King Edward's
WITLEY

# GCSE SUBJECTS

2026-2027

# 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 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.

Most pupils will take nine (I)GCSEs: the five core GCSEs of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Double Science, plus four option subjects as outlined in this booklet. Some pupils, depending on their individual circumstances, may take fewer subjects. Furthermore, strong mathematicians, linguists or musicians may consider taking additional GCSEs in these subjects. Please speak to the Head of Department about these options (Mrs Meyer - Maths, Mrs O'Keefe - MFL and Mr Sliwka - Music).

**Additional considerations**

All GCSE and IGCSE subjects are now graded 9-1 with 8-9 equivalent to A*. In Maths 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. We strongly encourage pupils to consider one Modern Foreign Language and a subject from humanities.
3. Be aware of the career implications of your choices; our Head of Careers and Higher Education is available to discuss this further.
4. Be realistic; do not choose subjects that you find difficult just because you have heard that they may be useful.
5. 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 the Deputy Head, Academic 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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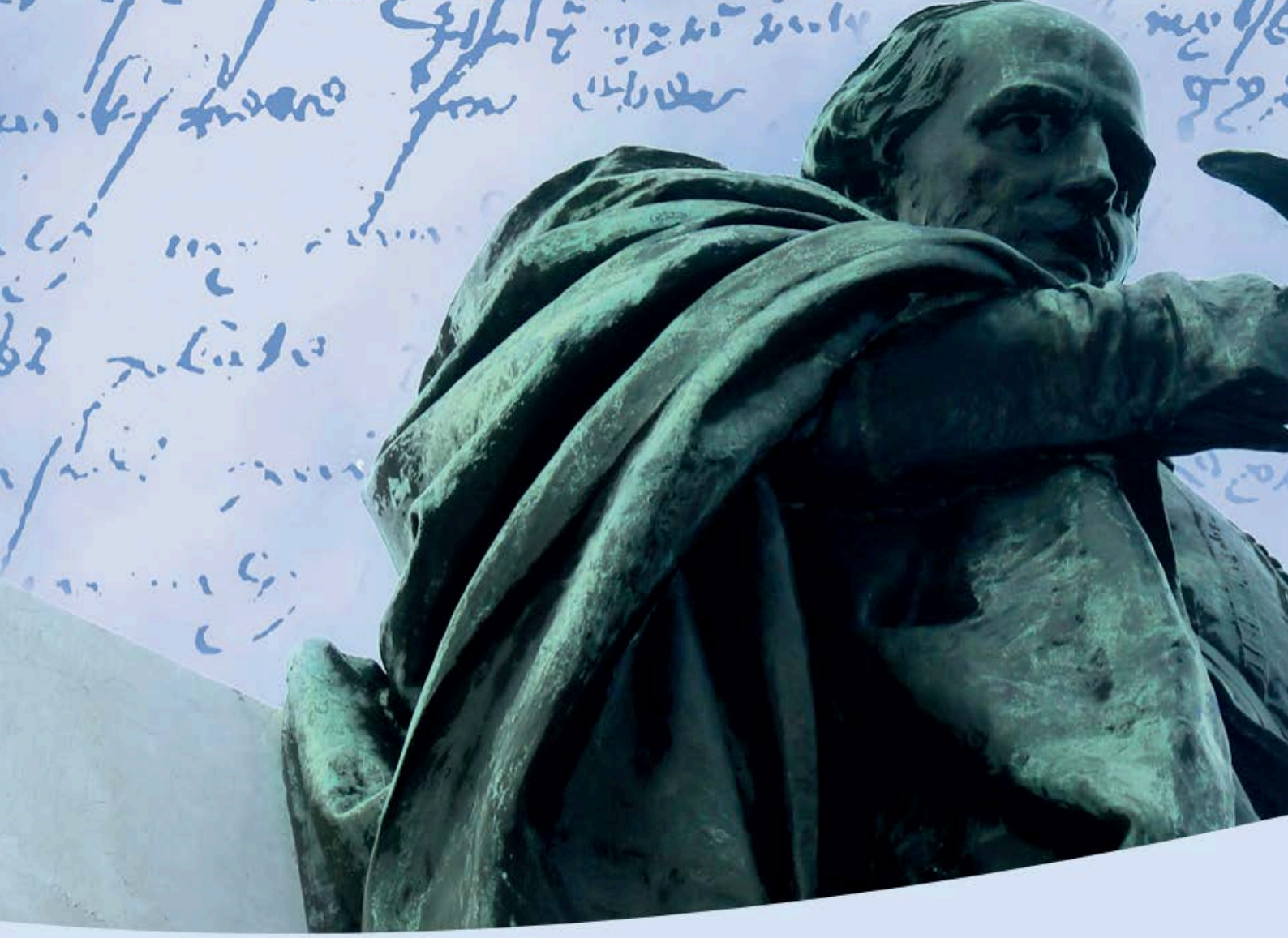
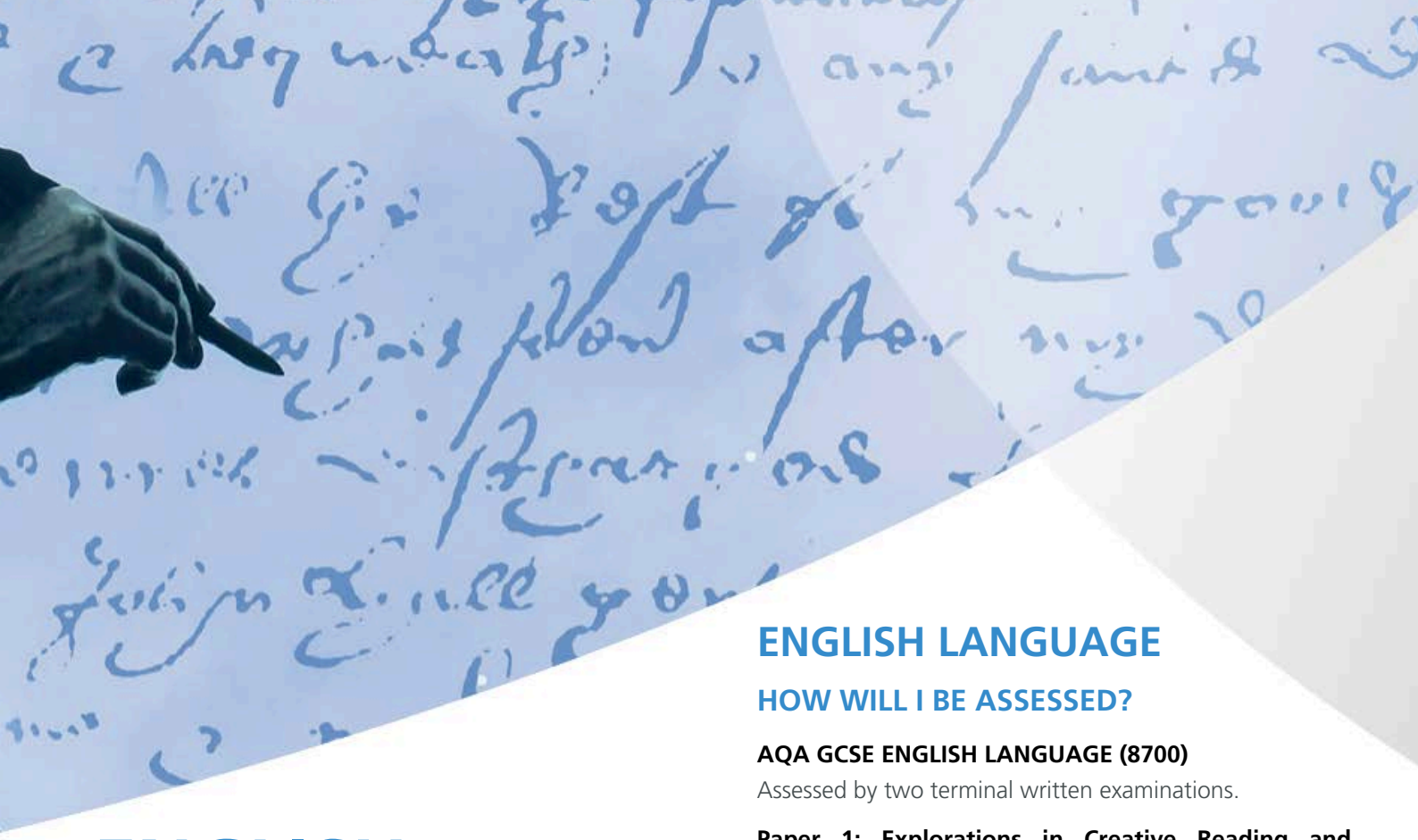


# CORE SUBJECTS

**These are to be taken by all pupils:**

1. English Language, with most pupils also taking English Literature
2. Mathematics
3. Science – a double award in IGCSE

Pupils may decide to do Triple Science IGCSE if they wish. This is a good option for a pupil that wants to do Science A Level.



# ENGLISH GCSE

## 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 and 45 minutes (40%)**
Pupils answer two questions on two prepared set texts: one Shakespeare play and one 19th Century novel.

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**Paper 2: Writing**
**2 hours 15 minutes (60%)**
Pupils 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 pupil's reading of an unseen poem.

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Exam Board: AQA

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (8700)**
Assessed by two terminal written examinations.

**Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**
**1 hour 45 minutes (50%)**
Pupils analyse one unseen prose extract from literature or fiction, exploring how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques. They also complete a creative writing task, choosing between two prompts.

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**Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**
**1 hour 45 minutes (50%)**
Pupils respond to two unseen non-fiction texts linked by a common theme. One text is from the 19th Century, and the other is from the 21st Century. Pupils examine how writers express ideas and perspectives, followed by a transactional writing task for a specified purpose and audience.

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**Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language**
**Assessed separately (0% weighting)**
Pupils deliver a spoken presentation on a chosen topic, followed by questions and feedback. They are assessed on their ability to organise ideas, use Standard English effectively, and engage their audience.

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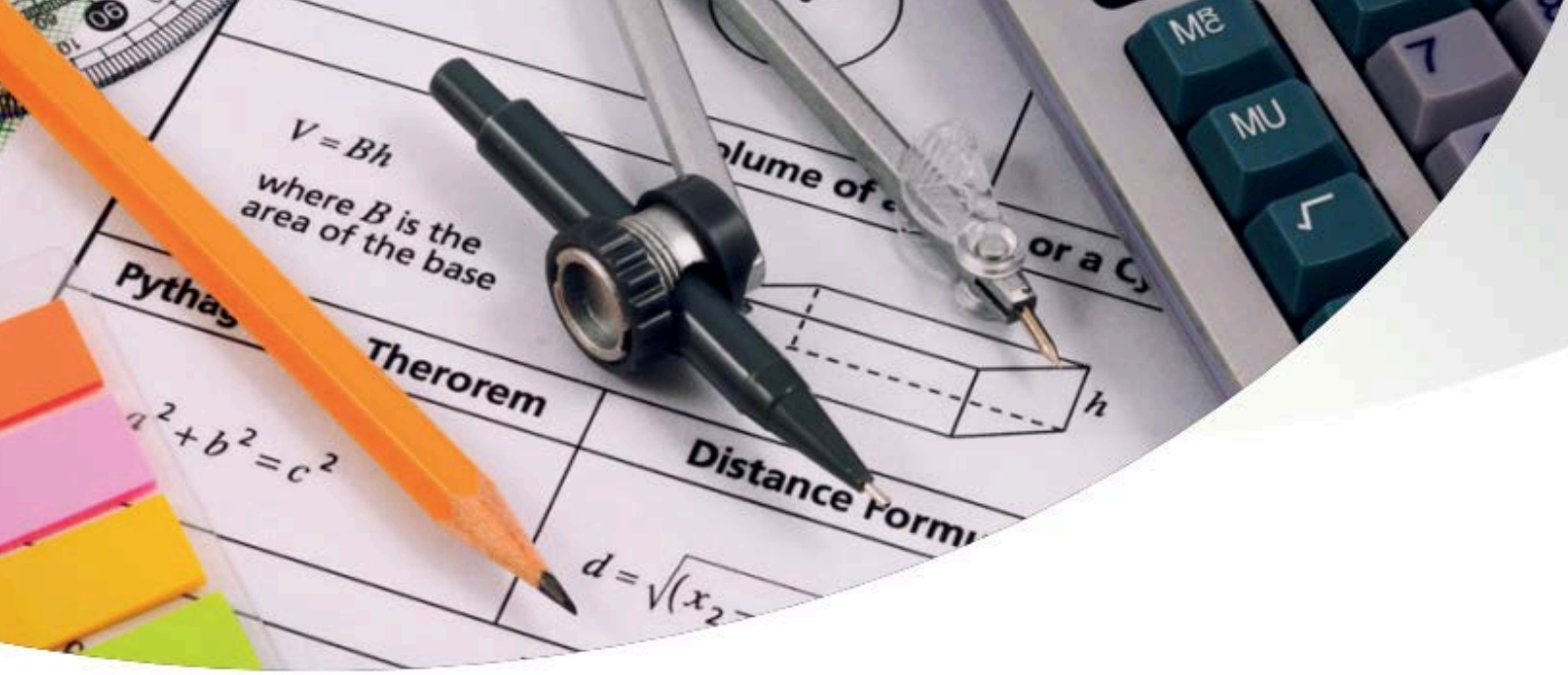
Exam Board: AQA




# 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 Further Mathematics (AQA Level 2 Certificate). This qualification is designed for high-achieving students who enjoy mathematical challenge and wish to explore the subject beyond GCSE. It deepens understanding of algebra, geometry, and problem-solving while introducing topics such as calculus, matrices, trigonometry, and functions. Ideal for pupils expected to achieve grades 7–9 in IGCSE Mathematics and who plan to study A-Level Mathematics or Further Mathematics.

Further Mathematics will be assessed in two; 1hour 45minute papers one non-calculator and one calculator in June of 5th form.

## 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 3rd, 4th and 5th Form, most pupils will study for the IGCSE Science Double Award. This gives pupils 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 Science, pupils will study the three sciences in four periods per fortnight.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Pupils 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.

Pupils 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 pupils across a very wide range of attainments and will allow them to show success over the full range of grades. The subject is assessed through examination in one untiered paper per science; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The externally marked examinations consist of 110 marks that are a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. The results of the three papers are then combined to produce the overall double award grades ranging from 99 to 11.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

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

## ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

The Pearson Edexcel IGCSE double award is internationally recognised by schools, universities, and employers as an equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

# OPTION SUBJECTS

**Pupils should choose FOUR subjects in total:**

- Art
- Art - Textiles
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- Food Science
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- 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 pupils 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 though 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, digital photography including Photoshop, ceramics, and print making. At the start of 4th Form the emphasis is on learning new techniques, developing research skills and experimenting with different materials and processes. In the latter stages of 4th Form and moving on to 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

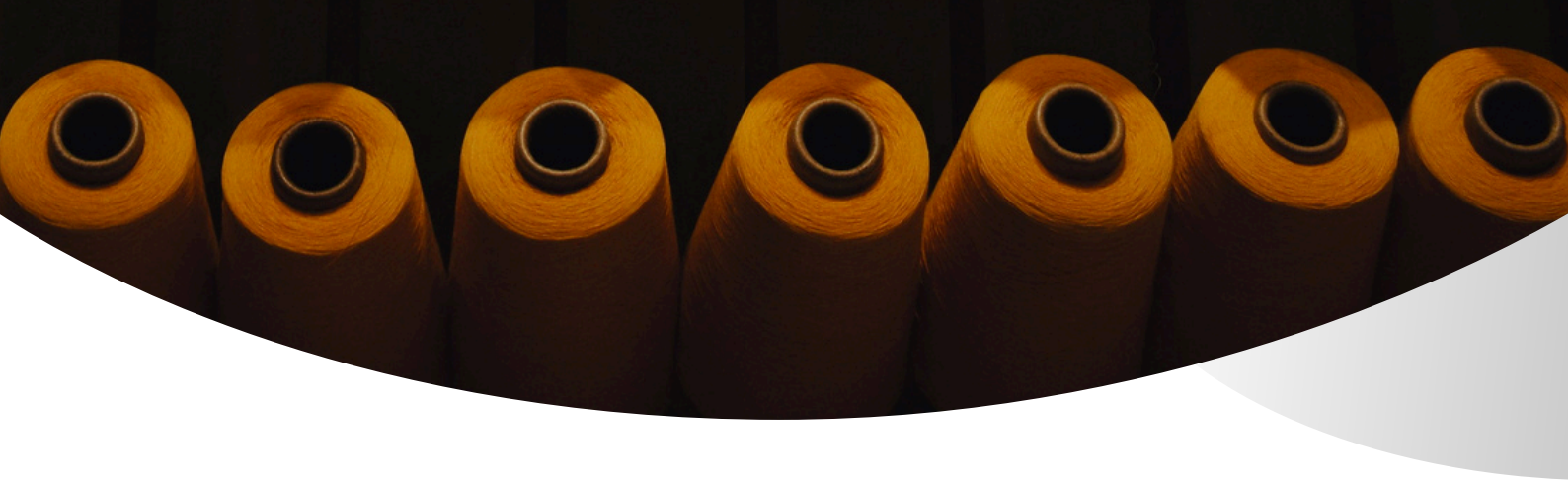
## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

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 as well as improve their practical skills.

## 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



# ART - TEXTILES GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

We offer the opportunity to study Art and Design GCSE: Textiles.

This is a highly creative and immersive course into the world of Textiles that allows you to explore and combine traditional skills with a contemporary practise.

As well as being imaginative, stimulating and offering the opportunity for highly personalised learning, Textiles also offers a heavy bias toward coursework, enabling a significant percentage of marks to be attained outside of the time pressures of formal examinations. Critical thinking, developing cultural knowledge, self-discipline, understanding of modern technologies and the ability to present work well are just some of the skills addressed though a Textiles GCSE course which are essential skills to equip young people for the future workplace.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The Textiles GCSE allows you to be challenged to learn, refine, and develop practical textile skills, with a variety of materials.

Starting with a foundation style course in 4th Form the emphasis is on learning new techniques, developing research skills and experimenting. Skills may be learned in the following: fabric manipulation, fabric painting, drawing, painting, printing making, surface pattern, illustration, trend setting, hand sewing, machine embroidery, batik, dying, collage and mixed-media, digital photography including Photoshop.

In the latter stages of 4th Form and moving on to 5th Form, a more independent line of enquiry is encouraged, and pupils explore their own ideas in their preferred method of working. Within the GCSE Textiles course pupils will learn to use techniques and processes based on a theme and artists. Pupils will have guided starting points but will need to work and research independently to develop an individual style, direction, and outcome. Pupils are required to work in one or more area(s) of textile design producing outcomes related to Art textiles, Fashion design, Interior soft furnishing, constructed and installed textiles, digital textiles, surface pattern, trend setting and costume design. Textiles as a subject allows for entry points into these areas of careers and more.

## 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.

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## 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 Textiles a relaxing antidote to academic subjects.

Exam Board: AQA

# BIOLOGY IGCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 3rd, 4th and 5th Form pupils can study the Edexcel IGCSE separate Science (Triple) award. This gives candidates the opportunity to study Biology in greater depth, which is a good base for someone who wants to do Biology at A Level. 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?

Pupils 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. Pupils 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.

Pupils learn a variety of topics ranging from nature, variety and structure of living organisms, diseases and immunity, plant and human physiology, inheritance, biotechnology, genetic engineering to human influences on ecosystems.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The syllabus is aimed at pupils 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 two, externally marked, untiered Biology question papers. The first paper is 110 marks, covering the core content, and is a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. This is identical to the Biology double award paper. The IGCSE Biology pupils will sit an additional 70-mark paper that covers ALL of the content and will again comprise of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. All pupils are expected to study the full curriculum material.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

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

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

## ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities, and employers as an equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

# BUSINESS GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

GCSE Business provides an excellent introduction to the world of business, helping pupils understand how businesses are created, operate, and thrive in competitive environments. This course is perfect for pupils interested in exploring concepts like entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, and customer behaviour. Whether you're aspiring to run your own business in the future, work in a corporate environment, or simply understand how businesses affect everyday life, this subject offers a solid foundation. Additionally, GCSE Business is highly relevant, as it links to real-world events and current economic situations, making it both engaging and practical.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Throughout the course, pupils will cover a wide range of topics, including:

- **Business Ownership and Operations:**
  Understanding different types of businesses (e.g., sole traders, partnerships, and corporations) and how they operate.
- **Marketing and Market Research:**
  Learning about advertising, branding, and how businesses identify and target customers
- **Finance and Accounting:**
  Managing money, understanding costs, profit, revenue, and interpreting financial documents.
- **Human Resources:**
  Exploring recruitment, training, and how businesses motivate employees.
- **External Influences:**
  Examining the impact of economic, social, and legal factors on businesses.

Lessons are designed to be interactive, combining theory with practical examples to help pupils connect classroom learning to real-world business scenarios.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The assessment for GCSE Business is carried out through final examinations. There is no coursework.

## WHAT SKILLS WILLS I DEVELOP?

Studying GCSE Business helps pupils develop a range of valuable skills, including:

- **Critical Thinking**: Analysing problems, evaluating options, and making reasoned judgments.
- **Numeracy**: Working with financial data such as budgets, profit margins, and break-even analysis.
- **Communication**:Presenting ideas clearly and effectively, both in writing and discussion.
- **Teamwork**: Collaborating with peers during group projects or case study exercises
- **Decision-Making**: Applying knowledge to solve business-related challenges and justify solutions.

These skills are not only beneficial for further studies but are also highly sought after by employers

## FURTHER INFORMATION

GCSE Business opens doors to a variety of future opportunities. Pupils can progress to A-levels in Business, Economics, or related subjects. It also provides an excellent foundation for careers in marketing, management, entrepreneurship, or roles in public services.

It is important to note that Business GCSE is a challenging course that encompasses all the key functions of business and requires a high level of commitment and engagement from those who take the subject.

Exam Board: AQA 8132

# CHEMISTRY IGCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 3rd, 4th and 5th Form pupils have the choice of studying for the IGCSE 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 pupils 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, eight periods a fortnight, allowing the increased content to be covered.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Pupils 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. Pupils 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
- The world of organic chemistry

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The syllabus is aimed at pupils 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 two, externally marked, untiered Chemistry question papers.

The first paper is 110 marks, covering the core content, and is a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. This is identical to the Chemistry double award paper. The IGCSE Chemistry pupils will sit an additional 70 mark paper that covers ALL of the content and will again be comprised of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. All candidates are expected to study the full curriculum material.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As well as focusing on the individual topics, the syllabus enables pupils 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?

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities, and employers as an equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: **Pearson Edexcel**

# CLASSICS - CLASSICAL CIVILISATION GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

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. 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.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The course is divided into two units, each of equal value and length (1.5 hours). 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?

Paper 1: Myth and Religion Paper 90 minutes, worth 50%
Paper 2: War and Warfare Paper 90 minutes, worth 50%

## 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 (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 (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 (20%)**
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 1: 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 2: Computational Thinking (50%)**

Algorithms and Programming: 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 A-level, or university, you'll have an advantage over fellow pupils 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 excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on problem solving and logical thinking. These areas include virtually all future careers.

Exam Board: OCR

# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

Design and Technology impacts our everyday lives. This course provides opportunities for pupils to develop an awareness of the nature and importance of good design and of technology in a rapidly changing society. It enables pupils 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 introducing new materials and processes while following the iterative design process. This will develop the skills and theoretical knowledge required for the subject. The course will promote the careful, thoughtful and skillful use of materials, principally wood, metal, plastics and textiles, but also composite, smart and modern materials and associated premanufactured 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 (50%):**
Written Exam - 2 hours

**Unit 2 (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 pupils 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. Pupils 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 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?

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report predicts creativity, innovation and ideation will be key skills for the workforce of the future. These so-called soft skills, which sit alongside analytical thinking and problem-solving, will replace manual tasks that become automated. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted Creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions! At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The GCSE Drama specification is designed to give you a broad and balanced experience of Drama. You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but if you choose, also your design skills in areas such as: Lighting design, Sound design, Set design, Costume, Hair and Make-Up Design. You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform in a performance from a text. You can choose to concentrate on acting or design. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions.

The EDEXCEL GCSE Drama specification has three components: Devising, Performance from a Text, and Theatre Makers in Practice.

Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills. Your written skills, both analytical and creative, as well as your ability to self-reflect, will be developed through a range of tasks. Studying Drama will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Component 1: Devising (40%)**
You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre.
You will produce:

- ·A performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group)
- ·A portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process

**Component 2: Performance from a Text (20%)**
You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design.
You will produce:
Two performances either a group, duologue or monologue using sections of text from both extracts.

**Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)**
Written examination: 1 hour 45minutes
You will answer:
Section A: Section A: Set Text - A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied. 'The Crucible' by Arthur Miller. These questions are based on how you would choose to perform this text, explaining your ideas for acting, directing and design.

Section B: Live Theatre Review – Two questions analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course. For this element you will see a number of productions over the course of the two years and take a set of notes into the exam.

## MYTH BUSTERS

- You do not have to be involved in school productions to take Drama GCSE, all examination performances are performed to a selected audience.
- It is possible to go through the course and choose only design options.
- Drama will not take up loads of your spare time, if you use your lesson time effectively

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

# ECONOMICS GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

On offer is the opportunity to study a vibrant, important, and fascinating subject. Economics analyses a wide range of issues 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 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.

## 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 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.

## 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. 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 with two sections (50%):**

- Section A: questions based on stimulus material
- Section B: structured, short and extended response questions

**Non-examined assessment with two tasks and paperwork (50%):**

- 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. The Geography GCSE addresses issues that will shape the world in which we live and gives pupils the opportunity to apply their knowledge directly through field work. The course develops a wide range of geographical skills that helps pupils make sense of the world around them and are invaluable in future academic learning and in the workplace.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

The course allows pupils to study issues in depth and develops analytical and evaluative skills. There is a balance of physical and human geography topics:

- Hazardous Environments and Coastal Environments
- Economic activity and Energy and Urban Environments
- Global issues with a focus on globalisation and migration.

Two pieces of fieldwork are undertaken investigating coastal environments and urban environments.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The final examinations consist of only two exams:

**Paper 1:**
Physical Geography: 1 hour and 10 minutes.
The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions. The final section asks fieldwork-based questions in which pupils analyse and respond to data about a geographical investigation and answer questions about their own fieldwork experience.

**Paper 2:**
Human Geography – 1 hour and 45 minutes
This is the same format as Paper 1 with the addition of an essay style question worth 12 marks based on resources and the pupil's own knowledge with a focus on globalisation.

## 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 at A-level are strongly recommended to opt for the subject at IGCSE.

Exam Board: Edexcel IGCSE

# 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. Pupils will build and extend the skills and knowledge they have been developing in 1st to 3rd Form. Pupils will learn to use historical sources critically and apply evidence to draw their own conclusions and reach judgements about historical events.

The course also provides an excellent foundation for the study of History at A Level.

## 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
- China: Conflict, crisis and change, 1900-89

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

The UK's top universities, the Russell Group, have always viewed History very favourably. This is because History teaches and refines the skills of argument and critical analysis. History provides a solid academic foundation for a range of diverse careers such as law, politics, civil service, business and finance, education, journalism and heritage and arts fields.

Historians deal with actual events and real people. An understanding of our past is fundamental when dealing with current problems and conflicts. History offers an insight into how we got to where we are today, and perhaps where we are going in the future.

## ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

We run several trips including a visit to Berlin to complement our study of Germany 1918-45. There are also extra-curricular activities that you can take part in to develop your interest in the subject further.

Exam Board: Edexcel

# MODERN LANGUAGES GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

We offer GCSEs in French, German and Spanish and we encourage keen linguists to consider the possibility of taking two languages to GCSE. 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.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

**The course will cover three themes:**

- People and lifestyle
- Popular culture
- Communication and the world around us

These three themes cover a wide range of topics such as education, relationships, healthy living, the environment, role models and many more. Pupils 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 GCSE 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 April. The speaking exam is conducted internally and moderated externally. The course is designed for pupils of all abilities and nationalities and is excellent preparation for continued study at A-level.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Pupils who study a Modern Language to GCSE 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 qualities, such as an ability to communicate and to be adventurous and outgoing, which are other skills there are often seeking.

## ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

We run 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 pupils' enjoyment and motivation for learning.

Exam Board: AQA

# 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%):**
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%):**
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%):**
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 A-level or related areas such as Music Technology.

Exam Board: Edexcel

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

GCSE Physical Education is 30% practical (assessed over two years), 10% coursework and 60% examinations (2 papers) 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 of two practical and four theory lessons, although the two sections often overlap.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

In theory, pupils study a broad range of disciplines ranging from Anatomy and Physiology to Biomechanics as well as Psychology in sport. All pupils will also take part in our major games throughout the year so that we may assess and, potentially utilise, the scores gained in these sports (hockey, football, netball, cricket).

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

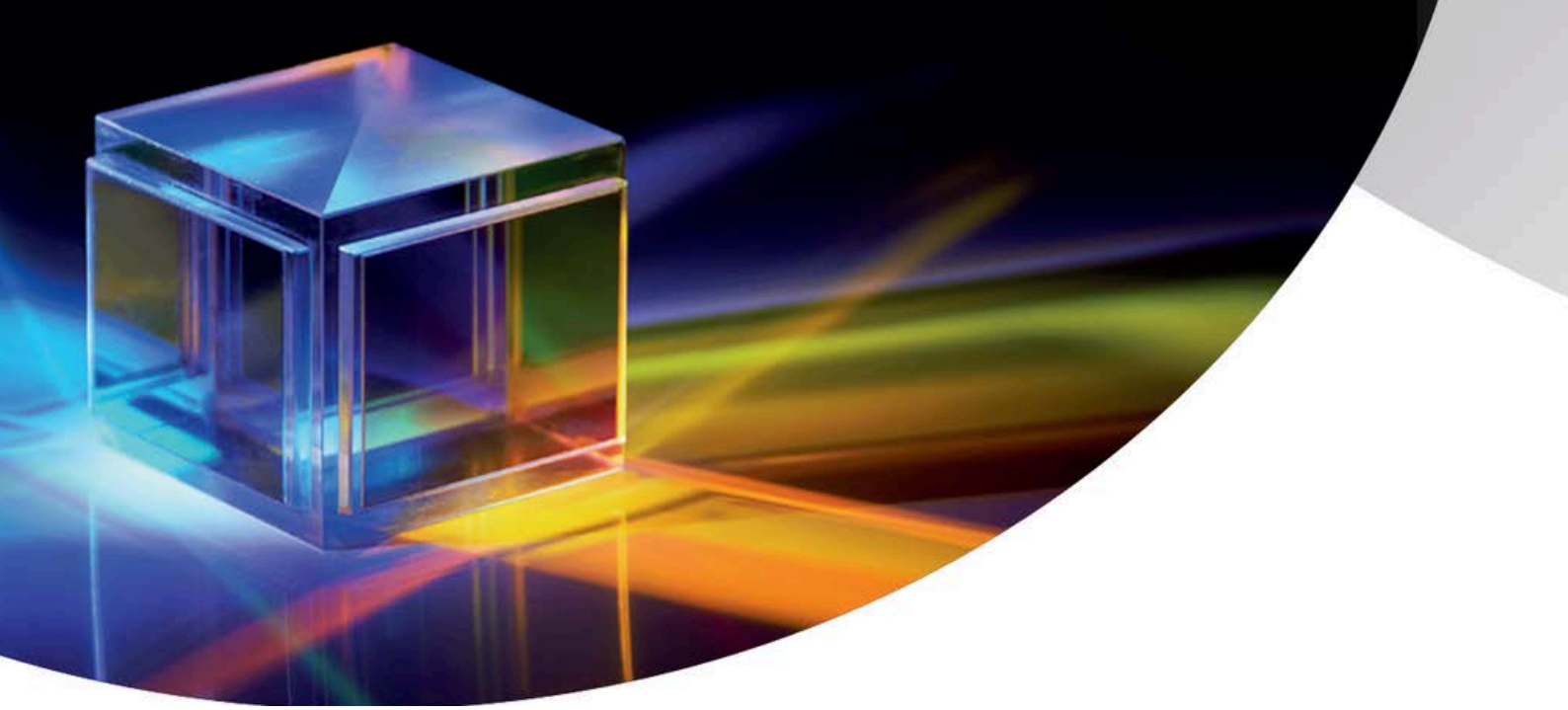
Pupils have the opportunity to be assessed and graded in a variety of sports from the specification; the breadth of which is introduced to the pupils early in the course. Pupils must, ultimately, be graded in three sports of which one must be individual, one must be team and a third which can be either. 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.

The theory section comprises of two exam papers 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, Chemistry and Psychology.

## ANY FURTHER INFORMATION?

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

Exam Board: Edexcel



# PHYSICS IGCSE

## WHAT IS ON OFFER?

In the 3rd, 4th and 5th Form, most pupils will study for the IGCSE Science Double Award. However, we also offer the three separate Science IGCSE subjects with IGCSE Physics being the Physics offer. This gives pupils the opportunity to study Physics in 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?

Pupils 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. Pupils 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 Motion, Electricity, Waves, Energy, Solids, liquids and gases, Magnetism & electromagnetism, Radioactivity, and Astrophysics.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The syllabus is aimed at pupils 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 two, externally marked, untiered Physics question papers.

The first paper is 110 marks, covering the core content, and is a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. This is identical to the Physics Double Award paper. The IGCSE Physics pupils will sit an additional 70 mark paper that covers ALL of the content and will again be comprised of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. All pupils are expected to study the full curriculum material.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

As well as focusing on the individual topics, the syllabus enables pupils 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?

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE is internationally recognised by schools, universities, and employers as equivalent to UK GCSE, and is excellent preparation for A-level Sciences.

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

# 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 and 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 1 hour and 45 minutes.

**Component 1:**
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 2:**
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

King Edward's

WITLEY

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