

GCSE OPTIONS

2019 - 2021

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Option Subjects:

The figure in brackets indicates the number of periods to be allocated to each subject in a 43 period week.

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Choosing GCSE Options at EHS

During the first three years in the Senior School you have followed a broad and balanced curriculum, based on the National Curriculum. Most of the subjects are specified by the Government at this stage, to ensure a balanced education, and there is little scope for individual choice. Then, in the course of Year 9, you are given the chance to select some of the subjects you wish to study in Key Stage 4, the next two years up to the GCSE examinations.

The choice of GCSE options is one that takes time, thought and discussion. The purpose of this booklet is to help you in making that choice.

Your parents can play an important role in this process, providing guidance and advice, but do remind them that subjects have changed radically since their own school days. Examination reform has brought about changes in the style and content of learning. Each subject has to be studied in depth and requires an increased commitment of time, thus making selection of subjects inevitable. You should take advice from as many people as possible: subject teachers, Form Tutors, the Head of Careers, as well as older girls already following the courses and, of course, your parents. You should also take advantage of careers advice and information that you encounter in newspapers and on television.

By Year 9, some of you may have very clear ideas about your future career, while others among you will have none. Some may have a particular interest in one area, while others are interested in everything. During Year 9, you will have an opportunity to discuss the subject choices that are best for you and for particular careers. To support you, there will be:

- A Careers module: a series of lessons and discussions in the PSHEE programme. Resources are also available in the school Careers Room, public libraries and the Careers Service
- An Options Evening for you and your parents: Monday 19th November
- Individual interviews with either the Head of Year 9 or the Deputy Head Curriculum
- Joint meetings with parents and staff, as required

Your aim in making your option choices should be to put together a well-balanced combination of subjects which you will enjoy, achieve success in and find useful for a future career. It is important to choose carefully, because it is difficult to change once a course has started. Don't be tempted to choose a subject just because your best friend has chosen it – choose wisely for your own future enjoyment and success. As part of an EHS education girls are expected to embrace opportunities to stretch themselves both personally and academically. We offer many opportunities for independent learning within the school, for example the Higher Project Qualification and the many ideas for enrichment available in the extend, enrich, enjoy document.

Core Subjects and Options

Certain subjects are compulsory at GCSE and these are known as the **Core Subjects**:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science – Biology, Chemistry and Physics: the majority of girls will study all three, some girls may choose to study two following discussions with the Head of Year 9 or Director of Studies.
- Modern Foreign Language - French, German and Spanish: most girls are expected to study a Language.

Also in the core, are Physical Education, and a tutorial programme, which includes PSHEE and General Religious Studies, but these are not examined. The core Physical Education course deals with health-related fitness, and provides opportunities to take part in a range of team sports and dance. The tutorial sessions are designed to support you in your academic work and to encourage you to think about the future. Consideration is also given to improving study skills and personal organisation and there are opportunities to discuss issues relating to the world of work (including work experience), health and issues of citizenship. There is a programme of progress review, including individual interviews with your Form Tutor, so that you may have the chance to discuss any concerns you may have about work or other aspects of school life.

As well as the core subjects, we offer a range of optional subjects. Most girls will take ten examination subjects in total at GCSE. If you choose to take Biology, Chemistry and Physics you will need to choose three subjects from the Options Subjects box; if you choose two Sciences you will need to choose four subjects from the Options Subjects box. Most girls are expected to take a Modern Foreign Language; some may choose to take two. Classical Greek or additional Music may be taken by some girls, by agreement, as an additional GCSE subject. **Optional subjects** are:

- Art and Design/Graphic Communication
- Business
- Classical Civilisation
- Dance
- Design & Technology: Textiles
- Drama
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Food & Nutrition
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

We will try to accommodate girls' choices as far as we can, but it is impossible to guarantee that every girl will be able to study the particular combination of subjects that she chooses. The availability of options will also depend on such factors as demand.

Careers Advice

Choosing your GCSEs is difficult. There are very few people who are sure about exactly what they want to take, likewise very few people know what career they wish to pursue. However, even at this stage, it is wise to consider the future, starting with the subjects you may take in the Sixth Form.

Deciding what is best for you depends on what subjects you enjoy studying. If you are unsure what subjects to choose, remember that balance and breadth are important. It is also wise to speak to your subject teachers; they will be able to provide you with an insight into the course and help you decide whether that subject is right for you.

Very often pupils are sure about some subjects, but still have to make a difficult decision between one or two others: Should I take three science subjects? Should I continue with both Modern Languages? Do I choose Geography or History or both? You should find that most careers and companies do not mind which GCSEs you take, but are more interested in the grades you achieve. The compulsory subjects of Maths and English are required by universities and employers.

Taking subjects you **enjoy** will make sure you get the best grades, as you will be enthusiastic about them.

Further advice and guidance on making your GCSE subject choices is available from Head of Careers and from speaking to subject staff, your Head of Year and your Form Tutor.

Art and Design/Graphic Communication

Syllabus: AQA Art, Craft and Design (8201)
AQA Graphic Communication (8203)

Art can offer you:

- The opportunity to express creativity in a practical way, to work in a stimulating environment and to gain a wide range of universally useful skills. Art is as much about thinking, planning and analysing as it is about the traditional skills associated with it. The working processes and disciplines adopted in this subject lay firm foundations for work in other curriculum areas too.
- The Art and Design course involves a range of work, comprising Graphic Design and Fine Art, and offers opportunities for photography, film-making and animation, as well as the traditional areas of drawing, painting and work in mixed-media. There is a strong emphasis on the use of digital media and even if you may not be the most confident in terms of observation drawing you will be able to find other ways in which to demonstrate your skills. You will be encouraged to use sketchbooks in a creative, inventive way and these will form the backbone of your activity in the subject. This manner of working is also a preparation for the way students will eventually be taught at A Level. Some pupils who have demonstrated particular aptitude for Graphic Design may choose to specialise in this area and will be entered for Graphic Communication.

Course Content:

In Year 10 those who have opted for the general Art and Design course will study Fine Art and Graphic Design, with a double lesson devoted to each, producing one major project outcome from each area. If you have opted for Graphic Communication you will work with Mr Dukes for both double lessons. Projects in Year 10 usually begin with a visit to gather visual resources that will be used in project work throughout the rest of the year (in 2015 this was to Birmingham Markets).

The first project you do in Year 11 will be treated as your Mock Examination and eventually, together with the work done in Year10, form part of your coursework (awarded 60% of the overall mark). The second will be the actual examination (awarded the remaining 40%).

Business

Syllabus: AQA Business (8132)

GCSE Business can offer you the opportunity to study:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

Course Content:

The course is designed for girls to demonstrate their ability to:

- Use business terminology to identify and explain business activity
- Apply business concepts to familiar and unfamiliar contexts
- Develop problem solving and decision making skills relevant to business
- Investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues
- Make justified decisions using both qualitative and quantitative data including its selection, interpretation, analysis and evaluation, and the application of appropriate quantitative skills.

The scheme of assessment comprises two written papers:

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity

What's assessed: Business in the real world, Influences on business, Business operations, Human resources.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

What's assessed: Business in the real world, Influences on business, Marketing, Finance

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Classical Civilisation

Syllabus: OCR GCSE Classical Civilisation (9-1) (J199)

Classical Civilisation can offer you the opportunity to:

- Study the literature and visual/material culture of the Classical World and acquire an understanding of their social, historical and cultural contexts.
- Experience elements of the culture and social and political life of the Classical Greek and Roman civilisations which reflect issues relevant to the world today, such as questions of gender, belief and citizenship.
- Make comparisons between the ideas of the Classical World and those of today and to understand the great legacy of Classical Greece and Rome to western democracy and culture.
- Improve your critical and analytical skills essential for most A Level courses, including A Level Classical Civilisation.

Please note that there is no Latin or Classical Greek language studied or required for this GCSE qualification.

Course Content: There are two units

Thematic Study: Myth and Religion (11) (1 hour 30 minutes) 50 %

This unit involves a comparative study of Classical Greece and Rome, combining an engaging variety of literary and visual/material sources. All written sources are studied in translation.

Candidates are required to make informed comparisons between Greek and Roman ideas, including the characteristics of the different societies and the impact of the different cultural contexts. This unit explores religion and mythology in the Classical Greek and Roman worlds.

Literature and Culture: Roman city Life (22) (1 hour 30 minutes) 50 %

Students undertake the cultural study of Roman city life and then couple this with the study of a related body of literature in translation.

The Roman social system was notorious for its intrigues and politics and this, coupled with the study of the spectacle provided by Roman entertainment, provides an exciting and enjoyable course for students.

