



King Edward's

WITLEY

GCSE SUBJECTS

2022-23



Introduction

As you look ahead to making the transition to (I)GCSE programmes of study, you have an exciting opportunity to personalise your curriculum and develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to best prepare for the next stage of your learning, in the Sixth Form here at King Edward’s, and career pathways that lie beyond.

(I)GCSE choices do need very careful thought, so the subject guides in this booklet seek to help you make informed choices, but we would also recommend that you discuss your choices with subject teachers, tutors, and parents/guardians. Further information about all of these courses is available from the relevant Head of Department and our Head of Careers and Higher Education is available to discuss more general queries, with regard to career pathways, with pupils and parents.

Additional considerations

All GCSE and IGCSE subjects are now graded 9-1 with 8-9 equivalent to A*. In Maths, Science and English Language, there are different tiers of entry which will give access to a limited range of grades. The Higher Tier covers grades 9-4, whilst the Foundation Tier has a maximum of a grade 5. In order to promote an aspirational approach, decisions on tiers of entry are usually left until the 5th Form.

The following points provide some additional factors to take into consideration when selecting your (I)GCSE subjects:

1. Try to choose a balance of subjects and pick subjects that you are good at, and enjoy, because you are more likely to succeed in them.

2. Be aware of the career implications of your choices; our Head of Careers and Higher Education is available to discuss this further.

3. Be realistic; do not choose subjects that you find difficult just because you have heard that they may be useful.

4. Think carefully for yourself; do not choose a subject only because your friends have opted for it or because your favourite teacher takes it.

Note:

i) If the numbers on any course are very small, the School reserves the right to withdraw the subject option. Similarly, if you wish to study a subject that is not currently offered, please do reach out to Mr Davies to discuss this.

ii) It may not be possible to provide everyone’s chosen combination of subjects because of clashes between timetable option blocks. We do make every effort to accommodate all requests, but you will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity, if this is the case.

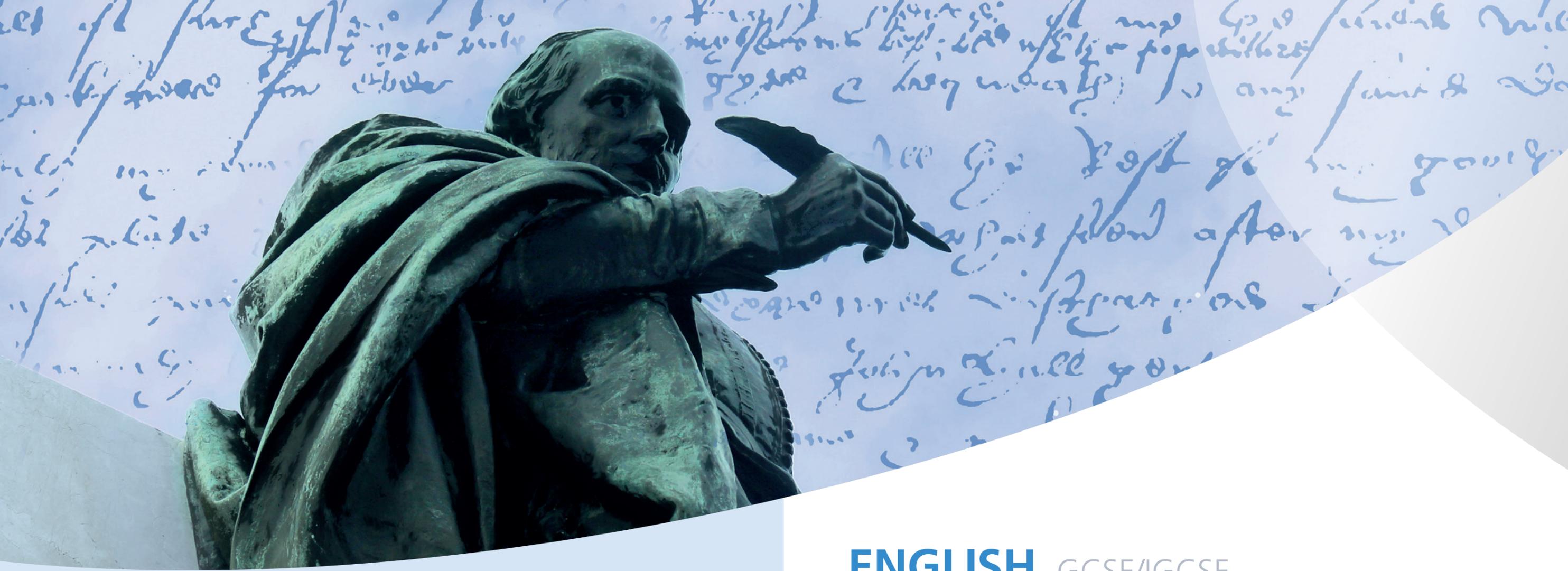
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CORE SUBJECTS

These are to be taken by all pupils:

1. English Language, with most pupils also taking English Literature.
2. Mathematics
3. A Modern Foreign Language – (French, German or Spanish; keen linguists may also opt for French as a second Modern Foreign Language in order to take 2 Foreign Languages).
4. Science – a double award in IGCSE

Pupils who achieve excellent results in Science in the Third Form, may be invited to apply for the Triple Science GCSE, subject to discussions with the Science department and final agreement by the Head of Departments in Science and Assistant Head, Academic.

ENGLISH GCSE/IGCSE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE English Literature

Assessed by two terminal written examinations.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
1 hour 45 minutes

Candidates answer two questions on two prepared set texts: one Shakespeare play and one 19th Century novel.

Contribution to final grade - 40%

Paper 2: Writing
2 hours 15 minutes

Candidates answer four questions. Two of these questions relate to set texts, including a collection of poetry grouped by a common theme and a modern prose or drama text. The final two questions are based on the candidate's reading of an unseen poem.

Contribution to final grade - 60%

Exam Board: AQA

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

IGCSE FIRST LANGUAGE English

Assessed by two terminal written examinations.

Paper 1: Reading
2 hours

Candidates answer questions on three unseen passages, linked by a common theme.

50% of total marks

Paper 2: Writing
2 hours

Extended writing question based on a passage and a composition task.

50% of total marks

Exam Board: CIE



MATHEMATICS IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

A choice of Mathematics courses is offered at King Edward's, with the aim of ensuring that pupils are prepared for a qualification which accords with their ability in the subject and which helps them to reach their potential.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

All classes study the IGCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) qualification offered by Edexcel. The level of study is higher and the course covers topics in the following areas: Number; Algebra; Geometry; Statistics. The course is examined in June of 5th Form and the final grade is based on the marks gained by completing two two-hour papers, with a calculator allowed in both papers. The grades available at this level of entry are 9-1.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Please note that there is no coursework in Mathematics, you will be assessed through examinations.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

By the end of 3rd Form, some pupils have already demonstrated a high level of ability in Mathematics. These pupils will be offered the chance to study for a further qualification: a Free Standing Mathematics qualification in Additional Mathematics from OCR. This qualification will be studied in parallel with the IGCSE course. Pupils may be awarded grades A to E, or U, based on a single examination paper lasting two hours, taken in June of 5th Form. The content of this course is made up of topics from Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics, some of which are touched upon in the IGCSE course, and some of which would otherwise be studied for the first time in the Sixth Form.

Both the IGCSE Mathematics and the Additional Mathematics qualifications are credited with UCAS points when pupils are applying for places at university.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

Every pupil, whatever course they are following, should have a scientific calculator. Any model with the standard mathematical functions is suitable, although graphical calculators are also allowed to be used in the examination. It is possible to purchase a suitable model of calculator from the Mathematics Department - we recommend the Casio Fx83GT PLUS.

Exam Board: Edexcel

SCIENCE IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 4th and 5th Form most pupils will study for the IGCSE Coordinated Science Double Award. This gives candidates the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics within a scientifically coherent syllabus.

Each subject is taught by subject specialists, allowing the pupils to appreciate the differences between each subject.

In Coordinated Science, pupils will study the three sciences in four periods per fortnight.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Candidates learn about the basic principles of each subject through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study.

Candidates learn how Science is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The syllabus is aimed at candidates across a very wide range of attainments, and will allow them to show success over the full range of grades from 9-9 to 1-1. The subject is assessed through three Coordinated Science question papers: multiple choice, a theory paper and the alternative to practical examination. Each exam contains questions from each of the three Sciences.

Most candidates study the full curriculum including core and supplement material, however, some elect to study the core only which gives them access to 5-5 to 1-1 grades. This decision is made during the 5th Form and is based on the candidate's performance throughout the 4th Form and following trial exams in the 5th Form.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As well as focusing on the individual sciences, the syllabus enables candidates to better understand the technological world they live in, and take an informed interest in Science and scientific developments.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

The IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: Cambridge



HELLO



HOLA



HALLO



BONJOUR

MODERN LANGUAGES IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

The study of a modern foreign language is compulsory up to IGCSE. We have French, German and Spanish on offer.

We recommend that pupils opt for the subject in which they are strongest academically and which they enjoy the most.

Keen linguists should also consider the possibility of taking two languages to IGCSE, one in the core and one as an options choice. The danger of becoming confused by learning two languages is far outweighed by the benefits of studying two subjects where the skills applied are similar, and the practical advantage of being able to communicate effectively in French, German and Spanish.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The course will cover five themes:

- Everyday activities
- Personal and social Life
- The world around us
- The world of work
- The international world

Within this, pupils study a wide range of language including meeting people, personal interests, friendships and relationships, going on a trip, holiday preferences and experiences, being a guest and host, home and local issues, school and college, helping others, lifestyle choices and impact, material choices and future plans and ambitions. They will also be taught more about the culture and life of the target language country.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There is no coursework or controlled assessment in the IGCSE French, German or Spanish, and pupils will be assessed in Listening, Reading and Writing as a final exam in May/June,

with a speaking exam usually in March. The speaking exam is conducted internally and marked externally, and involves a role-play dialogue and general conversation. The course is designed for pupils of all abilities and nationalities, with an international focus, and is excellent preparation for continued study as part of the International Baccalaureate.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Pupils who study Spanish, French or German to IGCSE will be well prepared to use the language for practical communication, and to continue with further study of the language in the Sixth Form. In the workplace, employers actively seek employees who have studied a language. Apart from the benefits of gaining employees who can communicate with marketplaces abroad, it reveals the qualities, such as an ability to communicate and to be adventurous and outgoing, which they are seeking.

The course enables pupils to continue to advance the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing, which they have developed during the study of the language so far. Activities are varied and fun and include the use of a variety of resources such as video, ICT, authentic materials, magazines and newspapers.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

We run exchanges and trips to Spain, Germany and France for pupils, which we thoroughly recommend, as they bring to life the work of the classroom. We also host language events such as plays in the target language and other linguistic enrichment activities to further students' enjoyment and motivation for learning.

Exam Board: CIE

OPTION SUBJECTS

Students should choose **THREE** subjects in total:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Art | Food Science |
| Classical Civilisation | Geography |
| Computer Science | History |
| Design Technology | Latin |
| Drama | Music |
| Economics | Physical Education |
| French (<i>if German or Spanish have been chosen in the core</i>) | Religious Studies |
| | Triple Science |



ART GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

We offer the opportunity to study Art and Design GCSE: Fine Art. This is an exciting course that allows you to find your own preferred styles of expression and create work that you feel proud of.

As well as being fun, relaxing and offering the opportunity for highly personalised learning, Art also offers a heavy bias toward coursework, enabling a significant percentage of marks to be attained outside of the time pressures of formal examinations.

Creative subjects are now preferred pre-requisites for many university degrees. Ideally a wide skill set, including the arts, will best prepare students for future academic study and employability. Fine motor skills, co-ordination, self-discipline and the ability to present work well are just some of the skills addressed through an Art GCSE course. These along with creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills all equip young people for the future workplace.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The Fine Art GCSE option allows pupils to make creative artworks in a variety of different ways, without being confined to one type of art. The following media may be used:

- Painting, drawing, collage and mixed-media
- Analogue and digital photography including Photoshop
- Ceramics
- Textiles
- Print making: Lino, etching, mono and screen printing

In 4th Form the emphasis is on learning new techniques, developing research skills and experimenting with different materials and processes. In 5th Form a more independent line of enquiry is encouraged, and pupils explore their own ideas in their preferred method of working. This could be two-dimensional or three-dimensional with pupils deciding upon the best way of conveying their ideas visually.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: 60% will be awarded for coursework. A portfolio of work completed over the course of study is presented for assessment towards the end of the spring half term in 5th Form.

Component 2: 40% will be awarded for the controlled test (external examination). This is a 10-hour practical examination taken at the start of the Summer Term in 5th Form.

Throughout the course, alongside the practical studio work, pupils will need to research and analyse the work of other artists. Clear evidence of drawing for different purposes and needs, as well as written annotation are required for both Components 1 and 2.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The creative industries are growing faster than any other sector in the UK, and an explosion of opportunities are now available in design and multi-media industries. This exciting course will allow pupils to develop as creative individuals.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

Visits to galleries and exhibitions during the two years will form an integral part of the course.

Our GCSE pupils emerge with focus, organisational and time management skills as well as the ability to think creatively and independently. In addition, many pupils find art a relaxing antidote to academic subjects.

Exam Board: AQA

BIOLOGY IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 4th and 5th Form pupils will be invited to study for the Cambridge IGCSE separate Science award. This gives candidates the opportunity to study Biology to a greater depth. The Biology IGCSE course is taught by a Biology specialist, allowing the pupils to appreciate both the depth and the wide variety of applications. In separate sciences pupils study Biology in eight periods per fortnight.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Candidates learn about the basic principles of Biology through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, whilst also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study. Candidates learn how Biology is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

Candidates learn a variety of topics ranging from characteristics and classification of living organisms, diseases and immunity, human physiology, inheritance, biotechnology, genetic engineering to human influences on ecosystems.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The subject is assessed through three different papers: multiple choice, theory and alternative to practical. Candidates who have studied at core subject content will be eligible for grades 5-1. Candidates who have studied the extended subject content will be eligible for grades 9-1. The decision of whether candidates sit for core or extended is taken following their 5th Form trial exams and is based on the candidate's performance throughout the 4th Form.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Candidates develop skills that are relevant to the study and practice of biology, including problem solving and environmental awareness.

They develop attitudes such as objectivity, concern about accuracy and precision.

Exam Board: Cambridge



CHEMISTRY IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 4th and 5th Form pupils have the choice of studying for the IGCSE Coordinated Science Double Award or if they have a strong interest in the sciences they can study the three separate Science IGCSE subjects together. This gives candidates the opportunity to study Chemistry to a greater depth of understanding. The Chemistry IGCSE course is taught by a Chemistry specialist, allowing pupils to appreciate both the depth and the wide variety of applications. In IGCSE Chemistry pupils will study the course in six periods per fortnight, allowing the increased content to be covered.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Candidates learn about the basic principles of Chemistry through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, while also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study. Candidates learn how Chemistry is studied, practised and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment. The topics covered are Experimental techniques, Atomic structure, Bonding and structure, Rates of reaction, Equilibria, Synthetic polymers and the world of Organic Chemistry.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The syllabus is aimed at candidates with a desire to study the Sciences and will allow them to show success over the full range of grades from 9 to 1. The subject is assessed through three Chemistry question papers: multiple choice, theory paper and the alternative to practical examination. Each exam contains questions from each of the topics but focus on different skills. All candidates are expected to study the full curriculum including core and supplement material, and acceptance onto the course is by application and is dependent of proven ability in the 3rd Form.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As well as focusing on the individual topics, the syllabus enables candidates to better understand the material world they live in, and take an informed interest in Chemistry, its applications and broader scientific developments.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

Cambridge IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: Cambridge

CLASSICS - CLASSICAL CIVILISATION GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

This course requires no previous knowledge of the world of the Greeks and Romans. It is also not necessary to have studied Latin.

The course does not involve any work in the language of the Greeks and Romans, as the material is studied in translation. The course gives pupils the opportunity to gain an understanding of the ancient world, which has had such a great impact on our own customs and thinking. Pupils develop personal responses to ancient sources and gain an insight into the Ancient Greek and Roman world.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The course is divided into two units, each of equal value and length (one hour thirty minutes). The topics have been chosen to provide for a wide range of interests:

- **Myth and religion.** This paper is based around 8 Roman and Greek themes: Gods; heroes; temples; festivals; myth and the foundation of cities; myth as symbols of power; death and burial; the Underworld.
- **War and Warfare.** This unit has a historical and a literary unit. The historical unit includes: Sparta and the Battle of Thermopylae; Athens and the Battle of Salamis; the Roman army on campaign; the Battle of Actium. The literary unit includes extracts from the following: Homer's Iliad; the Spartan war poet Tyrtaeus; Horace's Odes; Virgil's Aeneid.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

It is a two-year course and the final assessment consists of two examinations.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Classical Civilisation will be ideal for those who want a fresh start on something different and stimulating. It will provide a lifelong interest and enhance skills of reading, comprehension, analysis and interpretation of evidence.

Exam Board: OCR



CLASSICS - LATIN GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

This course aims to develop reading skills based on a selection of Latin sources. It is important to understand the cultural background and be able to compare ancient with modern times. Comprehension and translation skills will also be developed. All of these aims have already featured in the early stages of the Cambridge Latin Course.

Latin requires previous study of the language in 3rd Form.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

In the 4th Form, work continues on the necessary grammar and vocabulary so that pupils strengthen their knowledge of the mechanics of the Latin language. Pupils will be introduced to the society and politics of Ancient Rome under Imperial rule. The 5th Form is devoted to Latin Literature from Imperial Rome, taken from a broad spectrum of themes ranging from epic poems to private letters.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Paper 1: Latin Language (worth 50%) involves comprehension and translation work from passages of Latin and tests vocabulary knowledge and grammatical awareness.

Paper 2: Latin Literature involves a theme about Roman Life (worth 30%), comprising both prose and verse, accompanied by a selection of prescribed ancient source materials (e.g. paintings, mosaics, sculptures, buildings, graffiti). Material is taken from Roman satires, stories, private letters, epic stories and poems.

Paper 3: Latin Literature involves a narrative (worth 20%) in which learners are assessed on their ability to understand, analyse and evaluate a passage or passages of Latin literature which form a narrative, together with a passage or passages of narrative in English which extend the storyline.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Latin can benefit not only those who want to study English, Languages, Law, History and Archaeology at university, but also those who are considering careers in accountancy, market-research, banking, computing and medicine. It provides a broad skill set, enhances vocabulary and encourages logical thinking.

Exam Board: Eduqas

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

This modernised GCSE gives pupils an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. The Computer Science qualification will value computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems that do so.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The course will help you learn about critical thinking, analysis and problem solving. We hope you'll find it a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can also be transferred to other subjects and applied in day-to-day life.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course is divided into 2 components:

Component 01 - Computer Systems (50%)

The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.

Component 02 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50%)

This component is focused on problem solving with a programming context.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

If you take a GCSE in Computing and then go on to study the subject at IB or university, you'll have an advantage over fellow students who are picking up the subject at these higher levels. The increasing importance of information technologies means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field.

The course is also an excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop, especially where they're applied to technical problems. These areas include virtually all future careers.

Exam Board: OCR



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

Design and Technology impact our everyday lives. This newly updated and more rigorous course provides opportunities for candidates to develop an awareness of the nature and importance of good design and of technology in a rapidly changing society. It enables candidates to develop their skills and understanding of materials (wood, plastic, textiles, metal etc.) and apply the knowledge within a design and make based approach.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The GCSE Design and Technology course is a highly creative process that combines intellectual, creative and practical skills through relevant closed and open-ended tasks:

- Identifying a need or design opportunity
- Creating design specifications and suggested solutions
- Developing design ideas using 2D and 3D techniques including CAD
- Planning the sequential completion of task, including materials and time management
- Creating prototypes and final products
- Constant evaluation of outcomes

Initially, pupils will complete several small foundation projects involving graphics and design (e.g. a working Bluetooth amplifier/speaker system). This will develop the skills and theoretical knowledge required for the subject. The course will promote the careful, thoughtful and skilful use of materials, principally wood, metal, plastics and textiles, but also composite, smart and modern materials and associated pre-manufactured items and components.

Computer Aided Design (CAD), sustainability, presentation techniques and safety are woven into the topics.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The full GCSE Course is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1, worth 50%: Written Exam, 2 hours

Unit 2, worth 50%: A design and making task, "The Project", with a 20-page A3 portfolio done during lesson time and prep

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The course calls for candidates to become autonomous and creative problem-solvers, as individuals and as members of a team. They must look for needs, wants and opportunities and respond to them by developing a range of ideas and making products that solve needs. This course combines practical skills with an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, function and industrial practices. Candidates reflect on and evaluate relevant present and past design and technology, its uses and effects. The GCSE course develops transferable skills using product design and materials technology as the vehicle and thus useful for any career: being analytical, developing and communicating solutions to problems, independent learning, and evaluating outcomes. The course can lead to further study at IB, A-level and university, as well as careers in Design, Architecture, Engineering and other creative disciplines.

Exam Board: AQA

DRAMA GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

Pupils will work practically and collaboratively to understand the role of theatre makers in contemporary professional practice. Most of the lessons take the form of practical workshops and these are held in the Studio Theatre. Early into the course, in October, pupils will perform a play to an audience. This is an ensemble piece which is directed by the class teacher and previous productions have included 'Metamorphosis', 'Curious Incident' and 'Cookies'. There are further performance opportunities as the course continues and plenty of trips to the theatre for inspiration.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Pupils will learn how to create performances for an audience and how to refine their ideas and work collaboratively. Pupils will be taught about a variety of different performance styles and techniques and they will need to reflect on their progress and understanding through written tasks. They will be taught how to use the lighting and sound equipment in the Studio Theatre and they will explore how technical elements of a production create meaning and atmosphere for the audience. Pupils will study a play text in depth and they will be examined on how they will bring it to life for an audience. They also watch live theatre and develop their written analysis and evaluation skills.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Component one: Devising Project (40%) Pupils work in groups to create and perform an original piece of theatre for an audience. They can be assessed as performers or designers (lighting, costume, sound or set) and they produce a 2000 word portfolio to analyse and evaluate their contributions to the rehearsal process.

Component two: Performance exam (20%) Pupils perform scenes from contemporary published plays to a visiting examiner who assesses their acting skills. Or, pupils may choose to be assessed in a design role and they must fully realise their designs for the final performance. Recent texts include 'When They Go Low', 'Who Cares?', 'Girls Like That'.

Component three: The written examination is 1 hour and 45 minutes long (40%). In section A pupils answer questions on 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare. They must demonstrate an understanding of the historical context of the production and articulate their ideas for how the text might be brought to life on stage. In Section B they are required to analyse and evaluate a live performance that they have seen at the theatre and they may take 500 words of notes into the exam to remind them of what they have seen.

Exam Board: Edexcel



ECONOMICS IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

On offer is the opportunity to study a vibrant, important, and fascinating subject. Its inclusion in the key stage four curriculum is timely as there is a growing need for everyone to understand the economic issues that affect all our lives. Economics incorporates a wide range of matters related to the living standards and wellbeing of the population. If you are curious about what government policies may be used to facilitate the transition to a green economy, help people make healthier lifestyle choices, reduce income inequality and poverty, and ensure fairness in global trade and development then this subject is for you. Studying Economics provides you with the knowledge and skills to be an informed citizen who can appraise government decisions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will improve your analytical and evaluative skills significantly. Economics invites you to reflect and to critically appraise government policies relating to the key issues facing countries and the planet.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two exams. One is a multiple choice paper and the second is an extended paper including a data response question and a series of questions requiring various levels of analysis and evaluation. There is no coursework.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

You will learn how governments try to steer their economies to ensure high levels of employment, low rates of price increases (which can erode living standards), reductions in poverty and income inequality, and at the same time seek ways of ensuring economic growth is sustainable. You will also learn about how countries trade with each other and the role played by globalization in all our lives. Importantly, you will look at issues of economic development. Why have some countries developed and have high living standards and what are the factors holding back countries that still have high levels of poverty? The starting point of the course is to consider how societies organise themselves to produce the goods and services that improve our lives. For the most part, societies rely on markets to allocate resources with profit seeking firms competing for our custom. You will learn why markets work but also why they might not work so well, thus providing reasons for the government to intervene through a variety of policies such as the direct provision of healthcare and education.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

To be a successful economist you need to be curious about the world around you. Further study in Economics is available at King Edward's Witley through A-level and IB. Studying the subject at IGCSE level will provide you with an excellent foundation from which to pursue more advanced study. The department runs trips to a European destination and New York and has a variety of extra-curricular activities that you can enjoy.

Exam Board: CIE

FOOD SCIENCE GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

In studying Food Preparation and Nutrition, pupils will study nutrition, food provenance, food choice, and the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. They will also learn practical food preparation and cooking techniques.

Pupils will learn:

- understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks
- the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- the economic, environmental, ethical, and sociocultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- to explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Written exam: 50% of marks from 2 sections: Section A: questions based on stimulus material. Section B: structured, short and extended response questions.

Non-examined assessment: 50% of marks from 2 set tasks and accompanying paperwork:

- Food investigation task - a food science investigation in 5th Form
- Food preparation task - a 3 hour practical cooking examination in 5th Form

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Pupils will learn:

- To demonstrate safe cooking skills using a variety of ingredients and equipment
- To use their understanding of the science of food to manipulate the sensory properties of dishes
- To plan and prepare shopping lists, modify recipes and write meal plans
- To use their understanding of nutrients to prepare meals which meet the nutritional requirements of a balanced diet
- To organise and manage their time effectively

Exam Board: EDUQAS



GEOGRAPHY IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

“Geography explains the past, illuminates the present and prepares us for the future. What could be more important than that?” - Sir Michael Palin, Former President of the Royal Geographical Society.

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. In a world of rapid and constant political, economic and social change, where young people’s lives are affected by daily decisions and human actions on all scales, Geography has never been a more pertinent subject to study. Geography at IGCSE level addresses directly the issues that will shape the world in which our pupils will live, from Brexit to global warming, development to water management. The subject draws upon and develops a wide range of highly desirable academic skills and knowledge from across the academic spectrum to help pupils make sense of the world around them.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

This syllabus is designed to allow pupils to study topics of interest in depth and to develop an awareness and understanding of many topical issues in the world today, in addition to developing geographical and analytical skills.

The syllabus is divided into three themes, each contributing towards the final examination;

- Population and settlement
- The natural environment
- Economic development and the use of resources

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The final examination consists of two papers;

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes. Pupils answer three questions from a choice of six (one from each of the themes listed above).

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes. It is based on testing the interpretation and analysis of geographical information and on the application of graphical and other techniques as appropriate.

Coursework: A geographical investigation, approximately 2000 words, is conducted based on primary data collected during field work. Pupils collect data then present, analyse, draw conclusions and evaluate their data. This is worth 27.5% and is internally assessed and externally moderated.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As a subject, Geography falls neatly between the Sciences and the Arts and serves to integrate them and allow for a better understanding of the world around us – a highly desirable characteristic revered by higher education institutions and employers alike. This synthesis of subject, and the development of a wide ranging skills base ranging from analytical and ICT skills to practical fieldwork skills, allows for a wide range of options to be taken after IGCSE. Pupils wishing to study the subject in the International Baccalaureate or A-level are strongly recommended to opt for the subject at IGCSE.

Exam Board: Cambridge

HISTORY IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

“Who controls the past controls the future.” 1984, George Orwell

Through their study of History pupils will acquire knowledge and understanding of some of the main events of the 20th century. They will explore the significance of historical events and people, and will develop awareness of the major changes and issues of the period.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Pupils who study History learn to argue, analyse, evaluate, organise and communicate their knowledge and views both orally and in writing, building on the skills and knowledge that they have been developing in 1st to 3rd Form. Pupils will learn to use historical sources critically and they will be able to use this evidence to draw their own conclusions and judgements about historical events. It provides an excellent foundation for the study of IB and A-level History.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are two examination papers of 90 minutes each.

Content overview

Paper 1: Depth studies

- A divided union. Civil rights in the USA, 1945-74
- Development of dictatorship: Germany, 1918-45

Paper 2: Breadth studies and source paper

- Russia and the Soviet Union, 1905-24
- The changing role of international organisations: The League of Nations and the UN, 1919-c2011

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Ever since the Russell Group (the UK’s leading Universities) has published a list of recommended subjects for university entrance, History has always been amongst them. The reason for this is, History teaches and refines the skills of argument and critical analysis based on actual human experience and is relevant to so many other subjects such as Politics, Law, Sociology, International Relations and many more.

The Historian deals with actual events and real people and an understanding of our past is fundamental when dealing with present day problems and conflicts. It gives us an insight and into the development of society’s beliefs and foundations and how we got to where we are today, also perhaps where we are going in the future.

Exam Board: Edexcel



MUSIC GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

GCSE Music is 60% practical and a 40% written exam taken at the end of 5th Form. The course aims to build on three skills; Listening, Composing and Performing and to give opportunities for pupils of all abilities to broaden their understanding and appreciation of Music. The breadth of the syllabus allows pupils to develop their musical skills over a period of two years.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

You will learn how:

- to improve your performing skills
- music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product
- to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed over the last 400 years or so.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Performing (30% of marks awarded)

Solo performing (15%) Performing in an ensemble (15%)

Pupils will be expected to perform and record two pieces of their own choice, which should be of around Grade 4 to access the highest marks. It is expected that pupils take instrumental or vocal lessons in school where they can be fully supported over the course. The pieces are recorded at any time over the two years.

Composing (30% of marks awarded)

Pupils will be required to compose two contrasting compositions using the extensive facilities in the Mac Suite. No previous experience of composing is necessary with skills being developed over the two year course. The compositions should be based on one of the twelve areas of study.

Listening (40% of marks awarded)

Pupils will be required to study nine contrasting pieces and required to take a listening examination (1 hour 45 minutes), commenting on various features of each of the works studied during the course.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

GCSE Music is suitable for all pupils with a love of and interest in Music. In addition to developing music based skills, students also develop many general skills such as independent learning, research, planning and problem solving. If you enjoy composing and performing music, learning an instrument or singing, creating music on computers or in a recording studio, learning about all types of music, then GCSE Music is the ideal subject for you.

Music qualifications are highly regarded by colleges of further education and employers alike as musicians are trained to work methodically and to be self-disciplined. You may wish to use GCSE Music as a basis for further study such as IB or A-level or related areas such as Music Technology.

Exam Board: Edexcel

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

IGCSE Physical Education is 50% practical (assessed over two years) and a 50% written exam taken at the end of 5th Form. It is an academically challenging course as well as requiring a good standard of sports performance. We also expect pupils to be putting themselves forward for all school teams so that they may be assessed in these sports as part of their course.

The pupils have six lessons per fortnight, usually comprising two practical and four theory lessons although the two sections often overlap.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

All pupils will be taught in one fitness based activity and, although they do not have to use the marks we award them at this point, it provides a good balance with the major games many of them are taking part in during the Autumn Term activity slots (hockey, football, netball).

As an example, pupils from recent year groups have combined the following activities for assessment:

Pupil one: Weight Training, football, basketball and athletics
Pupil two: Lifesaving (swimming), hockey, tennis and cross country.

There are numerous possible combinations and pupils are encouraged to negotiate their choices and possibilities as soon as they begin the course.

For the theory section of the course If they are working well in Science subjects then they can expect to do well in this part of the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

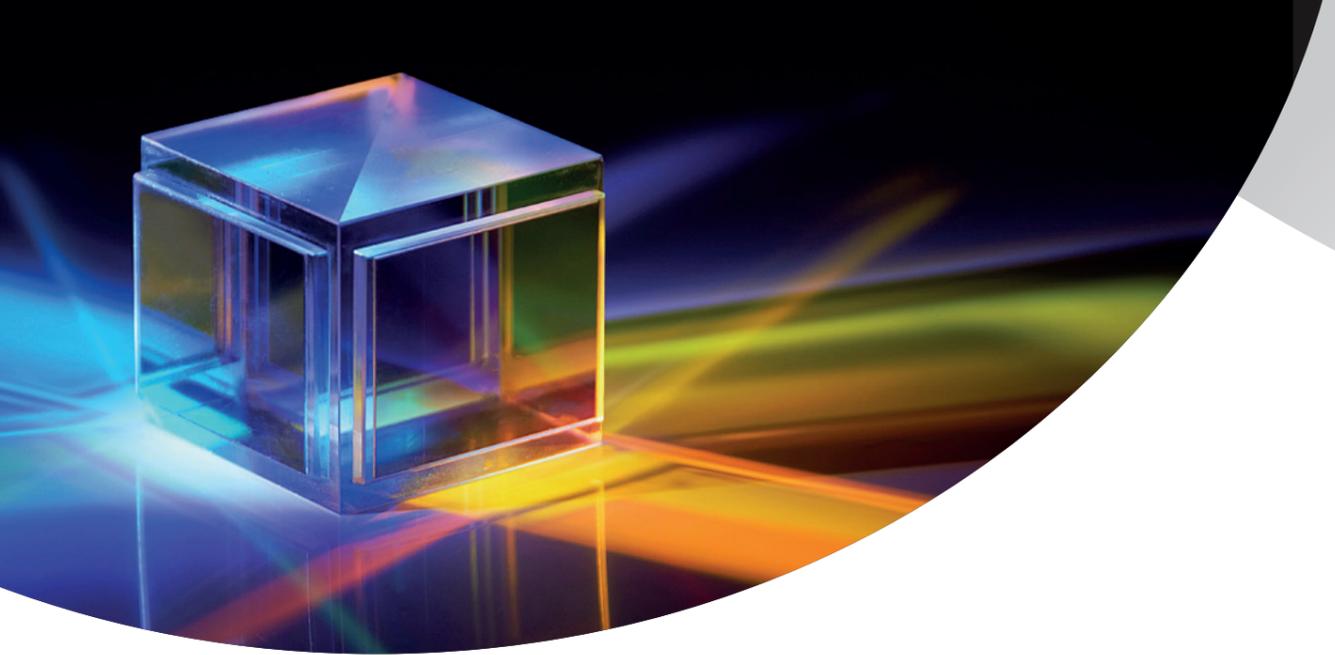
In the practical part of the course, pupils will be assessed under controlled conditions in four activities from different groupings (game activities, athletic activities and individual activities) although they can select more than one from a particular group. It is expected that in at least two of their choices, they will have reached a standard equivalent to school team level in order to prove that they are capable of reaching at least a grade 5 (equivalent to a high C grade.)

The theory section comprises of one exam paper of 1 hour 45 minutes in which they are asked questions on the theoretical knowledge behind health, fitness and physical activity. This section includes questions in areas of sports science, such as physiological factors affecting performance, and includes some biology and chemistry.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

Physical Education IGCSE is a fun, but challenging, academic subject. The PE Department expects a serious commitment to this subject at all times.

Exam Board: Cambridge



PHYSICS IGCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 4th and 5th Form most pupils will study for the IGCSE Coordinated Science Double Award. However, we also offer the three separate Science IGCSE subjects with IGCSE Physics being the Physics offer. This gives candidates the opportunity to study Physics to a greater depth. The Physics IGCSE course is taught by a Physics specialist, allowing the pupils to appreciate both the depth and the wide variety of applications. In IGCSE Physics, pupils will study the course in six periods per fortnight, allowing the increased content to be covered.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Candidates learn about the basic principles of Physics through a mix of theoretical and practical studies, whilst also developing an understanding of the scientific skills essential for further study. Candidates learn how Physics is studied and practised, and become aware that the results of scientific research can have both good and bad effects on individuals, communities and the environment.

The topics covered are Measurement, Motion, Thermal Physics, Waves (Light & Sound), Electricity & Magnetism, Atomic Physics and Space Physics (which is new this year).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The syllabus is aimed at candidates with a desire to study the Sciences, and will allow them to show success over the full range of grades from 9 to 1. The subject is assessed through three Physics question papers: multiple choice, a theory paper and the alternative to practical examination. Each exam contains questions from each of the topics, but focus on different skills. All candidates are expected to study the full curriculum including core and supplement material, and acceptance onto the course is by application and is dependent of proven ability in the 3rd Form.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As well as focusing on the individual topics, the syllabus enables candidates to better understand the technological world they live in, and take an informed interest in Physics, its applications and broader scientific developments.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma and A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: Cambridge

RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

WHAT IS ON OFFER?

The GCSE course in Religious Studies is composed of a study of the beliefs and practices of Christianity & Islam alongside the study of Ethical Issues and Philosophy.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The four thematic units are; Relationships and Families, Peace and Conflict, Crime and Punishment, The Existence of God and Revelation. We consider how both religious believers of different faiths and those who have no faith respond to different challenges in the modern world.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Full Course AQA Religious Studies Route A [8062] Examinations are 1hr 45mins

Component One: The Study of Religions, Beliefs, Teachings & Practices

Key beliefs of Christianity

- Jesus Christ and Salvation
- Christian Practices including Worship and Festivals
- The role of the church in the local and worldwide community

Key beliefs of Islam

- Authority of the Prophet
- Muslim Practices including Worship and Festivals
- Islamic Duties

Component Two: Thematic Studies

Theme A: Relationships and families including; Contraception, Sexual relationships before marriage, and Homosexual relationships.

Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict including; Violence, Weapons of mass destruction, and Pacifism.

Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment including; Corporal punishment, Death penalty, and Forgiveness.

Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation including; Miracles, Science and God, and Evil and Suffering.

ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

This is a really exciting course that requires deep thinking, a willingness to consider a range of standpoints and a consideration of both the ancient and modern world. For any further questions do not hesitate to contact the Head of Religious Studies.

Exam Board: AQA





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WITLEY

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