



WHITLEY BAY HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 Option Booklet

Information For
Year 9 Parents/Carers
and Students

2023/24



Welcome



This option booklet includes information about all the courses available to study at GCSE level.

All students study English, Maths and Science (core subjects). In addition to the core subjects, students can select a number of other option subjects. Each head of department has included details of the syllabus and assessment and some comments from students about the types of learning in their subject.

Students will get lots of support in helping them make these important GCSE choices. This help includes a meeting with a senior member of staff to discuss options and offer further advice and guidance. These guidance meetings will start taking place next term.

At any stage in the process parents/carers must not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further support.

The school number is 0191 731 7070.

Contents



Department Heads

English Language & Literature

Mathematics

Science

Applied Studies

Art & Design

Art & Design Textiles

Business

Child Development

Computer Science

Design Technology (DIT)

Drama

Food Preparation & Nutrition

Food Preparation & Nutrition

French

Geography

German

Health & Social Care

History

Information Technology

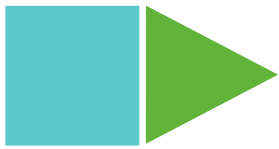
Music

Physical Education

Religious Studies

Sports Studies

Spanish



Department Heads

English Language & Literature

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Science

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Alternative Education Provision (AEP)

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Art & Design Textiles

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Business

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Child Development

Lois Thomson

Computer Science

Andrew Johnson

Design & Technology

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Drama

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Food Preparation & Nutrition

Justine Chapman

French

Brin Reece

Geography

Kirsty Cuthbert

German

Brin Reece

Health & Social Care

Lois Thomson

History

Hilary Henderson

Information Technology

Jane Bennetts

Music

Kieran Baldwin

Physical Education

Lisa Wrigglesworth

Religious Studies

Hilary Henderson

Sports Studies & Physical Education

Lisa Wrigglesworth

Spanish

James Rivett



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

"GCSE English is brilliant, you really start to look at the heart of the language. You study plays, novels and poems which makes lessons really enjoyable."

Course Overview

In English students develop their knowledge of English language and English literature. They will develop their understanding of how to be a writer and this will involve them writing narratives and descriptions as well as writing non-fiction for a range of different purposes and audiences such as argumentative pieces for newspaper articles. In literature students will study a variety of literary texts including novels, plays and poetry and covering a wide range of themes including power and conflict, morality and society. At the heart of our curriculum is the idea that students need to become adept at the following key skills: to be able to curate knowledge to develop their own understanding; to be able to become a critic of texts; to be able to understand the writer's craft and to be able to craft their own writing. Students who specialise in English can enter a range of careers such as teaching, journalism and writing, theatre, media, public relations, cultural and heritage work.

Examination Board - **AQA**

English Language Assessment through examination - **100%**

English Literature Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

English Literature

Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel

Students will study 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare in order to answer an exam question on an extract which they must link to the whole text. They will also study the novel 'Jekyll and Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson and again answer a question on an extract and the whole text.

Modern Texts and Poetry

Students study a collection of poetry from an anthology based on the themes of Power and Conflict. They have to compare two poems in the exam. They are also required to analyse 'unseen' poetry in the exam. Students also study the play 'An Inspector Calls' and answer a question on character or theme in the exam.

English Language

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Students analyse narratives and look at how writers craft their texts through their use of language and structure. They are then required to write their own narrative or description.

Viewpoints and Perspectives

Students focus on non-fiction writing and again explore how writers craft their texts to shape meaning. They have to compare two non-fiction texts and then produce their own. For example, they may be asked to write an article or speech.

Speaking and Listening Assessment

Students deliver a speech to the class on an agreed topic.



MATHS

"Teachers make maths lessons fun but at the same time make sure you have all the skills to do well in your GCSE exam."

Course Overview

GCSE Maths builds on the core skills students have embedded throughout middle school and in year 9. We will develop skills in number, ratio, algebra, data, probability, and shape. Students are taught how to use problem solving in each aspect of maths and are taught how to answer traditional mathematical questions and those that are in a real-life context. With a strong focus of problem solving in GCSE Maths, as well as many areas of work requiring certain grades in the subject, GCSE Maths will help access a very broad range of careers.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Algebra

This unit covers linear equations, quadratics, functions (higher only), simultaneous equations, graphs and inequalities.