Classical Greek

Syllabus: OCR GCSE Classical Greek (9-1) (J292)

Classical Greek can offer you the opportunity to:

- Study the language and literature of classical Greece, reading the works of famous authors such as Homer, Euripides, Herodotus and Plato.
- Experience elements of the culture, language and social and political life of the Greek civilisation which has inspired many later generations.
- Make comparisons between the ideas of Classical Greece and those of today and to appreciate the great legacy of Classical Greece to western democracy and culture.
- Gain enriched vocabulary and improved spelling; it is not always appreciated how many English words and how much scientific vocabulary is derived from Classical Greek.
- Improve your critical and analytical skills essential for most A Level courses.
- Access a different script/letter system which can be both challenging and rewarding.

N.B. Classical Greek is an additional GCSE subject offered outside the GCSE Option Block system. It is therefore open to any interested girl who is judged to be of suitable ability by the Classics Department. At the end of Year 9, the Classics Department will liaise with girls who may be interested and capable.

Course Content: There are three units

Language (01) (1 hour 30 minutes) 50 %

Candidates are required to prepare for one language paper. This involves the ability to translate from Greek, to comprehend a Greek passage and answer questions on this in English and to either answer grammar questions or translate short sentences from English to Greek. Students build their knowledge of the required accidence and syntax over the 2 year course and learn the vocabulary in the Defined Vocabulary List (DVL).

Prose Literature (02/03) (1 hour) 25 %

Candidates are required to answer comprehension and questions and translate a passage. Learners study a set verse text or group of texts, totalling between 110 and 120 lines in length. The set texts will change every two years.

Verse Literature (04/05) (1 hour) 25 %

Candidates are required to answer comprehension and questions and translate a passage. Learners study a set verse text or group of texts, totalling between 110 and 120 lines in length. The set texts will change every two years.

Dance

Syllabus: AQA Dance

AQA – Dance GCSE

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject.

The choice of specification recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles. They can choose any style to perform and choreograph in, providing it meets the assessment criteria.

The study of the anthology of professional works will develop their ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences and provides a springboard for engaging practical tasks.

Course Content:

Component 1: Performance and choreography – 60% of total marks

What is assessed:

Performance

- Each student will perform set phrases of movement through a solo performance lasting one minute.
- Duet/trio performance (three and half minutes in duration)

30% of GCSE – 40 marks in total (15 marks for set phrases and 25 marks for duet/trio performance)

Choreography

- Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and half minutes)

30% of GCSE – 40 marks

Component 2: Dance appreciation – 40% of total marks assessed through a 1 hour and 30 minutes written examination – 80 marks.

What is assessed:

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
- Critical appreciation of own work.
- Critical appreciation of professional works

Entry Requirements:

Pupils wishing to take this GCSE do not need to have studied dance outside school, however this would be an advantage. You will need to be committed and enthusiastic about dance and prepared to invest time and effort in a most rewarding subject

Design and Technology: Textiles

Syllabus: OCR Design and Technology

Design & Technology can offer you the opportunity to:

- Develop independent and critical thinking leading towards invention and design innovation
- Be creative and experiment, designing and making prototypes that solve real and relevant problems
- Learn a wide range of skills and techniques relevant to the making of fashion garments, accessories and textiles products.
- Study a range of materials which may include papers and boards, timber, metal, polymers and electronics that will support any potential design solutions you may develop at a later stage.
- Look at designers past and present and find inspiration.
- Develop organisational and time management skills
- Develop ICT skills with the use of specific CAD/CAM programs which are used in the Textile Industry.
- Study a course which could lead to a career in Design or Textiles e.g. Architecture, Marketing, Buying, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Project Management (or just because you are interested in the subject).

Course Content:

Component	Content	Examination/ Assessment	% of total mark
1 Written paper	Core technical principles – 40% of written exam A range of materials will be studied with an emphasis on new technologies (see above)	2 hours	50%
	Specialist technical principles – 60% of written exam A more in-depth understanding and knowledge of Textiles specific materials		
A minimum of 15% of the written paper will assess learners' mathematical skills as applied in design and technology			
2 NEA Non- Examined Assessment	Design and make task – practical application Consists of a single design and make activity from a range of board set tasks	Approx. 40 hours	50%

Drama

Syllabus: OCR (J316)

Drama can offer you:

- Experience in the roles of deviser, designer, director and performer.
- Further develop your practical skills in both improvisation and script work.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of evaluating live theatre work.
- Work imaginatively and creatively with others.
- Reflect on and evaluate your own work and the work of others.
- Development of creative skills through team learning.

