

Choices
Choices
Choices

St Thomas More Catholic Teaching School
GCSE Options Booklet

2017 - 2019



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC TEACHING SCHOOL

'Primus Servus Dei'

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 9 Students

For Year 10 subject options, we are very pleased to offer a range of courses both compulsory and optional to meet the needs of all of our students. For students entering Year 10 of Key Stage 4 in September, we have designed a flexible curriculum in line with Government 14-19 initiatives. We believe this will encourage high levels of individual success with students engaged on courses that best fit their interests.

The curriculum at Key Stage 4 consists of a compulsory Core curriculum of GCSE subjects. These are Religious Education, English Language, English Literature, Maths, ICT and Science. Pupils will also continue to study Physical Education, Personal and Social Education, including Citizenship, as part of the pastoral programme together with work-related learning as appropriate to individuals.

Students will then have the opportunity to choose a further three GCSE subjects from a wide range of traditional GCSEs and Vocational GCSEs, which are subjects closely linked to working in these areas. One subject should be selected from each option line. The combination of subjects should be carefully considered to ensure breadth of study.

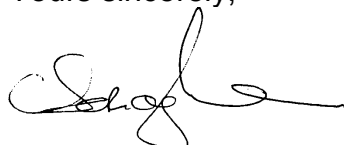
It is very important that students and parents think carefully about the decisions they make in subject choices. Courses need to be looked at closely to take into account learning and assessment styles, to ensure that these suit the needs of the individual student.

Essential Date

Return Option Sheet: 19th April 2017

Please ring the school if you wish to make an appointment to discuss queries or problems. Your point of contact would be Mrs C Soraghan (Assistant Head Teacher) or email to csoraghan@stm.bed.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



Mrs C Soraghan
Assistant Head Teacher

Core
Curriculum
2017-2019

GCSE Religious Studies

Examination Board

AQA B

Why study GCSE RE?

Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school (*Pope St John Paul II*). Placing RE at the core of the curriculum in Catholic schools helps the school to fulfil its mission to educate the whole person in discerning the meaning of their existence, since "Religious Education is concerned not only with intellectual knowledge but also includes emotional and affective learning. It is in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of what it is to be human truly becomes clear. Without religious education, pupils would be deprived of an essential element of their formation and personal development, which helps them attain a vital harmony between faith and culture." (*Religious Education curriculum Directory p4*). Furthermore, religiously literate children and young people are able to engage in a fully informed critique of all knowledge, "leading, for example, to an understanding of the relationship between science and religion or history, and between theology, sport and the human body." (*Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4*).

Course Content

The Religious Studies course will be split into 2 papers:

- **Paper One – Catholic Christianity**

Our GCSE enables you to focus in depth on the Catholic faith, by looking at beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression within Catholic Christianity. Students will explore the Catholic understanding of creation, particularly the notions of God as creator, humanity as the image of God and the role of humanity as stewards of creation. Students also explore the basis of these beliefs in scripture and their expression both in the visual arts and in the increasing agency of the Church in tackling global concerns about the environment. Catholic Christianity will be studied in the context of Christianity as a whole, and common and divergent views within Catholic Christianity will be included throughout.

- **Paper Two – Perspectives on faith**

Students will broaden their understanding of religion by studying the beliefs and practices of another major world faith, Judaism. Students will explore the key beliefs, teachings and religious practices of Judaism.

There is also the opportunity to explore two contemporary ethical issues; Peace and Conflict, and Human Rights and Social Justice. In studying these ethical themes, students will consider different religious, philosophical and ethical arguments and their impact and influence in the modern world. Students will become aware of the Christian viewpoints to these issues alongside non-religious viewpoints.

Assessment

Paper 1 – Catholic Christianity- 50% of GCSE
Paper 2 – Perspectives on Faith- 50% of GCSE

GCSE English Language

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE English Language?

English Language is a broad subject which will support students in learning how to analyse language across a range of contexts and from different times in history. It provides an enriching opportunity to explore the mechanics of language and how it links to society through themes such as identity, power, gender, sexuality, technology and the arts. The Speaking and Listening elements develop the student's confidence and ability to discuss and present ideas, opinions and viewpoints.

Course Content

Students must demonstrate skills in the areas of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Understanding and Producing Non-Fiction and Transactional writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Spoken Language

They will have to communicate clearly to a variety of audiences and for different purposes through both written and speaking and listening tasks. Pupils will also have to read and study a selection of texts including drama and prose. They will need to understand and analyse a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from 19th century and 20th century writers.

Assessment

Examination - Fiction and Imaginative writing -40% of GCSE grade

Examination - Non-Fiction and Transactional writing- 60% of GCSE grade

GCSE English Literature

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE English Literature?

GCSE English Literature offers you the chance to study classic literature and some contemporary novels too. English literature should develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and act as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level. Students will be given the opportunity to study a wide range of literature including Shakespeare, poetry, a contemporary play and a novel from the English Literary Heritage – all of which aim to develop the student's historical, cultural, moral and critical understanding.

Course Content

Pupils will study a number of literary texts, including a work by Shakespeare, a prose text selected from the English Literary Heritage (for example, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde) and a selection of poetry.

Assessment

Examination- Shakespeare and Post 1914 Literature- 50% of GCSE grade
Examination- 19th century Novel and Poetry since 1789- 50% of GCSE grade

GCSE Mathematics

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE Mathematics?

This new Mathematics GCSE provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. It provides a strong mathematical foundation for students who go on to study mathematics at a higher level post-16. The course will enable students to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts and to acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.

Course Content

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

It is recommended students purchase a scientific calculator to support their mathematical studies. The calculator used by the department is the Casio fx85GT.

Assessment

The GCSE course is entirely assessed by written examination in year 11. There is no coursework element to this GCSE. The exam consists of three equally weighted papers – one non-calculator and two calculator papers.

There are two tiers of entry for the examination: Foundation tier where grades 1 up to 5 may be achieved and Higher tier, where grades 4 up to 9 are possible.

GCSE Combined Science (formerly Double Science)

Examination Board

AQA

Why study Combined Science?

As well as being a core subject that all employers look for, science helps to explain the world around us using a variety of concepts, theories and evidence.

Students will study a mixture of biology, chemistry and physics topics through both theory and practical lessons. Combined Science is a single qualification worth two GCSE's and students will receive a grade from 9-9 to 1-1.

This course allows progression to A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and Geology.

Course Content

Please find below a summary of content covered at GCSE.

Biology content

• Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology

Chemistry content

• Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources

Physics content

• Forces • Energy • Waves • Electricity • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure

Students will plan, carry out and analyse a variety of practical work as part of this course. There are sixteen required practical activities that students must complete as part of the course which students can be questioned on in the exams. There will also be numerous other practical opportunities throughout the course.

Assessment

This is a linear course so students will be assessed at the end of Year 11 through six 1hr 15min exam papers with each paper being worth 16.7% of the course.

The exams will include a mixture of multiple choice, closed questions and extended open questions. There is no coursework unit for this course.

GCSE Separate Sciences (formerly Triple Science)

Examination Board

AQA

Why study GCSE Separate Sciences?

In the separate sciences course, Biology, Chemistry and Physics are studied separately. Students studying the separate sciences course will gain three GCSE grades from 1-9. This course is ideal for students who have a keen interest in science and are possibly looking to study science related courses beyond A-level.

This course allows progression to A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and Geology.

Course Content

Students will be taught biology, chemistry and physics separately.

Biology content

• Cell biology • Organisation • Infection and response • Bioenergetics • Homeostasis and response • Inheritance, variation and evolution • Ecology

Chemistry content

• Atomic structure and the periodic table • Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter • Quantitative chemistry • Chemical changes • Energy changes • The rate and extent of chemical change • Organic chemistry • Chemical analysis • Chemistry of the atmosphere • Using resources

Physics content

• Forces • Energy • Waves • Electricity • Magnetism and electromagnetism • Particle model of matter • Atomic structure

Students will plan, carry out and analyse a variety of practical work as part of this course. There are sixteen required practical activities that students must complete as part of the course which students can be questioned on in the exams. There will also be numerous other practical opportunities throughout the course.

Assessment

Separate sciences are linear courses so students will be assessed at the end of Year 11. There will be two exams per science each contributing 50% to the overall grade and each exam will last 1hr 45mins.

The six exams will include a mixture of multiple choice, closed questions and extended open questions. There is no coursework unit for this course.

ICT

Examination Board

British Computing Society – BCS (To be confirmed)

Why study ICT?

ICT skills are essential for success in employment, in higher education and are one of the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. The ICT Department deliver these skills across the whole group, effectively engaging and inspiring students of every ability to achieve great things.

Course Content

We currently study the ECDL qualification, this may change when the DfE publish the final list of ICT qualifications available for 2019.

Unit 1 – Word Processing

This module sets out essential concepts and skills relating to the ability to use a word processing application to create everyday letters and documents.

Unit 2 – Presentations

This module sets out essential concepts and skills relating to demonstrating competence in using presentation software.

Unit 3 – Spreadsheets

This module sets out essential concepts and skills relating to understanding the concept of spreadsheets and demonstrating an ability to use a spreadsheet to produce accurate work outputs.

Unit 4 – Improving Productivity

This is the ability to plan, evaluate and improve procedures involving the use of IT tools and systems in order to improve the productivity and efficiency of work activities.

Assessment

Pupils will study 4 units all of which are externally assessed by online examination.

Assessment Weighting: Examination 100% with minimum marks in each unit needed to gain a Level 2 qualification.

Core Physical Education and Games

Course Content

Physical recreation has a large part to play in the development of the individual. Physical Education is also necessary in the development of a Christian respect for the body and concern for physical well-being.

All pupils will cover a broadly-based modular programme.

Areas to be covered:

Major Outdoor Games: Hockey, Football, Netball, Rugby, Cricket, Tennis, Rounders

Indoor Games: Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, Table Tennis,

Individual Activities: Gymnastics, Health-related Fitness, Athletics, Trampolining,

Other areas: Orienteering,

Extra-Curricular Activities

We like to encourage as many students as possible to take part in clubs and teams. ALL activities are open to ALL students. There are clubs and teams for the above activities, plus dance.

Option
Subjects
2017-2019

GCSE Art, Craft and Design: Combined Titles

Examination Board

OCR

Why study GCSE Art, Craft and Design?

Students will actively engage in the process of art and design in order to develop as effective and independent candidates and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. They will develop creative skills, through learning to use imagination and intuition when exploring and creating images and artefacts. Students will become confident in taking risks and learning from their mistakes when exploring and experimenting with ideas, materials, tools and techniques. They will develop competence, with increasing independence, in refining and developing ideas and proposals, and personal outcomes or solutions. Students will develop cultural knowledge, understanding and application of art, craft, design, media and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures. Also, they will develop an understanding of the different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art, craft and design practice.

Course Content

This Art & Design course is very popular as it offers students the most creative freedom. It allows students to experiment with a wide variety of materials, techniques and processes, discover new skills and find out which aspects of art and design most interests them. The course allows students to work in more than one of the following areas:

- Fine Art
- Graphic Design
- Photography
- Textiles
- Three-Dimensional Design

Assessment

Unit 1: Portfolio unit - controlled assessment 60% of the GCSE grade

Unit 2: Externally set exam 40% of the GCSE grade

GCSE Art and Design: Graphic Communication

Examination Board

OCR

Why study GCSE Graphic Communication?

Students will actively engage in the process of design in order to develop effective critical and reflective thinkers who have outstanding visual communication skills. They will develop creativity that promotes problem solving through learning to use imagination and intuition when exploring and creating designs. They will become confident in taking risks and learning from their mistakes when experimenting with ideas. Students will experiment with different materials, techniques and processes to find the best possible way of creating their outcome. This will range from printing techniques to Photoshop. They will develop independence through personal research. Students must research other artists and designers so that they can use their work to influence the production of a personal outcome.

The projects are developed from a title and brief, and allow students to explore the best way of communicating a message. To be able to do this successfully they will need to consider the impact their work will have on the viewer.

Graphical art is used for a very definite purpose, which is why it is a specialism within the Art and Design specification. It is assessed using the same criteria as Art, Craft and Design: Combined Titles and uses a lot of the same processes and techniques.

Course Content

The Graphic Communication course is very popular as it offers the students the independence to creatively explore a theme, but with the focus of a specific outcome. It allows students to experiment with a number of different materials, techniques and processes, and discover how best to communicate a specific message. The products of Graphic Communication are:

- Illustration
- Typography
- Printmaking
- Computer aided design and digital imaging
- Advertising and/or packaging

Assessment

Unit 1: Portfolio unit - controlled assessment- 60% of GCSE grade

Unit 2: Externally set exam- 40% of GCSE grade

GCSE in Business Studies

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE Business Studies?

Students will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. Students will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business. Students will understand how to make a business effective and manage money and will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Course Content

Theme 1 Investigating Small Business: Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It provides a framework for students to explore core concepts through the lens of an entrepreneur setting up a business

Content overview

Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship

Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity

Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice

Topic 1.4 Making the business effective

Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2 Building a Business: Theme 2 examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources. Theme 2 also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Topic 2.1 Growing the business

Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions

Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions

Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions

Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Assessment

Unit 1 **Written Examination, 1 hour 30 minutes, 90 marks - 50%of GCSE grade**

Unit 2 **Written Examination, 1 hour 30 minutes, 90 marks - 50%of GCSE grade**

The papers will consist of calculations, multiple - choice, short – answer and extended – writing questions.

GCSE Computer Science

Examination Board

AQA (To be confirmed)

Why study GCSE Computer Science?

"Learning to write programs stretches your mind, and helps you think better, creates a way of thinking about things that I think is helpful in all domains." Bill Gates, Chairman - Microsoft

Computing is the course for students who want to know how computer technology works. It will provide students with an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming which many students find absorbing. This specification recognises the well-established methodologies of computing, alongside the technological advances which make it such a dynamic subject. Students will complete this course equipped with the logical and computational skills necessary to succeed at A-level, the workplace or beyond.

Course Content

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Fundamentals of cyber security
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
8. Aspects of software development
9. Non-exam assessment

Assessment

Written exam set in practically based scenarios- 1 hour and 30 minutes- 40% of GCSE grade

Written exam – 1 hour and 30 minutes -40% of GCSE grade

Controlled Assessment: totalling 20 hours of work- 20% of GCSE grade

GCSE Design Technology - Resistant Materials

Examination Board

AQA

Why study GCSE Resistant Materials?

The course is centred on design and problem-solving using students' imagination, knowledge and use of materials with technology. It demands active workshop experience and the production of works of quality and would be an ideal choice for those who enjoy design and make activities. GCSE Resistant Materials students have carried on to study Product Design at AS / A2 levels as well as Engineering at University to degree level. Other pupils have gone on to complete trade training including trades such as Carpentry, Plumbing, Electronics and Decorating.

Course Content

Students develop skills through design and make projects and become versatile in a range of materials but can specialise in the latter stages of the course. A fundamental knowledge of wood, metal and plastics is developed and there is a possibility of using other materials. Students will also develop a wide knowledge of a range of tools and processes.

The course also aims to develop an understanding of CAD/CAM and the use of IT skills in coursework is a requirement.

As part of the coursework students will be required to complete practical outcomes with specialist tools and we would advise that after school sessions are run to enable students to complete quality outcomes within the time specified.

Assessment

One examination covering 2 sections - 2 hours

Controlled Assessment: as part of the coursework; a major project lasting 40 hours of the student's time is asked for. This will require work to be completed at home and consists of the design and making of a product following a design brief and theme set by the exam board.

GCSE Design Technology –Textiles

Examination Board

AQA

Why study GCSE Textiles?

The course would appeal to anyone with a creative and enquiring mind who has a real interest in design and who enjoys practical development work which in turn leads to the creation of textile products.

Students who have studied this subject at GCSE have followed these career paths previously: Fashion Designer / Product Designer/ Textiles Artist / Writer and Editor for Fashion Magazine/ Buyer / Visual Merchandiser / Theatre Production: Costume design / Interior Designer

Course Content

This course covers the basics of Textiles through fashion or furnishings with opportunities for focusing on either or both of these areas in order to produce projects, which are functional, aesthetically pleasing and fun to make. Fashion should be understood to include both garments and accessories; furnishings are Textile products, which enhance indoor and outdoor spaces.

A wide range of techniques will be taught (appliqué, screen printing, weaving, machine sewing, embroidery and felt making).

In addition, the students will learn about fabrics and fibres and the industrial practices involved in their production; including trend forecasts, ethical trading, environmental factors and understanding the use of modern textile materials. Drawing, designing, the History of Fashion and Textiles, Colour, Form and Presentation will also be taught.

Assessment

Terminal Examination (Section A+ Section B) – 2 hours

Coursework (Controlled Assessment) - as part of the coursework; a major project lasting 40 hours of the student's time is asked for. This will require work to be completed at home and consists of the design and making of a product following a design brief and theme set by the exam board.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board

AQA

Why study GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Our fresh and exciting GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification equips students with a wide array of culinary techniques, as well as in-depth knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. This course is created to inspire and motivate students with a view to opening students' eyes to a world of career opportunities and giving them the confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe.

Course Content

Food preparation skills – these are intended to be integrated into the five sections:

1. **Food, Nutrition and Health:** What food is composed of, why we need it and how it affect our long term health
2. **Food Science:** What happens to ingredients when they are cooked
3. **Food Safety:** How you can prepare and cook food safely
4. **Food Choice:** How the choices people make affect their own health and well-being, their families and the people who produce the food
5. **Food Provenance:** Which food different cultures eat throughout the world, how the choices we make affect the global environment and its natural resources

Assessment

Paper 1: Food Preparation and Nutrition - 50% of GCSE grade.
Two Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) tasks – 50% of GCSE grade

GCSE French

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE French?

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE French is an excellent choice for you! Of course you will learn to understand a lot more of the language when you hear it or read it and be able to say and write a lot more. However, there are many other reasons for taking this GCSE course such as you will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak French. You will learn about the countries where French is spoken and get a lot more out of a trip there. You will add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for. You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being confident about speaking in public, using problem-solving strategies, etc. You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad, or for companies in the UK with international links. Many employers look for people who speak a foreign language.

Course Content

GCSE French helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in France to international campaigns and events. You will learn a lot about French culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

There are 5 Main Themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local area, holiday travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Assessment

% of total	Title	Type of assessment
25%	Listening and Understanding	Examination
25%	Speaking	Oral Exam
25%	Reading and understanding	Examination
25%	Writing	Examination

GCSE Geography

Examination Board

AQA

Why study GCSE Geography?

Geography is a pretty unique subject because it looks at both the physical structure of the planet *and* the social structure (ie how we affect our environment and how it affects us) in the past, present and future. Geography can be divided into two main branches: Physical Geography and Human Geography.

Because geographers deal with the natural world and how we behave in it, their jobs can take them everywhere, from taking soil samples on the edge of a volcano to mapping a new town, charting the changes to a glacier in the Arctic, or even teaching you in a comfortable classroom.

Geographers have done some pretty important things for the human race, including charting new territory, developing maps (cartography) and measuring distances to help us to get from A to B long before we could simply take a picture of an area from space. We wouldn't have Google maps without them. Imagine ...

Geography will help you develop your communication and teamwork skills, as you'll often work on group projects. You'll also develop your research and analysis skills using IT and fieldwork, which means you'll be able to collect and look for patterns in data.

Employers love the mix of technical and social skills people get from studying geography, which they see as very transferable, ie useful for a whole range of jobs.

Course content

Living with the Physical environment

The Challenge of Natural Hazards

The Living World

Physical Landscapes in the UK – Rivers and Coasts

Challenges in the Human environment

Urban Issues and Challenges

Changing Economic World

The Challenge of Resource Management - Water

Assessment: 3 examinations at the end of Year 11

Paper 1 - 1 hour and 30 minutes– Living with the physical environment - 35% of GCSE grade

Paper 2 - 1 hour and 30 minutes– Challenges in the human environment - 35% of GCSE grade

Paper 3 - 1 hour and 15 minutes – Geographical applications (issue evaluation based on a pre-release resource booklet, fieldwork and geographical skills) - 30% of GCSE grade

BTEC Health and Social Care

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study BTEC Health and Social Care?

Students who are interested in a variety of jobs in the caring profession are encouraged to consider this option. BTEC Health and Social Care is a useful subject if considering a career in Teaching – primary or secondary schools, Midwifery, Social Work, Police, Care Work, Nursery Nursing, Nursing – (adult, child or mental health) and Childcare.

Course Content

Unit 1

This unit contains the following four topics:

- Human growth and development
- Factors affecting human growth and development
- Effects of relationships on personal growth and development
- The effect of life events on personal developments

Unit 2

This unit contains the following two topics:

- Know factors that contribute to a diverse and equal society
- Understand the principles and values which underpin the support given to individuals

Unit 3

This unit contains the following three topics:

- Explore the effects of socialisation on the health and wellbeing of individuals
- Understand the influences that relationships have on the health and wellbeing of individuals
- Investigate the effects of social factors on the health and wellbeing of individuals.

Unit 6

This unit contains the following two topics:

- Explore the effects of balanced and unbalanced diets on the health and wellbeing of individuals
- Understand the specific nutritional needs and preferences of individuals

Assessment

Unit 1 is externally assessed through the exam board via an examination.

Unit 2 is internally assessed through a portfolio of coursework.

Unit 4 is internally assessed through a portfolio of coursework.

Unit 6 is internally assessed through an exam board set task and will be completed under controlled classroom conditions.

GCSE History

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE History?

People who study history are fearless explorers of the past. They investigate past politics, societies, cultures, languages, health, art, education, money, conflicts and more, look at how things have developed over time and connect the dots to understand how we got where we are today. Historians are skilled at asking questions, spotting bias and prejudice and reaching reasoned conclusions based on evidence- useful skills for everyday life.

Our GCSE course builds on KS3 topics to help students confidently develop a more nuanced understanding of history and provides a stepping stone to further study at AS and A level. Student will develop their powers of analysis and evaluation which will be invaluable skills for careers in Law, Media, Journalism and Finance.

Course Content

Paper 1 – thematic Study with Historic Environment

Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000 to present and Whitechapel, c1870-11900: crime, policing and the inner city

This unit studies the nature and changing definitions of criminal activity, of law enforcement and punishment. It will also include 4 case studies from the period. The historic environment study focuses on Whitechapel, crime and policing in the inner city.

Paper 2: Period Study and Depth Study

The American West, 1835-1895

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 1060-1088

This unit looks at Anglo-Saxon society, the last years of Edward the Confessor and the Norman invasion.

The American West section studies the Plains Indians, the development and settlement of the West, farming and the cattle industry.

Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study

The USA 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad

This unit studies the position of black Americans in the early 1950s, demonstrations and boycotts, Malcolm X and Black Power and the Civil Rights movement. It also looks at the US involvement in the Vietnam War, opposition to it, the peace process and reasons for the failure of the USA in Vietnam.

Assessment

Paper 1 – exam- 1 hour and 15 minutes -30% of GCSE grade

Paper 2 – exam – 1 hour and 45 minutes - 40% of GCSE grade

Paper 3 – exam – 1 hour and 20 minutes - 30% of GCSE grade

GCSE Italian

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE Italian?

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE Italian is an excellent choice for you! Of course you will learn to understand a lot more of the language when you hear it or read it and be able to say and write a lot more. You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak Italian and add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many future employers and higher education providers look for. People with language skills and knowledge are highly thought of in the modern world. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons!

Course Content

GCSE Italian helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Italy to international campaigns and events, You will learn a lot about Italian culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

There are 5 Main Themes

- Identity and Culture
- Local area, holiday travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Assessment

% of total	Title	Type of assessment
25%	Listening and Understanding	Examination
25%	Speaking	Oral Examination
25%	Reading and understanding	Examination
25%	Writing	Examination.

GCSE Media Studies

Examination Board

Eduquas

Why study GCSE Media?

This course aims to provide a dynamic, creative introduction to the Media industry while still containing the practical elements and skills students will need to pursue a career in this industry. Students are encouraged to study and then design in a variety of different media forms, including the Music and Film industries. This qualification lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Media Studies or related subjects, in particular A Level Media Studies. It encourages the development of critical understanding of the impact of mass media and its technologies on contemporary society which may lead to jobs in Journalism, Film and Television. You will have the opportunity to work with Apple Macs and the latest software programmes.

Course Content

Media Studies has been completely redesigned to allow students to now study NINE media forms across the two-year programme ensuring that students have a full understanding of all media industries and all interests are catered for. We will study these media forms through set texts that you will be questioned on directly in the examination, this allows you to enter the exam with a confidence.

Component 1: Exploring the Media

Section A: Exploring Media Language and Representation

This section assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements.

Section B: Exploring Media Industries and Audiences

This section we will study how different media industries work and the audiences of these industries. We will look at least two of the following media forms: film, newspapers, radio or video games.

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

This component assesses all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media looking in detail at two media areas - television and music.

Component 3: Creating Media Products

There is no written coursework in this subject. 30% of your grade is earned from the practical production you will create.

Assessment

Component 1: Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of qualification

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qualification

Component 3: Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment –Coursework - 30% of qualification

GCSE Music

Examination Board

AQA

Why study GCSE Music?

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. AQA have designed a relevant and contemporary GCSE qualification that offers you the chance to study a wide range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning. If you enjoy music and can play an instrument or sing then GCSE Music will be an enjoyable course and qualification to study for.

The ability to sing or play a musical instrument, or the commitment to learn to do so is vital, as performance is a key part of the course. Free instrumental/vocal tuition will be provided for this performance element. Students must also learn to read the treble and bass clefs, and know the geography of the piano keyboard.

Course Content

Component 1: UNDERSTANDING MUSIC (listening and contextual understanding)

Component 2: PERFORMING MUSIC (solo and group performances)

Component 3: COMPOSING MUSIC

Assessment

COMPONENT 1: UNDERSTANDING MUSIC

Exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music. This component is worth 40% of GCSE marks.

Examination is 1 hour and 30 minutes.

COMPONENT 2: PERFORMING MUSIC

How it's assessed

As an instrumentalist and/ or vocalist

- Performance 1: Solo performance
- Performance 2: Ensemble performance

A minimum of four minutes of performance in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance. This component is 30% of GCSE marks.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA. Performances must be completed in the year of certification.

COMPONENT 3: COMPOSING MUSIC

How it's assessed

- Composition 1: Composition to a brief
- