, however this is delivered through the tutor programme and a number of themed days in Year 10 and 11.

Option Choices

As in previous years there will be an element of choice for your son or daughter. Students at Wellington School can pursue a range of further subjects in the areas of Technology, the Humanities, and the Arts. There are also courses available which are new to the students, including, Business and Enterprise, Drama and Psychology.

Students will choose three option subjects. We will endeavour to give as many students as possible their preferred three choices; however, constraints like class sizes and staffing may mean this isn't possible.

GCSE Grading System

Currently all GCSE qualifications are going through a transition. Your own experience or that of older siblings will have been letter grades, A*- G. Grade C or above is seen as a 'good' GCSE. Grade C is needed to access Level Three qualifications in Further Education e.g. A-Levels. Your son/daughter will experience the relatively new GCSE grading system. It is a numerical system, 1-9. Grade 9 is the highest grade. Grade 4 will be the equivalent of a C grade and Grade 7 the equivalent of an A grade. Grade 5 or above will be seen as a 'good GCSE'.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/policy/gcse-and-a-level-changes/9-1>

Technical Awards

Technical awards are alternative qualifications to GCSE. They are recognised by the government as equivalent to GCSEs. The grading system is different to GCSE, students can gain a pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. Below is a table which shows the equivalent GCSE grade. Whilst the table is headed V Cert, it also applies to the other technical awards of BTEC and OCR National.

Old GCSE Grading Structure	New GCSE Grading Structure	V Cert Grading Structure	
A*	9	Level 2	D* 8.5
A	8		D 7
B	7		M 5.5
C	6		P 4
D	5	Level 1	D* 3
E	4		D 2
F	3		M 1.5
G	2		P 1

We are offering four technical awards, BTEC Technical Award in Performing Arts, OCR Cambridge National in Information Technology and two NCFE VCerts, one in Health and Fitness and another in Business and Enterprise.

Technical awards differ from GCSE's in two main ways. Firstly, the curriculum content is more aligned to the world of work. Secondly, the assessment methods involve more 'controlled assessment' than GCSE's. Most GCSE's are now 100% exam, i.e. the grade a student gets is based solely on the exams they do at the end of Year 11. Technical Awards contain a minimum of 50% controlled assessment. These are assignments done in the classroom under certain conditions over a number of lessons.

It is important to note that we will withdraw these qualifications if they aren't approved by the Department for Education (DfE) in the School Performance Tables. The Government are concerned that some schools select certain technical qualifications which are not in the best interest of their students. Instead they are chosen because they can gain a school a higher rating in the performance (league) tables. As such all technical awards are reviewed each year and in January/February the DfE publish those which can count in the performance tables. It is not the inclusion in the performance tables which is our primary concern, more that inclusion on the list indicates the qualification is of the appropriate rigour and standard. It is highly likely that the courses we have chosen will be on the approved list.

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate, or EBacc, is not a new subject, but a way for the government to recognise students who have taken a certain combination of subjects. These are; English Language, Mathematics, Science, a Modern Foreign Language and either History or Geography. Only History and Geography are part of the options process – at Wellington School all the other subjects are compulsory.

Accountability Measures

As well as GCSE qualifications being used to show individual student achievement, the government uses them as a measure of school achievement. Previously, the main accountability measure was the number of students who achieve 5 GCSEs at C grade or higher, including English Language and Mathematics. When your son/daughter completes their GCSEs the measure will be the best 8 GCSE qualifications. It will include English Language or Literature (depending on the best grade) and Mathematics, three from Science, Modern Foreign Language, History, Geography and Computer Science, and any other three subjects. As all students at Wellington do at least two Sciences and a Modern Foreign Language, it allows students to have a free choice when selecting the final three subjects.

Breadth and Depth

We believe that our curriculum offers breadth and depth. The vast majority of students will start following three option subjects in addition to the mandatory element. However we are aware that very occasionally some students have difficulty coping with the number of qualifications and this can compromise the quality. Where this is the case and following consultation with you we may reduce the number of options subjects to two. This could be due to underperformance in core or option subjects.

Options Process

18th January – KS4 Options Evening

An opportunity for parents to find out about the KS4 curriculum and speak to subject teachers about the courses on offer.

24th January – Careers Event

A series of workshops will take place allowing students to learn more about certain careers and the qualifications which best suit them. In addition, they will find out more about the options process.

6th February – Student Information Sessions

Presentations from the Heads of Department will give students more information on each subject. There will also be opportunities to ask questions

8th February – Parents Evening

An opportunity to hear about your son's/daughter's progress in the various subjects they take.

2nd March

Deadline for the return of the Options Form

28th March

Confirmation of the subjects your son/daughter will take at KS4.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make my choice?

Students SHOULDN'T choose a subject because -

- Their friend is doing the course.
- They like / dislike the teacher.
- They think it will be easy.
- An older sibling took it.

Students SHOULD -

- Find out exactly what each course involves by reading the details in this booklet. Consider how well they can cope with the demands of the subject. (Ask your teachers for help.)
- Look at the assessment methods – is it 100% exam or is there controlled assessment and exams?
- Consider the entrance requirements for Higher Education Institutions or any area of employment they are interested in but remember these are minimum requirements and in today's employment situation the standard of entry may be pitched higher.
- Be careful not to close any doors at this stage because they may well change their mind about a career later on.
- Consider how well they have done in the subject so far.

We are worried about choosing an option as we have heard the course doesn't always run?

This may be the case; if the number choosing a subject is too small, the course will not run. However, it doesn't mean when you choose again you will be limited to those subjects where there is space. You will be contacted and have a choice of any other subject.

If a course is oversubscribed how you do decide who misses out?

Preference will be given to those who return the form on time. Then we will approach parents and students to let you know it is oversubscribed. This can lead to some choosing a different option. Failing this, names will be drawn at random. The exception is Triple Science; the demands of this course mean we will select based on attainment

What is a Short Course GCSE?

We offer Short Course GCSE Religious Education. All students have to study this subject in Year 10 and 11, therefore it seems logical to us to gain a qualification in the process. Short Course GCSEs have around half the content of a full GCSE. All students have two hours of Religious Education per fortnight; this is not enough time to deliver a full GCSE.

What if my son / daughter takes GCSE Full Course Religious Education?

They will get an additional five hours of study per fortnight; they will not get a short course qualification.

What is Controlled/Non Examination Assessment?

You may be more familiar with the term 'coursework'. It is similar to coursework; however the students produce the work under supervised conditions in School. The amount and nature of controlled assessment varies a great deal between subjects.

What are tiers?

In some subjects it is appropriate to set two exams to adequately test the most and least able students. Tiers are examinations set at different levels. A student entered for the higher tier can achieve a grade 4 – 9, whilst a student entered for the foundation tier can achieve a grade 1 – 5. It should be noted that a student entered on the higher tier who doesn't gain the minimum mark to get a grade 4 will gain not gain a qualification in that subject.



Key Stage 4 Core GCSE subjects

Aim

GCSE English Language encourages students to become critical readers so that they may express themselves creatively and imaginatively in their own writing. The course also develops the ability to use language to participate effectively in society and employment by developing skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (examination: 50% of grade)

Students will answer questions on an unseen piece of literary fiction. They will then produce a piece of descriptive or narrative writing

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (examination 50% of grade)

Students will read and respond to one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text. They will then write a discursive piece to express a viewpoint.

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

Students will have to produce a presentation and respond to questions and feedback. They will need to use Standard English fluently and confidently. This is a separate endorsement: whilst it is a compulsory part of the course, it does not contribute to the final GCSE grade.

Examinations and Assessment

Assessment of the course is 100% examination and is split over two papers.

Further Study

The English department offers popular A Levels in English Literature, English Language and Literature and Media Studies which all rest on strong English Language ability. As a core subject, the skills developed during the GCSE course also support Arts, Humanities and Science routes into Further Education.

Aim

GCSE English Literature affords students the opportunity to access the major genres of poetry, prose and drama. In doing so, they develop the ability to respond to texts critically and imaginatively, looking at how language, structure and form contribute to the writer's ideas. In addition, students explore how texts are linked and why they have been influential through the ages.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (examination: 40% of grade)

Students will study a Shakespeare play from a choice of *Macbeth* and *Much Ado About Nothing*

Students will also study a 19th century novel. Text choices will be made from the following list by class teachers: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (Robert Louis Stevenson); *A Christmas Carol* (Charles Dickens) and *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley).

Paper Two: Modern Texts and Poetry (examination: 60% of grade)

Students will study a modern prose or drama text and a selection of poetry. They will also have to respond to unseen poetry in this unit.

Text choices will be made from: *An Inspector Calls* (J.B. Priestley), *Blood Brothers* (Willy Russell) and *Animal Farm* (George Orwell)

Examinations and Assessment

Assessment of the course is 100% examination and is split over two papers.

Further Study

GCSE English Literature is an excellent starting point for A Level study in the same field; the department currently offers popular A Levels in both English Literature and English Language and Literature. With a strong focus on analysis, English Literature also supports the study of other Humanities A Levels including REP, Psychology, History as well as Sociology and Media Studies

Aim

Mathematics teaches a number of vital skills that allow students to cope with the demands of the world, including the ability to think in abstract ways and an understanding of how to solve problems logically. Mathematics exists in many different aspects of life, including art, finance, economics, science and technology, and the course aims to foster a greater understanding of the part that Mathematics plays in these areas. It also helps equip students with the level of numeracy needed to function in everyday situations. The Higher Tier GCSE course also aims to prepare students who wish to study Mathematics at Advanced Level.

Grades Available

4 - 9	Higher Tier
1 - 5	Foundation Tier

Outline of the Course

There are three components

Assessment Objective 1: Use and apply standard techniques;

Assessment Objective 2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically;

Assessment Objective 3: Solve problems within mathematics in other contexts.

The programme of study includes work on

Number;

Algebra;

Ratio, proportion and rates of change;

Geometry and measures;

Probability and statistics.

Examinations and Assessment

All the assessment is by means of three written papers, taken at the end of Year 11 (two of which are calculator papers), each worth 33% and each 1 hour and 30 minutes long. Each of the papers is designed to cover all components of the course.

Further Study

Candidates who are successful at Higher Tier are likely to be able to continue their studies at A Level – while recognising that the step up to A Level from GCSE is significant and not one to be embarked upon lightly. The acquisition of a good grade at GCSE is vital for many lines of further study, including many not necessarily connected with the subject.

Aim

The course aims to stimulate student curiosity, interest and enjoyment of science. The GCSE in Combined Science requires students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of working scientifically. Students learn to apply scientific concepts and skills in designing and carrying out experiments to solve problems. Students are encouraged to consider and discuss the practical applications of science and technology in our society and the issues and problems that scientific discoveries can bring.

Grades Available

4-9

Higher Tier

1-5

Foundation Tier

Outline of the Course

There are six units studied in Year 10 and 11. Practical work is embedded in each unit. Combined Science is worth two GCSE's.

Biology Content Overview

Biology 1: Cells and control, genetics, natural selection and genetic modification, ecosystems and material cycles

Biology 2: Plant structures and their functions, animal coordination, control and homeostasis, Exchange and transport in animals, health, disease and the development of medicines.

Chemistry Content Overview

Chemistry 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table, ionic and covalent bonding, types of substance, calculations involving masses, states of matter, methods of separating and purifying substances, acids, obtaining and using metals, electrolytic processes, reversible reactions and equilibria.

Chemistry 2: Groups 1,7,0, rates of reaction, fuels, heat energy changes in chemical reactions, earth and atmospheric science

Physics Content Overview

Physics 1: Motion, forces and conservation of energy, waves, light and the electromagnetic spectrum, particle model, radioactivity, astronomy.

Physics 2: Forces doing work, forces and their effects, electricity and circuits, magnetism and the motor effect, particle model, forces and matter

Examinations and Assessment

Assessment is by examination. There is an exam for each of the six units. Practical skills are also assessed through these written examinations.

Further Study

Study of Science offers students routes into a variety of different career options and further education study. Students could study courses that have clear links to the Sciences such as Forensic Science, Engineering, Medicine, Zoology, and Pharmacology.

Aim

GCSE German encourages students to derive enjoyment from language learning and be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. Students should recognise that their linguistic knowledge, understanding and skills help them to take their place in a multilingual global society and also provide them with a suitable basis for further study and practical use of the language. GCSE German prepares students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

The specification aims to give candidates the opportunity to:

- develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts
- develop knowledge of language learning skills
- develop the ability to communicate effectively in the language
- develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Grades Available

4-9

Higher Tier

1-5

Foundation Tier

Outline of the Course

Over the two year course, students will develop their abilities in the following areas:

Listening by responding to a variety of spoken German, including authentic materials such as songs, announcements and adverts.

Speaking by taking part in role plays and conversations and making presentations.

Reading by demonstrating understanding of a variety of texts.

Writing by producing a variety of written texts for different purposes.

Examinations and Assessment

There are four elements assessed:

SKILL	TIMING & TIER	% OF GCSE
Listening (Year 11 exam)	35 minutes Foundation Tier. 45 minutes Higher Tier.	25%
Speaking (Year 11 exam)	Speaking test. 7-9 minutes Foundation Tier. 10-12 minutes Higher Tier.	25%
Reading (Year 11 exam)	45 minutes Foundation Tier. 1 hour Higher Tier.	25%
Writing (Year 11 exam)	Written exam. 1 hour Foundation tier. 1 hour 15 minutes Higher Tier.	25%

Students will be entered for either Foundation or Higher Tier. Students will do the same tier in ALL papers.

Further Study

A GCSE in German will open up many opportunities for further study. Academic routes will take students on to A Level and a variety of degree courses at university. A Modern Foreign Language is an excellent supporting subject for a variety of career paths, for example Marketing, Law and Tourism. Of course, German can be further studied in its own right, leading to careers in Translation, Teaching and Journalism.

RE (Short Course)

Exam Board	AQA
Syllabus Number	8061

Aim

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, value, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious, ethical and philosophical issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. These skills will help to prepare them for future study.

Grades Available:

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Unless students choose GCSE RE (full course) they will study GCSE RE (short course). Over the two years of the course students study the units indicated below:

Component One: The study of beliefs teachings and practice in Islam and Christianity

Component Two: Thematic Studies based on two themes

Theme A: Relationships and families

Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict

Examinations and Assessment

The course is assessed through 100% examination. Students will complete one exam paper lasting for one hour and 45 minutes.

Further Study

This course can lead to a variety of both further study options and career paths. After studying this GCSE, students will have the foundation knowledge required to commence an A-Level course in Religion, Ethics and Philosophy. The skills and content within the GCSE Religious Studies specification also offers an excellent base for studying A level subjects such as English, other Humanities subjects and the Social Sciences including Sociology and Psychology.

In relation to careers, this subject is suited to a broad spectrum of jobs in the arena of Education, Social Work, Journalism, Law, Medicine, Public Relations, Charity Work and many more.



Key Stage 4 Optional GCSE subjects

Aim

The aim of the GCSE Art & Design course is to develop creative and imaginative individuals who can express themselves and communicate their ideas whilst learning a range of skills and techniques across a broad range of materials.

Students will explore a range of artists, craftspeople and designers to support their development and reflect their understanding of how and why art is created.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Students are taught a range of drawing and mark making techniques that explore a range of materials. Pattern, shape and colour are also developed to create work that is expressive, creative and experimental.

The work of artists is explored to further extend their use of materials and creativity. Students are supported in independent study to investigate these artists in more depth and to show understanding of the context in which art is created.

Design work is carried out to take their ideas and work to a final outcome. Final outcomes can be in paint, textiles, graphics, 3D or mixed media.

Examinations and Assessment

Component 1 – Portfolio of Work, 60% of final grade

Component 2 – Externally set Assignment, 40% of final grade

Both units are internally assessed and externally moderated

Further Study

After studying GCSE Art you can go on to study A-Level Art. It will help access a huge number of potential opportunities in Art including; Architecture, Graphics, Web Design, Jewellery, Ceramics, 3D design, Film & Photography, Fashion and Animation.

It provides a number of skills that employers are looking for in an employee, independence, team work, communication, problem solving, research skills and creativity. It can be a key influence in the following career paths; Teaching, Hairdressing, Gardening, Childcare and Beauty.

Aim

GCSE Media Studies makes understanding the media industry interesting, challenging and creative. It offers rigorous but accessible learning on a subject of key importance for young peoples' understanding of the world they experience. The course offers extensive coverage of media theory and practice, creating opportunities to learn about real media products and industries.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course**Component 01: Television and promoting media**

- In section A: *Television*, students engage with an in-depth study of one contemporary and one historic television products, responding to questions covering the whole of the theoretical framework and a range of media contexts
- In section B: *Promoting media*, students study media products from the same global conglomerate producer illustrating the media forms of film, advertising and marketing, and video games.

Component 02: Music and news

- In section A: *Music*, students engage with one in-depth study covering magazines, a comparative study of music videos and a study of contemporary radio.
- In section B: *News*, students engage with one in-depth study of online news, including its social and participatory media. Students also study contemporary and historical newspaper front pages and how they illustrate changing social, cultural, historical and political contexts.

Component 03: Creating media

- Students apply their knowledge and understanding of media language and representations to create media products of their own, using the theoretical framework to express and communicate meaning to an intended audience

Examinations and Assessment

- **Component One:** Written examination, 1hr 45minutes (35%)
- **Component Two:** Written examination, 1hr 15minutes (35%)
- **Component Three:** Non Examination Assessment (30%)

Further Study

GCSE Media Studies leads directly into Media Studies A-Level. It also complements A-Levels in English Language and Literature, English Literature, Art and Design and Graphic Communication.

Aim

Studying music at GCSE allows students to continue developing skills from Key Stage 3, with the study of music from different musical periods and genres. They also have to participate in musical performances, either through the use of music technology, playing instruments or singing; as well as being given the opportunity to learn about the recording process. Compositional skills are also taught in a traditional sense, using notation as well as using different software to create electronic music. The course also gives students the opportunity to develop broader life skills, including critical and creative thinking, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

The course is split into 3 units: Performing; Composing; and Appraising. The 3 disciplines are taught and developed around the study of 8 set works and non-familiar music from 4 different areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700-1820; Vocal Music; Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

Examinations and Assessment

Unit	Assessment Type	Date of completion	Duration	Weighting
1. Performing	Non-examined assessment	December 2018	N/A	30%
2. Composing	Non-examined assessment	March 2019	N/A	30%
3. Appraising	Written examination	May 2019	1h 45m	40%

Further Study

The GCSE in Music leads directly in to the Music or Music Technology A-Level. Students will have enough technological and musical knowledge and experience to continue developing their skills at A-Level.

Aim

The aim of this course is to build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give students exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active healthy lifestyle.

Students will be assessed as performers in three sports. They must have an interest in physical education and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy. Students will also be given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, organising inter-form activities with staff and supervising Sports Day. They will also lead activity sessions to primary school pupils.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the courseTheory

Year 10	Health, Fitness and Well Being	Sports Psychology	Social Cultural Influences	Data Analysis
Year 11	Anatomy & Physiology	Movement Analysis	Physical Training	Skill Acquisition

Practical

Students will take part in a full range of activities; they will cover traditional invasion games, racket sports and athletics. Students can also be assessed in activities that they take part in outside of school, for example, dance, cycling, skiing and horse-riding.

Examinations and Assessment

15% practical assessment in 3 sports/activities

15% personal exercise programme related to a practical activity

70% theory exam at the end of Year 11

Further Study

This course can lead to a variety of further study options and career paths. After studying this GCSE, students will have the foundation knowledge required to commence an A-Level course in Physical Education. The skills and content within the GCSE Physical Education specification also offers an excellent base for studying A-level subjects such as Biology and Applied Science.

In relation to careers this subject is suited to a broad spectrum of jobs in the arena of Education, Coaching, Fitness Industry, Physiotherapy, Sports Journalism, Outdoor Pursuits and many more.

Aim

The course aims to encourage students to develop a personal interest in and enthusiasm for psychology and prepare them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. Pupils engage in the process of psychological enquiry in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. They develop an awareness of why psychology matters; acquire knowledge and understanding of how psychology works and its essential role in society. They also develop an understanding of the relationship between psychology and social, cultural, scientific and contemporary issues and the impact of psychology on everyday life.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Module of Study	What will be covered
Studies and applications in Psychology 1	Criminal Psychology, Development, Psychological Problems and Research Methods
Studies and applications in Psychology 2	Social Influence, Memory, Sleep and Dreaming and Research Methods

Examinations and Assessment

Studies and applications in Psychology 1	One hour and 30 mins. 90 marks. 50%
Studies and applications in Psychology 2	One hour and 30 mins. 90 marks. 50%

Further Study

After studying this GCSE, students will have the foundation required to commence an A-Level course in Psychology. The skills and content within the GCSE also offer an excellent base for studying A-level subjects such as Sociology, Religion and Philosophy and other Science based subjects. Career opportunities are vast; for example, Psychology, Public Services, Media and Marketing and Sport.

Aim

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, value, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. These skills will help to prepare them for future study.

Grades Available:

1 – 9

Outline of the Course

Component One: The study of beliefs teachings and practice in Islam and Christianity.

Component Two: Thematic Studies.

For Component Two, students will complete the themes below:

Theme A: Relationships and families

Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

Theme F: Religion, human rights and justice

Examinations and Assessment

The course is assessed through 100% examination. Students will complete one exam paper for Component One worth 50% of the GCSE (1 hr and 45 minutes). They will then complete a second exam paper on Component Two also worth 50% of the GCSE (1 hour and 45 minutes). The two components will be added together to give a final GCSE grade.

Further Study

This course can lead to further study options and career paths. After studying this GCSE, students will have the foundation knowledge required to commence an A-Level course in Religion, Ethics and Philosophy. The skills and content within the GCSE Religious Studies specification also offers an excellent base for studying A level subjects such as English, Humanities and the Social Sciences including Sociology and Psychology.

In relation to careers, this subject is suited to a broad spectrum of jobs in the arena of Education, Social Work, Journalism, Law, Medicine, Public Relations, Charity Work and many more.

Biology, Chemistry, Physics (Separate Sciences)

Exam Board
Syllabus Number

Edexcel
1BIO, 1CHO,1PHO

Aim

The course aims to inspire, challenge and motivate students by a broad, in depth and coherent study. Students develop their curiosity about the world around them allowing them to experience how science works across all three disciplines. Due to the demanding nature of this course, this is a 'guided' option. A students' level of attainment and their commitment to science will be used to determine their suitability for the qualification.

Grades Available

4-9	Higher Tier
1-5	Foundation Tier

Outline of the Course

Students are awarded 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In order to complete the three subjects, students need to use one of their option choices in addition to the compulsory science time all students have.

All GCSE Science courses are now linear in nature, meaning that all examinations will be terminal. This means that students will be examined at the end of their studies in June 2018.

Every student studying the separate sciences will cover the same base content as students covering the Combined Science course (see earlier pages), however in the separate sciences students cover the topics in more depth; deepening their conceptual understanding of each of the scientific disciplines.

Examinations and Assessment

GCSE Chemistry	External Assessment 100%	2 x 100 mark written examinations
GCSE Biology	External Assessment 100%	2 x 100 mark written examinations
GCSE Physics	External Assessment 100%	2 x 100 mark written examinations

Practical skills are also assessed through these written examinations.

Further Study

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics provide the best foundation for studying A-Level Sciences. Career opportunities from studying the three Sciences are highly varied from Medicine and Dentistry to Engineering and Architecture as well as the less obvious links with careers in Law and Business.

Aim

The incredible developments in computer technology over recent years have led to an explosion of computer usage by businesses and home users. We live in an increasingly digital world where the use of computers is inescapable. Computer Science aims to give those who study it a deep understanding of how computer systems work. It empowers students to be creators of applications, rather than passive consumers of technology.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

1. Fundamentals of algorithms: how computers search and sort data.
2. Programming: Writing computer code to follow planned algorithms.
3. Fundamentals of data representation: How all data (text, images and sound) can be represented by binary code.
4. Computer systems: The hardware and software components that make a computer.
5. Fundamentals of computer networks.
6. Fundamentals of cyber security.
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society.
8. Aspects of software development: The stages involved in developing software.

Examinations and Assessment

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving. This component is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade and assesses computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing as well as theoretical knowledge of computer science from subject content 1–4 above.

Paper 2: The second paper is also worth 40% of the final grade and assesses theoretical content from subject content 3-7 above.

Non-exam assessment: Students design, create and test a program to solve a given problem. This assessment takes approximately 20 hours and is worth the remaining 20% of the GCSE grade and assesses subject content 8 above.

Further Study

Computer Science GCSE supports further study in Computer Science A-Level or vocational equivalents. Students can then progress to courses at university such as systems engineering, software engineering and artificial intelligence. Career prospects in the computing industry are wide ranging. Other than for those who aspire to work in the computer industry, there are many others who may choose Computer Science. Study of the subject supports progress in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It develops transferable skills, particularly logical thinking and problem solving.

Aim

GCSE 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, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an interesting course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition and the working characteristics of food materials as well as where food comes from and issues affecting food choice. The course is designed to nurture students' practical cookery skills with five core topics:

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

Students will be expected to work alone as well as part of a group and anyone who is interested in food would enjoy this course.

Examinations and Assessment

Students will be required to produce two non-examination assessments which will account for 50% of the final GCSE grade. Both non-examination assessments will take place in Year 11.

Food Investigation	45 marks	10 hours
Understanding the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.		
Food Preparation	105 marks	20 hours
Planning, preparing, cooking, and presenting a final menu demonstrating knowledge, skills and application of nutrition related to a chosen task specified by AQA.		

A final examination will provide the remaining 50% of the total GCSE grade.

Written Examination	100 marks	1hr 45mins
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Further Study

Following the successful completion of GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition it provides students with the knowledge and practical skills that would benefit further study or employment. These areas are Cooking and Food Preparation, Catering, Hospitality, Food Science and Technology, Nutrition, Dietician or training as a Chef.

Aim

GCSE Design and Technology is an exciting and creative course that will prepare students to participate confidently 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. Students will get the opportunity to become creative and critical thinkers, developing skills to design and apply practical expertise to make products that solve real and relevant problems.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. Students will then study specialist technical principles in greater depth in either Graphic Products, Product Design or Textiles.

- Core technical knowledge of Design and Technology principles
- Specialist technical principles.
- Designing and making principles.

Examinations and Assessment

Students will be required to produce one non examination assessment which will account for 50% of the final GCSE grade. The non-examination assessment will take place from the 1st June 2019.

Non Examination Assessment	100 marks	Proximately 35-40 hours
Students undertake a substantial design and make task where needs and requirements are identified through investigation. Design solutions are created to meet those needs and prototype products are manufactured and evaluated. All work is will be presented in a design portfolio.		

A final examination will provide the remaining 50% of the total GCSE grade.

Written Examination	100 marks	2 hours
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Further Study

Following the successful completion of GCSE Design and Technology, and depending on the specialist route they have followed: students can go on to study 'A' Level Product Design, Textiles, Art or Graphic Communication. It also provides the knowledge and practical skills that would benefit further study or employment in many areas such as Graphic Design, Website Design, Packaging Design, Video Game Design Interior Design, Architecture, Construction, Civil Engineering, Fashion Design, Fashion Illustration and Garment Technology, to name a few!

Aim

The aim of the course is to develop students' ability to create, perform and respond to drama. In addition, students will explore performance texts and seek to understand their social, cultural and historical contexts. Throughout the two years, students will develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to theatrical performance. Confidence in performance and communication are essential skills for this course.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Devising Drama: Students will be given a stimulus from which they must create a piece of drama. Students will create a portfolio to accompany the creative processes of this unit.

Performance from text: Students will be given two extracts from a text which will be performed to, and externally marked by, a visiting examiner. An audience is required for this part of the course. A performance realisation document will also be written before the examiner arrives at the centre.

Theatre Makers in Practice: The written exam is broken down into two sections. For section A of the exam, students will be given one question which will be based on an unprepared extract from a text which students will have studied in depth. For section B, students will be given two questions which will ask them to analyse and evaluate a piece of live theatre which the students will have seen.

Examinations and Assessment

Devising Drama: Non-Examined Assessment, 40% of the qualification, 60 marks

Performance from text: Non-Examined Assessment, 20% of the qualification, 48 marks
Externally assessed by visiting examiner

Theatre Makers in Practice: Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 40% of the qualification, 60 marks

Further Study

Drama offer a clear route into further and higher education for drama, performance and English-related courses. Career opportunities are numerous, for example, Acting, Presenting, Stage Managing, Drama Therapy and Directing. In addition, students develop skills which support other further/higher education courses and career pathways. These include the ability to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively.

Aim

Throughout the GCSE geography course students have the opportunity to consider a variety of geographical issues and, in doing so, become knowledgeable and critical geographers. There is a strong emphasis on the understanding of physical processes in the environment, as well as the management and mismanagement of resources by people. Students also have the opportunity during this course to develop their fieldwork skills.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

The course is divided into three main themes:

Section 1: Living with the physical environment

In this section study will focus on the challenge of natural hazards including volcanoes, earthquakes and tropical storms. Weather and climate change is also a focus, followed by physical landscapes of the UK, including coasts and rivers. Finally, the living world which includes ecosystems such as tropical rainforests and hot deserts or cold environments.

Section 2: Challenges in the human environment

This section covers population, urban growth, the changing economic world and global development. Resource management including the global distribution of food, water and energy and in particular detail the demand for food resources globally are also a focus.

Section 3: Geographical applications and skills

This section involves the undertaking two different fieldwork tasks that will be assessed in the final examinations at the end of Year 11. Pre-released material is received 12 weeks prior to the examination which will be studied in lesson time.

Examinations**Examination**

There are three exam papers at the end of Year 11. The first examination focuses on section 1 of the course, physical geography. It is 90 minutes long and makes up 35% of the total GCSE grade. The second paper is also 90 minutes long, also making up 35% of the GCSE grade. This examination focuses on section 2 of the course, human geography. The final paper is 75 minutes long and makes up the final 30% of the total GCSE grade. This examination has a focus on section 3, geographical applications and skills. There is no controlled assessment for geography. The examination makes up 100% of the final grade.

Further Study

Geography is a strong, traditional subject that can be of use to students when taking up a variety of further educational courses, as well as in the world of work. It also gives students an excellent platform and skills base to move on to A level studies and beyond in a wide range of subject areas.

Aim

The aim of the course is to ensure that not only do students achieve an excellent grade at GCSE, but also to develop in students a life-long curiosity and a passion for furthering their knowledge about the past. The students will be guided on how to develop their skills of source analysis and how to evaluate a range of themes and factors that have led to developments and conflict throughout History. They will be encouraged to think independently and to develop their own judgements. Furthermore, their communication skills will be enhanced through the focus on writing a sustained and justified argument, and through lively classroom debate.

Grades Available

1 - 9

Outline of the Course

Students undertake a module which focuses on changes and developments in the 'Settlement of the American West' over a period of around 100 years. In addition, they will study a module on Modern European History in the period between the wars; this will specifically concentrate on how the governments of Europe tried to deal with the emergence of Hitler, Nazi Germany and the other dictators in the 1920s and 1930s. They will also study 'Britain: The Health and The People', a course that follows the development of medical knowledge and procedure throughout time, and specifically its impact on health in Britain, from medieval plague doctors to modern day keyhole surgery, including the development of Public Health. Finally, we will study 'Norman Britain' and this module will include a study of a local historical site.

Examinations and Assessment

The course is examined through 2 formal examinations, lasting one hour forty-five minutes each, one for the America and the Modern European module; and the other will focus on the Medicine and the Medieval modules.

Both of these examinations will take place at the end of Year 11.

Further Study

History is a well-respected academic subject that is viewed favourably by colleges, universities and employers alike due to the rigour of the academic content and the analytical skills that are developed in the process. Furthermore, a good qualification in History suggests that a person is self-disciplined, independent, organised and able to communicate well.

History is a particularly useful course to support the study of English, Politics, Economics and Psychology, as well as offering an interesting alternative area of study alongside the Sciences and Mathematics.



Key Stage 4 Optional Technical Awards

Aim

The BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry. Students will develop specific practical skills and techniques, devise and deliver performances and analyse and evaluate their performances. This course will suit students with an interest in the practical side of performing arts.

Grades Available

Level 2: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Level 1: Distinction, Merit, Pass

Outline of the Course**Component One: Exploring the Performing Arts**

Students will research dramatists and recreate and re-enact drama in the style of these practitioners. They will explore performance skills and styles and look at roles within the industry.

Component Two: Developing Skills and Techniques

Pupils participate in workshops of specific performance skills and are then assessed on their ability to demonstrate them.

Component Three: Performing to a Brief

Pupils will be set a brief which they must use to inspire their own dramatic performance.

Examinations and Assessment

Component One: 30%; internally assessed assignment

Component Two: 30%; internally assessed assignment

Component Three: 40%; externally assessed by a visiting moderator

Further Study

The BTEC Tech Award offers a clear route into further and higher education for drama, performance and directorial courses. Career opportunities are numerous, for example, acting, presenting, stage managing, drama therapy and directing. In addition, students develop skills which support other further/higher education courses and career pathways. These include the ability to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively.

Aim

Modern life is influenced like never before by digital data. It is impossible to go through a single day without interacting with a system that makes use of it. Our society relies on it to function correctly. The generation and analysis of data will be the key to solving some of the greatest challenges facing humanity, such as global warming, generating new antibiotics and how to meet the needs of an aging and expanding population. Studying the Cambridge National in Information Technology will teach students how data is gathered, analysed, communicated and presented. They will learn about the software, hardware and techniques used in data management projects.

Grades Available

Level 2: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Level 1: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Outline of the Course

1. Understand the tools and techniques that can be used to initiate and plan data management solutions – project planning.
2. To be able to initiate and plan a solution to meet an identified need – project management.
3. Understand how data and information can be collected, stored and used.
4. Understand the factors to be considered when collecting and processing data and storing data/information – protecting data from hackers and malware, the legal framework around data and ensuring it is reliable.
5. To be able to import and manipulate data to develop a solution to meet an identified need – use of spreadsheet and database software.
6. Understand the different methods of processing data and presenting information.
7. To be able to select and present information in the development of the solution to meet an identified need.
8. To be able to iteratively review and evaluate the development of the solution.

Examinations and Assessment

Exam: Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions. This component is worth 50% of the final GCSE grade and assesses content from topics 1, 3, 4 and 6 above.

Project: Developing technological solutions. A 20-hour project which assesses students' ability to plan a project and gather, manipulate and present data. This covers topics 2, 5, 7 and 8 above.

Further Study

The skills, knowledge and understanding students will develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study. They will support them in a range of subject areas such as A Levels in Business and Computer Science or vocational IT qualifications. They can also support their progression into employment through Apprenticeships in areas such as Digital Marketer or Business Administrator.

Aim

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in health and fitness. It will provide learners with experience of using different training techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will also provide them with the opportunity to develop and experience their own fitness programme.

This qualification aims to:

- focus on an applied study of the health and fitness industry sector
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability
- provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills

Grades Available

Level 2: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Level 1: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Outline of the course**Unit 01**

Principles of health and fitness

Unit 02

Healthy lifestyles

Unit 03

Preparing and planning for health and fitness

Unit 04

Develop a personal health and fitness programme

Examinations and Assessment

25% examined (Unit 3)

75% Non-examined assessments. This involves assignments based on Units 1, 2 and 4

Further Study

This course can lead to a variety of further study options and career paths. After studying this Vcert, students will have the foundation knowledge required to commence a NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Sport (Sport, Exercise and Fitness)

In relation to careers this subject is suited to a broad spectrum of jobs in the arena of Nutrition, Coaching, Fitness Industry, Physiotherapy, Sports Journalism, Outdoor Pursuits and many more.

Aim

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to business and enterprise that includes a vocational and hands-on element. It has been developed to enthuse and inspire learning about a career in business and enterprise. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to either set up their own business, move into employment or progress onto further study.

The qualification aims to:

- Develop a broad and comprehensive understanding of business and enterprise
- Develop a significant knowledge core which spans the vocational sector
- Provide academic & study skills that will support progressions within business and enterprise.

Grades Available

Level 2: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Level 1: Distinction *, Distinction, Merit, Pass

Outline of the course**Unit 1**

Introduction to business and enterprise

Unit 2

Marketing for business and enterprise

Unit 3

Finance for business and enterprise

Unit 4

Plan, develop and participate in a business or enterprise project

Examinations and Assessment

Units 1,3, & 4 (75%) – Portfolio of Evidence by completing assignments throughout the course

Unit 2 (25%) – Examined externally

Further Study

The successful complete of the course can lead to a variety of further study options and career paths. Learners will gain a sound foundation to progress onto Level 3 VCert in Business or A Level Business courses.

In relations to careers, this course can lead to a careers in Marketing, Administration, Finance, setting up their own business to Travel and Tourism.

Notes