Course Content:

Component title	Content	Marks	Duration	Weighting	Assessment
Devising Drama	Students explore a stimulus provided by the exam board. They will work in groups to create their own devised drama based on their exploration. Students can work as either performers or designers creating a portfolio and a final performance.	60	20hrs	30%	Teacher Assessed
Presenting and Performing Texts	Students explore a text and perform two scenes to a Visiting Examiner. Students can work as either performers or designers completing a pro-forma and a final performance showcase.	60	20hrs	30%	Visiting Examination
Performance and Response	Section A contains questions based on the study of a full text from a list set by the exam board. Section B contains an extended response analysing and evaluating live theatre.	80	1½ hours	40%	Written Examination

For Component Two it would benefit students to participate in as much practical performance that they can in order to develop their performance skills beyond the classroom. For Component Three (Evaluating Live Theatre) students are encouraged to visit the theatre often and begin to make critical judgments to the work they see.

English Language / English Literature

Syllabus: Edexcel iGCSE English Language
Edexcel iGCSE English Literature

The study of English and English Literature offers you the opportunity to:

- Develop your communication skills, both written and oral.
- Practice structuring, organising and expressing your ideas.
- Respond to a range of literary texts, including prose, poetry and drama.
- Develop a wide range of skills which will establish a firm foundation for further study and the world of work.

Course Content:

Two separate qualifications are taught in a combined course.

English Language iGCSE focuses on developing analytical skills with the close study of non-fiction texts and a range of writing skills.

English Literature students will read a range of modern drama, poetry and prose as well as a text from the Literary Heritage

	Examinations	Coursework
English Language	One examination 60% Section A Non-fiction texts Section B Transactional Writing	Coursework 40% Two coursework assignments Task one – an analytical essay Task two – an imaginative writing piece
English Literature	One examination 60% Section A Poetry Section B Modern Prose	Coursework 40% Two coursework assignments Task one – modern drama essay Task two – literary heritage essay

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Syllabus: AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition

Food and Nutrition offers you the opportunity to:

- Focus on high skill preparation of a wide variety of ingredients and to be aware of food and nutrition issues in relation to diet and health throughout life.
- Become aware of food provenance, where our food comes from, and how it is produced and sold.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of food hygiene and safety in the cooking and storing of foods. Consideration is made of how to buy food wisely, for a variety of budgets and situations in our society today.
- Be experimental with and understand the food science and properties of the food you are preparing and cooking, which will enable you to develop new recipes with confidence.
- To understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes
- Study a course which could lead to a wide range of food based university degrees and graduate careers, e.g. in buying and marketing for food companies, catering, food journalism, food styling for TV, films and magazines, as well as dietetics and nursing, or just because you are interested in the subject.

Course Content:

Unit		Examination / Assessment	% of total mark
1	Written examination	1 hour 45 minutes	50%
2	Task 1: Food Investigation: written report with evidence of practical investigation. Task 2: Food Preparation assessment: Prepare, cook and serve a menu of 3 dishes within a single session of no more than 3 hours.	Non-exam assessment (NEA)	50%

Geography

Syllabus: OCR Geography B Geography for Enquiring Minds

Geography is now a linear GCSE and will be in its third year in September 2018. The overarching themes are the natural world (physical geography) and people and society (human geography), with fieldwork connected to both of these themes.

Geography can offer you:

- A subject that is accepted by all universities and employers; many see Geography as a key subject in developing skills required in employment.
- An excellent foundation on which to build a wide range of careers. EHS Geographers have gone on to study medicine, law, psychology, as well as a wide range of the usual geographically orientated courses.
- A subject that is a bridge between the Arts and Sciences; this gives you greater flexibility if you decide to go on to further or higher education.
- A wide range of skills, useful both now and in the future, including practical map reading skills, information and communication skills, ability to use technology, such as GIS.
- Communication skills, such as report writing, decision making, putting forward arguments, analysing data and working in teams on a project.

Course Content:

The course themes include:

- Global hazards, including historic and current climate change
- Ecosystems
- Urbanisation
- Development
- Resource consumption and provision for an increasing global population
- The UK, to include: landscapes, population, economic change, political and cultural influence

Fieldwork is an important focus of the course. The girls will participate in practical fieldwork in both human and physical geography and their experiences of this will be examined in June 2019.

