

2023 - 2025

GCSE Subject Options



EDGBASTON
HIGH SCHOOL

GCSE OPTIONS

2023 - 2025

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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 and Parents Evening for you and your parents: Tuesday 24th January
- Individual interviews with either the Head of Year 9, Assistant Head of Year 9, Deputy Head Academic, Deputy Head Curriculum or Head of Careers
- 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 programme 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 her options interview. If you are considering a science based career or Medicine it is advisable you take all three sciences.
- 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
- Computer Science
- 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 the 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 in this area 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.

The first project you do in Year 11 will be treated as your Mock Examination and eventually, together with the work done in Year 10, form part of your coursework (awarded 60% of the overall mark). The second will be the actual examination (awarded the remaining 40%).

Biology

Syllabus: AQA Biology (8461)

Related Syllabuses: AQA Chemistry (8462) AQA Physics (8463)

Biology is the study of living organisms and how these interact with each other and their environments. By studying GCSE Biology, students will gain an insight into the natural world, how science works, and appreciation of its relevance to their everyday lives.

The GCSE Biology specification enables students to

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding of biology.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of biology that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills, both in the laboratory and in the field.
- develop their ability to evaluate scientific claims through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions.

Course Content:

How is the course assessed?

Each separate science qualification comprises two written examinations (worth 50% each) lasting 1 hour 45 minutes in duration. This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their examinations at the end of the course. Practical work is central to GCSE Biology, and the student's scientific skills are developed by undertaking required practical investigations throughout the course, which are also incorporated within examination questions.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught by a specialist Biology teacher.

Girls will be offered the three separate GCSE science courses: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The majority of girls will study all three. All of these courses will enable students to develop their enthusiasm and interest in science. The GCSE Sciences provide an integrated opportunity to acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society. The Sciences have been identified as 'facilitating subjects' by top Universities, opening doors to a wide range of career pathways. They offer skills that can be applied in any course or career you choose to pursue in the future.

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

Chemistry

Syllabus: GCSE Chemistry (8462)

Related Syllabuses: AQA Biology (8461) AQA Physics (8463)

Chemistry is the study of the world around us. By studying Chemistry you will begin to understand why things happen, learn how to keep yourself safe, develop useful skills, and maybe even become a better cook! Chemistry is often referred to as the 'central science' as it bridges the gap between Physics, Biology, Geology and Environmental Science.

GCSE Chemistry offers you the chance to:

- Develop scientific knowledge and a conceptual understanding of Chemistry.
- Learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills.
- Improve your ability to evaluate scientific claims through critical analysis of the methodology, evidence and conclusions.

Where could Chemistry take you?

Studying Chemistry at GCSE level and beyond is essential in order to pursue many careers including medicine, dentistry, pharmacology, forensic science and veterinary science. Even if you decide to choose a career outside of the sciences, Chemistry will help you develop many transferable skills that you will find invaluable.

Course Content:

How is the course assessed?

Each separate science qualification comprises two written examinations (worth 50% each) lasting 1 hour 45 minutes in duration. This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their examinations at the end of the course. Practical work is central to GCSE Chemistry, and the student's scientific skills are developed through required practical investigations throughout the course and these will be incorporated within examination questions.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught by a specialist Chemistry teacher.

Girls will be offered the three separate GCSE science courses: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The majority of girls will study all three. All of these courses will enable students to develop their enthusiasm and interest in science. GCSE Sciences provide an integrated opportunity to acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society. The Sciences have been identified as 'facilitating subjects' by top Universities, opening doors to a wide range of career pathways. They offer skills that can be applied in any course or career you choose to pursue in the future.

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).

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

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

Literature and Culture (06) (1 hour) 25 %

This module is designed to develop students' knowledge of Greek culture through the study of source images and ancient literature in translation. Candidates are required to answer questions which assess their ability to analyse and evaluate evidence from these sources. The set topics will change every two years.

Computer Science

Syllabus: OCR J277

Why take Computer Science?

Computer Science will encourage students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

Course Content

Computer Systems	Computational thinking, algorithms and programming
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.1 Systems architecture• 1.2 Memory and storage• 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols• 1.4 Network security• 1.5 Systems software• 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.1 Algorithms• 2.2 Programming fundamentals• 2.3 Producing robust programs• 2.4 Boolean logic• 2.5 Programming languages and

Each unit will be assessed in a 1hr 30min paper, each worth 50% of the GCSE. All students will also be given the opportunity to complete a practical programming topic to a given specification or to solve a given problem.

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

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: Edexcel 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.
- 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.

Course Content:

Component	Content	Examination/ Assessment	% of total mark
1 Written paper	Section A: Core This section is 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions.	1.45 hours	50%
	Section B: Material categories Textiles. This section is 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions.		
A minimum of 15% of the written paper will assess learners' mathematical skills as applied in design and technology			
2 NEA Non- Examined Assessment	Students will undertake a sustained project that will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.	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.
- Practise 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.
- Understand the chemical structure of fats, proteins and carbohydrates and how preparation and cooking affects these macro-nutrients.
- 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 Human Nutrition and Dietetics, buying and marketing for food companies, Hotel and Catering management, 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)	15% 35%

Geography

Syllabus: OCR Geography B Geography for Enquiring Minds

The overarching themes of the subject 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 both the Our Natural World and People and Society papers.

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 incredibly 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
 - This includes studying the following:
 - The Peace Treaties of 1919-1923
 - The League of Nations
 - Germany 1918-1945
 - The Weimar Republic
 - Hitler's Germany
 - International Collapse of Peace (up to 1939)
 - Who was to blame for the Cold War?
- 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 1 hour 45 minutes – 30% of total mark
- Paper 4 1 hour – 30% 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.
- 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 3A: Latin Literature (Narratives) (1 hour) 20 %

This module comprises of a prescription of Latin literature forming a narrative, accompanied by adjacent passage(s) in English. Candidates are required to answer comprehension and analysis questions on the text using their knowledge of the literature studied during the course. 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 thinking skills to solve problems logically and efficiently.
- Consolidate mathematical skills and apply these to more complex problems.
- Communicate mathematically - precisely, logically and creatively.
- Build resilience in your approach to challenging situations.
- Appreciate the place and use of Mathematics in society.
- 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 in A level Maths.

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)

There is no coursework requirement.

<u>Assessment Objectives</u>		Approximate weighting
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 	≈ 60%
AO2	Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in shape, space and measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry and trigonometry • Vectors and transformation geometry 	≈ 25%
AO3	Demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in handling data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics • Probability 	≈ 15%

Modern Foreign Languages

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

Why study a Modern Foreign Language?

- Gain insight into the culture and civilisation of another country
- Gain a positive attitude towards language learning, towards the speakers of other languages and towards other cultures and civilisations
- Develop the ability to use a foreign language as a means of practical communication
- 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.
- Develop techniques which can be applied to other areas of learning such as analysis and memory skills
- Learning a foreign language boosts brain power

Course Content:

The subject content for French, German and Spanish is organised around three broad themes which provide contexts for the acquisition of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. Through the study of these themes, students will gain an insight into target language countries and communities. The themes are:

- Theme 1 – Identity and Culture
- Theme 2 – Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Theme 3 – Current and Future Study and Employment

Assessment:

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

Paper 1 Listening Examination 25% weighting

Paper 2 Speaking Examination 25% weighting

Paper 3 Reading Examination 25% weighting

Paper 4 Writing Examination 25% weighting

- There is the possibility to sit the examination at either Foundation or Higher tier.
- The speaking assessments are conducted and recorded in school. The recordings are then submitted to the examination board for marking.

Music

Syllabus: Edexcel

Music is an exciting, creative, challenging, and versatile subject: one that universities and employers regard highly. Studying Music supports cognitive development and therefore drives academic achievement. To take GCSE Music, you should also have regular weekly instrumental or vocal lessons. Students opting for GCSE Music need to be approximately Grade 3 standard on their main instrument at the start of the course. Knowledge of music theory is not essential but it is an advantage.

Music will offer you the opportunity to:

- Engage actively in the study of music, developing your musical skills, interests and awareness of a range of different kinds of music;
- Enjoy making music individually and in groups;
- Explore the use of music technology in performance and composition.

Course Content:

Edexcel GCSE Music is 60% coursework and is divided into three main areas:

Performing Music – 30% of GCSE.

- Two performances
 - one solo – at least one minute in length
 - one ensemble – at least one minute in length
- You must perform for at least four minutes in total.
You can perform in any style – from classical to thrash metal!

Composing Music – 30% of the GCSE

- Two compositions.
 - One where you are given a brief based on the Areas of Study
 - One is a free composition in a style you chose.
- You must compose for at least three minutes in total.
- You will use software such as Sibelius, GarageBand or Logic.

Listening and Appraising Music – 40% of the total GCSE

- The listening examination will develop your aural skills and understanding of music history.
- It is based on four Areas of Study, each with two set works.
- You will learn how to identify features of music from a variety of genres which will also develop your own composition skills.

Area	Set works	Area	Set works
Music for Stage and Screen	Wicked: Defying Gravity Williams: Main Title from Star Wars Episode IV	Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820	Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 Beethoven: Pathétique
Fusions	Afro Celt Sound System: Release Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio	Vocal Music	Purcell: Music for a While Queen: Killer Queen

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
- Develop an appreciation of the relationship between physical activity and general health
- 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 covering both the theoretical and practical elements 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 be a team activity) and assessment of the ability to plan and complete a 6 week training programme. Both of these are developed in lessons and are assessed 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.

Physics

Specification: AQA Physics (8463)

Related Syllabuses: AQA Biology (8461) AQA Chemistry (8462)

Physics is the study of the Universe and how it behaves. This includes everything from the smallest particles to the life cycle of stars. In Physics you will look at matter (stuff), energy, space and time and how they relate to one another.

The GCSE Physics specification enables students to

- develop scientific knowledge and understand physical concepts.
- apply the laws of Physics in order to answer scientific questions about the Universe.
- experience how the laws of Physics apply through practical investigations.
- gain an insight into developments at the cutting edge of Science and technology.
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills.
- develop their ability to criticise scientific claims by analysing the methods used, evidence available and conclusions made.
- see how ideas covered in the other Sciences, Mathematics and Design Technology link together.

Course Content:

How are the courses assessed?

Each separate science qualification comprises two written examinations (worth 50% each) lasting 1 hour 45 minutes in duration. This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their examinations at the end of the course. Practical work is central to GCSE Physics, and the student's scientific skills are developed by undertaking required practical investigations throughout the course and these will be incorporated within examination questions.

How will I be taught?

You will be taught by a specialist Physics teacher.

Girls will be offered the three separate GCSE science courses: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The majority of girls will study all three. All of these courses will enable students to develop their enthusiasm and interest in science. GCSE Sciences provide an integrated opportunity to acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society. The Sciences have been identified as 'facilitating subjects' by top Universities, opening doors to a wide range of career pathways. They offer skills that can be applied in any course or career you choose to pursue in the future.

Religious Studies

Syllabus: AQA GCSE Religious Studies A

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 AQA GCSE in Religious Studies A consists of two Areas of Study, which are then assessed through two externally set examination papers.

Year 10

Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)
- 50% of GCSE

Students study the two following religions looking at key beliefs and practices:

- Islam
- Christianity

Year 11

Paper 2: Thematic Studies

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)
- 50% of GCSE

Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Timetable of GCSE Options Events

December 2022

Options videos and options booklets will be sent home for you to view ahead of Parents' Evening. Girls will also have the opportunity to talk to current GCSE students about the process.

Tuesday 24th January 2023

Options and Parents' Evening to discuss option choice plans and progress with subject staff.

Friday 10th February 2023

Final date for the return of the GCSE Option Choices Form which will be completed electronically. A copy will be emailed to all pupils in Year 9. Following this, 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 choose. 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 past the end of September in Year 10.



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