Number

This unit includes knowledge of types of numbers, fractions, indices and surds.

Ratio

In this unit, students will learn how to simplify, divide into a ratio and as well as problem solving with ratio.

Data

In this unit, students will learn about a various range of data including; pie charts, scatter graphs, venn diagrams, tree diagrams, histograms (higher only) and cumulative frequency graphs (higher only).

Shape

This unit includes area and perimeter, Pythagoras, trigonometry, volume and circle theorems (higher only).



SCIENCE

"The practical work we do really helps me understand the things we are studying."

Course Overview

Students will gain a greater appreciation of the world around them through the study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Practical work forms the backbone of the course and students will gain important analysis and evaluation skills from the experiments they conduct. Many students go on to study Science at A-level and beyond.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

AQA Combined Science (2 GCSEs in Science)

Followed by the great majority of students at Whitley Bay High School. It offers a good grounding in all 3 scientific disciplines and will support progress towards any science A-level. Students will be awarded two Science GCSEs upon completion of the course.

AQA Separate Science (3 GCSEs in Science)

This course will be offered to some students at the end of year 9. This course leads to individual awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

This accelerated course is only suitable for the most able and motivated students. Like combined science, students will be able to study all science options at A-level. The school will choose the small number of students we believe can be successful following this more demanding route.



ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROVISION

This is only available for students for whom an alternative curriculum is the most appropriate pathway

"I like the variety of subjects you can do and opportunities we get. The lessons are more practical based and there are fewer exams than my other subjects."

Course Overview

The Alternative Education Provision (AEP) is ideal for young people who are creative and willing to try new experiences. There are multiple pathway options within the AEP offer which is managed by the Alternative Provision Team who provide students with tailored pastoral support alongside their bespoke curriculum package.

Each bespoke curriculum package will be individualised to a student's needs based on careers information, advice and guidance, alongside an initial assessment at the start of the chosen pathway. Students can access the AEP offer across up to four option blocks depending on subject interest, individual needs and student profile. As part of AEP provision, it may be best for some students to have additional pastoral intervention instead of a fourth option choice. This pastoral study support is incorporated within the curriculum and personalised to help our students succeed.

Students who study the AEP pathway may also be offered the opportunity to experience work-based learning as part of their bespoke curriculum package which can be an individualised programme tailored to their personal needs or as part of a small group. This can include a one-off taster session or may incorporate up to a full day per week with an external training provider.

Summary of Components

There is a mixture of qualifications that students can study as part of the four available pathways.

Subject areas include:

- GCSE Photography
- Level 2 Sport Studies
- GCSE Food and Nutrition
- Level 2 Occupational Studies
- Functional Skills Literacy & Numeracy

All qualifications are delivered by subject specialists and class sizes are kept deliberately small to offer a purposeful and supportive classroom environment. All the AEP qualifications have practical elements and non-exam assessments. Photography, Sport Studies, Food and Nutrition and Functional Skills all have an exam component.



ART AND DESIGN

"In Art most lessons are spent on project work. There is room for a lot of creativity. We do a lot of drawing, painting, as well as sculpture, clay work and print-making."

Course Overview

GCSE Art builds and develops students understanding of art and its practice. Throughout the course students will develop their practical skills by working in a variety of media across a series of projects. They will be encouraged to challenge themselves by working on a larger scale or with new media and techniques. They will learn how to analyse artist work, using this information to inform and develop their own ideas along a theme. Students will build their communication skills using a visual language, to discuss issues and ideas personal to them. As students' confidence increases they will develop their own projects, researching their own artists and developing their independent study skills.

There is a written content element where students use art specific vocabulary to explain their ideas and development of their work as well as analysing the work of other artists. This written content is assessed in the form of an essay for each project and is created through the full course.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Portfolio Unit

(Coursework) This is composed of 3 projects, 2 in year 10 and 1 in year 11. In year 10 students work on 2 projects - Food and Identity and in year 11 the trial exam, these come together to create a body of work that demonstrates students' skills and abilities to develop sustained projects.

Externally Set Task

(Exam) This unit is set by the exam board. Students respond to a theme as set by AQA. They must develop a project, informed by other artists, leading to a final outcome that they will create in 10 hours supervised time at the end of year 11.



ART AND DESIGN TEXTILES

"Textiles allows me to be really creative with a wide range of media. It's great because we can choose themes based on our own personal interests. We learn how to do garment making too."

Course Overview

Art and Design Textiles is a perfect platform for anyone interested in fashion and being creative. The course-work portfolio is made up of several projects which allows you to develop your creative sewing skills, learn about garment construction and fashion drawing. You will be taught a variety of textile techniques such as reverse applique, free machine embroidery, quilting, fabric melting, digital printing and dyeing. You will also attend a printing workshop to explore printing techniques.

Students who specialise in art and design textiles can enter a wide range of careers within the fashion and textile industry, including fashion marketing.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Year 10 Modules

Two mini projects based on a personalised theme which allows you to explore creative textiles and garment construction.

Year 11 Modules

In year 11 there is one project. Coursework amounts to 60% and there is an externally set project 40% which is completed in the latter stages of Year 11.



BUSINESS

"It's really interesting as what you cover in lessons relates to the real world."

Course Overview

GCSE business introduces students to what they need to know about working in business. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work. They will be applying their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour. The skills that they will develop in business are always transferable and valued in a wide range of careers. Skills such as problem solving, numeracy, decision making and evaluation are all integral parts of the course.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Business in the Real World

The purpose of business activity, the role of business enterprise and entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.

Influences on Business

The importance of external influences on business and how businesses change in response to these influences.

Business Operations

All the elements that go into the production of goods and the provision of services, and how important customer service is.

Human Resources

How organisations are structured and how important the process of recruitment, motivation and training is to creating a successful workforce.

Marketing

The importance of businesses understanding their customer's needs and wants to be able to deliver appropriate marketing strategies.

Finance

How a business raises finance and how to analyse the financial performance to help businesses make decisions.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

"This is a great course if you are interested in learning about how children develop."

Course Overview

This qualification is for those who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Child Development. It is designed with both practical coursework and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology and Social Sciences. Students who specialise in Child Development can enter a wide range of careers including: Child Care, Nursery Nursing, primary school teacher, Nursing (including midwifery), health and social care and psychology.

Examination Board - **CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL LEVEL 2**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Health & Wellbeing for Child Development (50%)

Students will develop the essential knowledge and understanding in child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, postnatal provision, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety. This is an examined unit. There is an opportunity to take the interactive babies home.

Understanding the Development of a Child from Birth to Five Years (25%)

In this topic of study, students will gain an understanding of the development norms from birth to five years and the stages and benefits of play. They will plan and carry out play activities with a child under five. This is a portfolio unit.

Create a Safe Environment & Understand the Nutritional Needs of Children from Birth to Five Years (25%)

In this unit students learn how to create a safe environment for children in childcare settings. They will investigate and choose equipment that is suitable and safe for use. They will also learn about nutrition and dietary needs of children. This is a portfolio unit.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

"I really enjoy learning how to program and solve problems with code."

Course Overview

GCSE Computer Science helps you think about how technology is created. It allows you to understand how people work together with computers to develop world changing programmes like Facebook, Spotify and eBay. You'll gain the skills to enable you to understand how to design and build apps, investigate how algorithms help create computer codes and the importance of cyber security and the ethical impacts of digital technology. GCSE Computer Science can lead to a vast array of employment opportunities from programming and designing to careers in GCHQ with MI5 and MI6.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Fundamentals of Algorithms

Problem solving and algorithm creation, representing algorithms using pseudo-code and flowcharts.

Programming

Learn how to program in Python.

Fundamentals of Data Representation

Understand how 0s and 1s can represent sound, text and images on your computer.

Computer Systems

Learn how hardware and software makes up a computer and how they work.

Fundamentals of Computer Networks

Learn about the main types of computer networks, how they work, and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Fundamentals of Cyber Security

Learn about modern day threats to computer systems including cyber security attacks and social engineering practices.

Ethical, Legal & Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology on Wider Society

Study the current ethical, legal and environmental impacts and risks of digital technology on society.

Aspects of Software Development Brief Summary

Understand the systems lifecycle and how software is created through the process of design, implementation, testing and evaluation.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

"Design and Technology is brilliant, it allows me to expand my creativity and build my practical skills."

Course Overview

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Students must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to Design and Technology. Design and Technology has links to a range of other subject areas including Business, Economics, Art and Design, Geography and History.

Design Technology has several key transferrable skills that can be applied in many career pathways such as problem solving, communication, innovation, and teamwork. Following the Design and Technology pathway can lead to careers in; Design – Product Design, Packaging, Industrial Design, Systems and Control – Robotics, Security, Aerospace, Engineering & Construction - Civil Engineering, Construction, Armed forces.

Examination Board - **EDEXCEL**

Assessment through examination - **50%**

Assessment through non examined work - **50%**

Summary of Components

Core

All students will cover the core element of Design and Technology, this will provide a foundation in all material areas, design theory, and the iterative design process of investigation, design, make and evaluation. Students choose to specialise in one of the following areas: The pupils will investigate the chosen area in a greater depth to the core, element. This will then form a basis for their NEA (Non Examined Assessment) portfolio, iterative design and make task.

Design & Technology - Systems & Electronics Specialism

Students will be taught more about the best way to design, make and test electronic circuits. They will learn about a range of sensors and the best way to power them.

Design & Technology - Timbers Specialism

Students will find out about a range of 3D design materials, how to choose and use the materials in creating and manufacturing products.

Design & Technology - Paper & Boards, Graphics Specialism

Students will find out about a range of graphic design, materials, and modelling, how to choose and use the materials in creating and manufacturing products.



DRAMA

"As well as creating and performing drama you learn to work with others, solve problems and to communicate."

Course Overview

Drama enhances students' artistic and creative abilities and gives them a better understanding of themselves and of their world. Not everyone who studies drama wants to become an actor. The study of GCSE drama will benefit you in so many ways; you will develop vocal and physical confidence, the ability to work in a team, negotiation skills, time management skills, public speaking skills, the ability to read body language, to experience a life beyond your own life, to feel empathy, to understand what it is to walk in another person's shoes. Making theatre requires torrents of hard graft; not just creativity, but the architecture of forming a story, the mathematics of production, the determination to succeed, the drafting and re-drafting, the rehearsals, the technical demands, the pressure.

Every skill that you acquire in a GCSE drama class is a transferable skill. Drama teaches skills for life.

Examination Board - **EDEXCEL**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Devising

As a performer you will work in a group to create and develop an original piece of drama in response to a stimulus. The analysis and evaluation of both the development and performance will be presented in a 2000 word written portfolio.

Performance from Text

As a performer you will explore two key extracts from a performance text. You will then rehearse and perform the extracts to a visiting examiner. Your performance can be either a monologue, or a duologue, or a group.

Bringing Texts to Life

You will be asked to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how a performance text can be developed and performed. You will practically explore the text in preparation for the exam.

Live Theatre Evaluation

You will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance that you have seen during the course. You are permitted to take 500 words of notes into the exam to help you respond to the questions.



FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

"I love how practical and creative food technology is."

Course Overview

GCSE food preparation and nutrition equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages students 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 in later life. Over the course, students will develop a wide range of practical skills in preparation for a three hour practical exam where they must demonstrate 20 of these skills. Students will generate a portfolio of skills as they complete the course.

Students who specialise in food preparation and nutrition can enter a wide range of careers including: hospitality and catering, sports industry, food manufacturing, food technology, medical research, government agencies and occupations such as a dietician.

Examination Board - **EDUQAS (WJEC)**

Assessment through examination - **50%**

Assessment through non examined work - **50%**

Summary of Components

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Students will be given the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the five areas of content through theory and practical based tasks and activities.

Those areas include investigating staple foods in our diet, understanding the nutrients found in foods and their functions, sources and deficiencies, investigating the nutritional needs of different groups of people, diet related diseases and the principles of healthy eating, food hygiene and awareness of where the food comes from.

This is an examined unit which is taken in year 11.

Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

This component consists of two pieces of course-work; a scientific food investigation which will assess the students knowledge and understanding in relation to scientific principles and a food preparation assessment where students will need to prepare, cook and present three dishes.

This coursework is completed in year 11.



FRENCH

"Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and improves your memory."

Course Overview

GCSE French develops and strengthens what students already know about the language, culture and country. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to improve their performance in all four of the skills assessed at this level: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Through a wide range of activities including comprehension, translation, videos, films, songs, literature, interactive ICT work and a wealth of fun and informative games, students can gain the confidence that they need to succeed at their chosen entry level.

The skills that they will develop in French are transferable to many other subjects and help to build confidence in interpersonal skills, develop vocabulary and grammar, and most importantly, provide the students with the ability to travel, work, and live around the world.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

The new specification has changed the examinations to include more spontaneous interaction, dictation, multiple choice options, and a more focused approach to conversation skills.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and Relationships With Others
- Topic 2: Healthy Living and Lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular Culture

- Topic 1: Free-Time Activities
- Topic 2: Customs, Festivals and Celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us

- Topic 1: Travel and Tourism, including Places of Interest
- Topic 2: Media and Technology
- Topic 3: The Environment and Where People Live



GEOGRAPHY

"Geography helps me to understand the world around me."

Course Overview

Geography is the study of natural landscapes (physical geography) and of people and how they interact with their environment (human geography). In this course, you will learn about the physical and human processes that affect places and environments that shape the world in which we live. You will develop a range of skills, both within and outside the classroom. These include fieldwork, map skills, analysing skills, decision-making and presentational skills. You will improve your literacy through different styles of written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs. This course helps to develop your teamwork skills when undertaking fieldwork and develops your ability to solve problems when completing Issue Evaluations.

Geography helps you to develop a range of transferable skills, which will be beneficial for careers ranging from Environmental Consultants to Engineers, Journalists to Town Planners, Architects, to Solicitors and Accountants to Health Professionals.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Living with the Physical Environment

This exam is comprised of three sections: The Challenge of Natural Hazards, Physical Landscapes in the UK (coastal and river landscapes) and The Living World (ecosystems and cold environments).

Challenges in the Human Environment

This exam is comprised of three sections: Urban Issues and Challenges, The Changing Economic World and The Challenge of Resource Management.

Geographical Applications

This unit consists of three elements; Issue Evaluation, Fieldwork and Geographical Skills.



GERMAN

"It's an impressive achievement to speak a foreign language and you'll have better options for the future."

Course Overview

GCSE German develops and strengthens what students already know about the language, culture and country. The focus of the course is on giving students an opportunity to improve their performance in all four of the skills assessed at this level: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Through a wide range of activities including comprehension, translation, videos, films, songs, literature, interactive ICT work and a wealth of fun and informative games, students can gain the confidence that they need to succeed at their chosen entry level.

The skills that they will develop in German are transferable to many other subjects and help to build confidence in interpersonal skills, develop vocabulary and grammar, and most importantly, provide the students with the ability to travel, work, and live around the world.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

The new specification has changed the examinations to include more spontaneous interaction, dictation, multiple choice options, and a more focused approach to conversation skills.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

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- Topic 2: Customs, Festivals and Celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us

- Topic 1: Travel and Tourism, including Places of Interest
- Topic 2: Media and Technology
- Topic 3: The Environment and Where People Live



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

"It is a course which requires a lot of hard work and contains regular deadlines, but you get a lot out of it and understand the needs of a range of service users."

Course Overview

Are you a naturally caring person with a passion for health and wellbeing? Do you want a great introduction to the skills you need for a rewarding career where you can help make a difference? If so, Level 1/2 Health and Social Care could be the course for you. Throughout the course, students will develop their knowledge of the needs of individuals through the life stages, and build on lifelong skills such as communication and empathy which are imperative for careers such as working within the NHS, social work, policing, and teaching. Additionally, students will research modern-day challenges in health and social care and see how these affect Public Health and the local and national response to these.

Examination Board - **OCR**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Principles of Care in Health and Social Care Settings (Exam - 40%)

You will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them. You will also learn about the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for service users in health and social care settings and the procedures and measures used to protect individuals such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

Supporting Individuals Through Life Events (NEA - 30%)

You will learn about life stages and the factors that affect them. Expected and unexpected life events and the impact they have on physical, social/emotional and socio-economic aspects in an individual's life. You will research service providers and practitioners who support individuals.

Health Promotion Campaigns (NEA - 30%)

You will have the opportunity to explore the various public health challenges the country faces, the approaches used to encourage health and wellbeing and the importance of this to society.



HISTORY

"History is a really interesting and enjoyable subject. Written work is important and the teachers show you how to make revision notes as you go along so it helps you keep up to date with your work."

Course Overview

Students of GCSE history will develop a knowledge of the ideas, events, and people who have shaped our modern world. The skills they will develop in terms of communication, analysis, evaluation, as well as gaining an understanding of the process of change and continuity will stand them in good stead for a number of A level subjects.

History is respected across a wide range of areas and further study leads to careers from law to broadcasting and journalism and from accountancy to marketing and advertising.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Conflict and Tension 1919-1939

How Europe tried and failed to keep the peace between the wars.

The USA

Opportunity and Inequality: 1920-1973: A depth study on the making of the USA.

The Normans

How did the Norman Conquest change England and make it how it is today?

Power and the People

Students will explore the key events that have shaped British rights and democracy.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

"The lessons are so interactive and fun - it is my favourite subject! I loved creating my own interface and developing my IT skills."

Course Overview

The modern world expects digital skills to be as important as English and Maths. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. Having both technical skills and business understanding is the key to success in the IT field. Students will be well equipped with both as a result of this course.

Students will develop skills in the fields of interface design, cyber security and computer ethics. Students who specialise in Digital IT can enter a range of careers in growth areas such as software and web development, interface and system design, data science / analysis, database administration and more.

Examination Board - **EDEXCEL**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Effective Digital Working Practices

Students will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use. You will explore how developments in technology have led to more inclusive and flexible working environments, and how regulation and ethical and security concerns influence the way in which organisations operate.

Interface Design

Students will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

Students will be taught the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. In this component, you will learn the different data manipulation tools that can be used to change the way that data is presented.



MUSIC

"GCSE Music is really good fun. We study many different genres of music and have a go at performing them."

Course Overview

Students will explore how composers use the elements of music to write and produce music in a variety of different styles. They will explore instrumental and vocal music from the western classical tradition alongside popular music, music for stage and screen and fusions of music from different cultures. Students will develop their performance skills on their chosen musical instrument and/or in singing. They will also develop their composition skills, writing music in a variety of styles and learning how to use music publishing software (Sibelius) and music production software (Logic Pro). There are many career paths in the music industry including performing, composing, recording, teaching, music therapy and events management. Studying music and learning a musical instrument promote the development of imagination and resourcefulness, resilience, problem-solving, team-working and technical skills (including fine motor skills) as well as the appreciation of music itself. These are the skills which will enable young people to navigate the changing workplace of the future. These skills are valuable in all sectors, not just the creative industries.

Examination Board - **EDEXCEL**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Performance (30%)

This unit comprises a solo performance (minimum one minute) and an ensemble performance (minimum one minute). Total performance time is a minimum of three minutes.

Composition (30%)

In this unit, students submit two compositions, one set to a brief by the exam board (minimum one minute) and one free composition (minimum one minute). The two compositions must last at least three and a half minutes.

Written and Listening Examination (40%)

This unit consists of four areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, and Fusions. There are two set works in each area of study.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

"GCSE PE is a great course. You have to learn loads of different topics which are really interesting."

Course Overview

Students will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance. Students will also understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.

Students will perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. Students will also develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

This course can lead to a wide ranging number of careers with sports specific ones like sports coaching, PE teaching, or leisure centre manager but can also help with more scientific jobs such as physiotherapy, dietician and medicine.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **70%**

Assessment through non examined work - **30%**

Summary of Components

Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the key body systems for example the muscular system, skeletal system, cardiovascular system and respiratory system and how they impact on health, fitness and performance in physical activity and sport.

Socio-cultural Influences and Wellbeing in Physical Activity and Sport

Students should also develop knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport together with the socio-cultural factors that impact on physical activity and sport, and the impact of sport on society.

Coursework

Students should develop knowledge and understanding of the psychological factors that can affect performers in physical activity and sport.

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



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

"This subject will appeal to you if you frequently ask the question WHY? You need to be confident with more abstract ideas as well as factual information."

Course Overview

In GCSE religious studies we study two key religious philosophies, which have helped to shape ideas about society and the world around us, Christianity and Buddhism. We also look at ethical issues which have no simple answers, and you will be required to make your own judgements and give your own opinions on a range of issues.

As a result, this is a well-respected GCSE and further study of religion, philosophy and ethics can lead to careers in fields such as law, journalism, medicine, the media, education and a range of other areas, such as working with charities, and environmental agencies.

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Christianity Beliefs and Practices

Students will explore the ways in which Christianity is expressed.

Buddhism Beliefs and Practices

Students will learn about the ways in which Buddhism is expressed.

Ethics and Life

A range of ethical issues, including human rights, prejudice and discrimination, the family, gender and sexuality, reasons for and attitudes towards crime and protection of natural world and the sanctity of life.

This unit includes the study of the origins of the world, environmental issues, including animals and the right to life.



SPORTS STUDIES

"I enjoy taking part in a range of activities with my friends and getting a chance to learn about sporting issues."

Course Overview

OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies introduce students to the world of sport. The course enables students to practically participate and officiate a wide range of sports whilst exploring the contemporary issues of sport, gaining a further understanding of the impact sport has on wider society and discovering numerous ways of being involved in the sports industry.

The skills that they will develop in PE are always transferable and valued in a wide range of careers within the sports industry. Skills such as problem solving, numeracy, decision making and evaluation, communication and teamwork are all integral parts of the course.

Students who study PE can access a very broad range of careers ranging from a physiotherapist and sports psychologist to a personal trainer or a sports coach.

Examination Board - **OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORTS STUDIES LEVEL 2**

Assessment through examination - **40%**

Assessment through non examined work - **60%**

Summary of Components

Contemporary Issues In Sport (mandatory unit with external exam)

The purpose of this unit is for students to explore a range of topical and contemporary issues relating to participation levels and barriers, the promotion of values and ethical behaviour through sport and the role of high-profile sporting events as well as the positive impact sport has upon society beyond providing entertainment.

Developing Sports Skills & Leadership (mandatory unit assessed by teachers)

The aim of this unit is to develop skills, techniques and use of tactics/strategies/compositional ideas either 2 team activities, 2 individual activities or 1 team and 1 individual from the set list of sports available. Within the leadership unit students will develop some of the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to be an effective sport leader and plan, deliver and review safe and effective sporting activity sessions themselves.

Increasing Awareness of Outdoor & Adventurous Activities

Outdoor and adventurous activities give you opportunities to engage in activities in a natural outdoor setting. The UK is fortunate to have a variety of different terrains and facilities, from coastal areas, to lakes and rivers. We also have hills and mountains as well as cycling trails and 15 National Parks. In this unit you will learn how to find out information about what opportunities there are in your local area, as well as nationally in the UK, for all different types of activities. You will learn how you can benefit from and enjoy activities safely by finding out what equipment, clothing, facilities and technology you need, as well as completing planning to help keep you safe.



SPANISH

"I like studying Spanish because it's fun, enjoyable and something completely new to learn. It helps us communicate in another language and impress others. Overall I love Spanish!"

Course Overview

We hope that if you choose GCSE Spanish, you will fall in love with the subject and enjoy travelling, meeting new people, discovering new cultures and developing a deeper understanding of the world around you. Speaking more than one language gives you better and brighter options for your future. With an estimated 460 million native speakers, Spanish is the world's second most widely spoken language which spans from countries as diverse as Mexico and Argentina to the USA and Spain. That figure is expected to continue to grow, with the Hispanic world influencing many aspects of popular culture from football to music to cinema. There are four exams at the end of the course in listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier (Foundation or Higher) for all four papers. **If you want to take Spanish for GCSE when you are in Year 10, then you will need to have studied it in Year 9.**

Examination Board - **AQA**

Assessment through examination - **100%**

Summary of Components

Over the two years of your GCSE course, you will study all of the following themes:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular Culture

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live.



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