Content	Examination	% of total mark
Our Natural World	1 hour 15 mins	35%
People and Society	1 hour 15 mins	35%
Geographical Exploration (DME)	1.5 hours	30%

History

Syllabus: Cambridge IGCSE History

Why Study History?

- A study of the past can help you to understand the present.
- History equips you with the skills necessary for a variety of careers in fields such as law, journalism, the media, politics, administration and many others.
- You will learn how to analyse the significance of events, evaluate evidence and make balanced judgements based upon a variety of sources.
- You will also learn how to construct a logical argument supported by accurate factual detail.
- History is an interesting subject and the IGCSE syllabus offers an opportunity to study the significant events of the last century which have shaped today's world.

Course Content:

The course comprises 3 components:

- Paper 1 – Core Content: The 20th Century: International Relations since 1919 and Depth Study: Germany, 1918-45
- Paper 2 – Source paper
- Paper 4 – Alternative to coursework

Assessment:

Assessment is through 3 written examinations:

- Paper 1 2 hours – 40% of total mark
- Paper 2 2 hours – 33% of total mark
- Paper 4 1 hour – 27% of total mark

Latin

Syllabus: Eduqas GCSE Latin (9-1)

Latin can offer you:

- An insight into aspects of the classical world.
- The opportunity to study the language and literature of ancient Rome, reading the works of famous authors such as Virgil, Ovid, Cicero and Tacitus.
- The ability to make comparisons between ideas of that time and those of today.
- Enriched vocabulary and improved spelling, particularly in the cultural and scientific areas, since Latin has given English a great part of its vocabulary.
- Knowledge of a language which is a foundation for English, French, Spanish and Italian and therefore supports linguistic understanding in all these areas.
- Improvement in the critical and analytical skills and intellectual flexibility which will be useful in a wide range of jobs or in further study.

Latin remains a highly respected subject and the presence of Latin within the GCSE portfolio frequently confirms to university admissions tutors the candidate's high level of intellectual ability whatever degree courses are sought. Although not compulsory, Latin has proved a highly desirable qualification for those interested in both Law and Medicine.

Course Content: There are three Units.

Component 1: Latin Language (1 hour 30 minutes) 50 %

This involves the ability to translate from the Latin, to comprehend a Latin passage and answer questions on this in English and to translate short sentences from English to Latin. Students build their knowledge of the required accidence and syntax over the 2 year course and learn the vocabulary in the Defined Vocabulary List (DVL).

Component 2: Latin Literature and Sources (1 hour 15 minutes) 30 %

Candidates are required to answer comprehension and analysis questions on a set theme using knowledge of literature and sources studied during the course. Students study a mixture of verse and prose texts as well as a selection of prescribed ancient source materials. Students are provided with a clean copy of the resource booklet in the examination. The prescribed material will change every two years.

Component 3B: Roman Civilisation (1 hour) 20 %

Students study ancient source material in English translation, covering two prescribed themes of civilisation and culture. At examination they must answer questions demonstrating knowledge of these aspects of Roman Civilisation and an ability to analyse and respond to ancient sources. The prescribed material will change every two years.

Mathematics

Syllabus: Edexcel IGCSE in Mathematics 9-1 (Specification A) (4MA1)

Mathematics offers you the opportunity to:

- Develop a positive attitude to Mathematics.
- Consolidate basic skills and meet appropriately challenging work.
- Apply mathematical knowledge and understanding to solve problems.
- Think and communicate mathematically - precisely, logically and creatively.
- Appreciate the place and use of Mathematics in society.
- Apply mathematical concepts to situations arising in your own lives.
- Understand the interdependence of different branches of Mathematics.
- Acquire the skills needed to use technology, such as calculators and computers, effectively.
- Acquire a firm foundation for further study.

Course Content:

This specification offers a linear route to IGCSE Mathematics and is assessed by two terminal examination papers:

- Paper 1 – Calculator – 2 hours (50% of final mark)
- Paper 2 – Calculator – 2 hours (50% of final mark)

The specification requires candidates to demonstrate their knowledge understanding and skills in the following:

Assessment Objectives and weightings

		% in IGCSE
AO1	Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in number and algebra: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Numbers and the numbering system• Calculations• Solving numerical problems• Equations, formulae and identities• Sequences, functions and graphs	57-63%
AO2	Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in shape, space and measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geometry and trigonometry• Vectors and transformation geometry	22-28%
AO3	Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in handling data: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statistics• Probability	12-18%

Modern Foreign Languages

Syllabus: AQA Full Course (French 8658, Spanish 8698, German 8668)

Why study a Modern Foreign Language?

- Learning a language is fun.
- You will acquire a skill which is more and more in demand.
- Foreign language learning complements the learning of English
- 94% of the world's population do not have English as their native language and 75% of the world's population speaks no English at all.
- You develop 4 key skills that are vital for any learning; listening, reading, speaking and writing. (Routes into Languages, 2014)
- Learning languages boosts brain power (BBC, 2004).

Course Content:

All three of our main languages at GCSE follow the same format. The main themes which are covered in the course are:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Within each main theme are various sub-topics which will enable pupils to learn about the countries and the culture, as well as gain an understanding of and an ability to communicate in the language being studied.

Assessment:

Examinations in all four skills will be taken at the end of the two year GCSE course

Unit 1 Listening Examination 25% weighting

Unit 2 Reading Examination 25% weighting

Unit 3 Speaking Examination 25% weighting

Unit 4 Writing Examination 25% weighting

- All examination papers are available in two tiers – Foundation and Higher. All four skills must be taken at the same tier. Pupils will be advised which tier will be most suitable for them.
- The Speaking assessments are conducted and recorded in school. The recordings are then submitted to the examination board for marking.

Music

Syllabus: Edexcel

Music offers you the opportunity to:

As a candidate for Music GCSE you should enjoy listening to all kinds of music. You should also have regular weekly instrumental or vocal lessons.

Music will offer you the opportunity to:

- Engage actively in the study of music and develop your musical skills and interests and your awareness of a range of different kinds of music
- Enjoy making music individually and in groups
- Explore the use of music technology as used in performance and composition

Course Content:

The Edexcel GCSE in Music divides into 3 components:

1. Performing Music – 30% of GCSE.

Students must perform:

A solo performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration, and may comprise one piece of grade 5 material

An ensemble performance: this must be of at least one minute in duration.

2. Composing Music – 30% of the GCSE

Briefs will be released on the 1st of September for assessment in the following exam series. The briefs will relate to each of the areas of study. Each brief will relate to a specific audience and/or occasion. Students must compose to their chosen brief based on one of the areas of study. The composition may be for any instrument or voice, or combination of instruments and/or voices, and in any style, subject to the requirements of the selected composition brief.

3. Listening and Appraising Music – 40% of the total GCSE

This component gives students the opportunity to reflect on, analyse and evaluate music in aural and/or written form. To achieve these objectives students need to use their knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language to make critical judgements about the repertoire and context of music within the areas of study. These critical judgements will require the use of attentive listening, aural perception and specific music vocabulary associated with a particular style or genre. These areas of study also provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their contextual understanding of music when performing and composing.

Physical Education

Syllabus: Edexcel Physical Education

Physical Education offers you the opportunity to:

- Develop a knowledge and understanding of human performance through participation in a range of physical activities.
- Acquire and develop a range of physical skills related to selected games and sports and knowledge of safety relevant to these activities.
- Develop an appreciation of the relationship between physical activity and general health.
- Develop an enjoyment of participation in physical activities and an awareness of education for leisure.
- Appreciate the significance of co-operation and competition in individual, racquet and team games.
- Develop acceptable social and sporting attitudes.
- Acquire a suitable basis for further study or experience in Physical Education.
- Build a foundation for careers in areas involving Sport Science (Human Biology), Recreation Planning, Leisure Management and Teaching. The course will be an essential if you are thinking of taking A Level PE.

Course Content:

GCSE Physical Education is taught over 2 years for four periods a week, two periods allocated for the practical element, and two periods allocated for the theory part of the course. The examination is a combination of both practical and theoretical work. The practical element of the course accounts for 40% of the final mark, whilst the written examination is worth 60%- split between two written examinations.

Written Papers - 60%

Unit 1: Fitness and Body Systems

Unit 2- Health and Performance

Practical Work - 40%

The practical element of the course involves Teacher assessment throughout the course in three activities (one activity must be an individual activity and one activity must a team activity) and assessment of the ability to analyse performance. Both of these are developed in lessons and are assessed on Moderation Day in Year 11.

Course Requirements:

If you are thinking of doing this course you should be interested in all aspects of physical education, including theoretical areas as well as the practical ones. It is also required that GCSE PE students will participate regularly in sport, through school teams, after-school activities and in their own time, to reinforce the skills learnt during the course.

Please note that girls who choose to take Physical Education will not be able to study Dance at GCSE level

Religious Studies

Syllabus: Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies B

Religious Studies can offer you the opportunity to:

- Develop an enquiring, critical and sympathetic approach to religion, ethics and philosophy.
- Understand the variety to be found in religion and relate this to experience, belief and practice.
- Examine and discuss questions concerning the everyday problems in contemporary society and reflect on both the religious and social responses to them.
- Explore your own views about issues and write about them in a clear and logical way.
- Study for a good Humanities GCSE that will be credited by all universities, for all courses, including medicine, dentistry, law etc.

Course Content:

The Edexcel GCSE in Religious Studies B consists of two Areas of Study, which are then assessed through two externally set examination papers. Students must select a different religion for each Area of Study that they follow.

Year 10

Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

50% of the qualification

Content overview

Students must study all four content sections based upon Christianity.

- Beliefs
- Marriage and the Family
- Living the Religious Life
- Matters of Life and Death

Year 11

Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

50% of the qualification

Content overview

Students must study all four content sections based upon Islam.

- Beliefs
- Crime and Punishment
- Living the Religious Life
- Peace and Conflict

Science

Syllabuses: AQA Biology (8461) AQA Chemistry (8462) AQA Physics (8463)

Girls will be offered the three separate science courses. Biology, Chemistry, Physics: the majority of girls will study all three.

All of these courses will enable students to develop their enthusiasm and interest in science.

These subjects can offer you:

- A knowledge of Science which will help you to understand the human body, the universe and the chemical reactions which take place around us.
- The confidence to develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods so that you can evaluate various issues which have a high profile in the media.
- The opportunity to acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society. These skills can be applied in any course or career you choose to pursue in the future.
- The ability to make measurements by selecting and using instruments effectively.
- The ability to present data, identify patterns and make suitable conclusions.
- The ability to make decisions about hazards and the control of risks.

Course Content:

How are the courses assessed?

Each separate science qualification has two written examinations each 1 hour 45 minutes. This is a linear qualification and so all examinations must be taken at the end of the course. The practical work will be assessed through eight required practicals which will be included in the examination questions.

How will I be taught?

You will have a specialist Biology, Chemistry and Physics teacher.

Timetable of GCSE Options Events

Monday 19 th November 2018	Year 9 Options/Careers Evening.
Monday 21 st January 2019	Parents' Evening to discuss option choice plans and progress with subject staff.
Friday 1 st February 2019	Final date for the return of the <i>GCSE Option Choices Form</i> , after which the Option Blocks will be drawn up, and the girls' choices will be confirmed. Most girls will be able to take all of the subjects which they chose. We will discuss any difficulties we have in accommodating choices directly with the girls involved.

Once the timetable has been written there may be some flexibility to change option choices depending on the number of sets and pupils in the group.

We recommend that pupils do not make any changes to their options, particularly after the beginning of Year 10. No changes will be considered passed the end of September in Year 10.

GCSE Option Choices Form

Name: **Form:**

Signature of

Parent/Guardian: **Date:**

In total you have **7 options choices** to make. Most students are expected to take three Sciences and one Modern Foreign Language (MFL). Some students may also choose to take two MFL subjects. All students will discuss their options with the Head of Year 9 or Director of Studies.

Please tick the **Science** subjects you wish to study:

Biology	
Chemistry	
Physics	

Please tick the **MFL** subject(s) you wish to study:

French	
German	
Spanish	

Please indicate your remaining options choices. Remember you can choose **7 options** in total, **including** the Science and the MFL choices.

Art and Design*		<p>Key</p> <p>* Only one of these subjects may be chosen.</p> <p>** Only one of these subjects may be chosen.</p> <p>*** Only one of these subjects may be chosen.</p> <p>Additional Subjects. <i>Please indicate interest</i></p>	
Graphic Communication*			
Business			
Classical Civilisation**			
Dance ***			
Design Tech (Textiles)			
Drama			
Geography			
History			
Food Preparation & Nutrition			
Latin**			
Music			
Physical Education ***			Classical Greek
Religious Studies		Music	

Should it prove impossible to accommodate all your choices, please indicate the subject that would come next in your priority list – your “reserve” option:

Reserve Option: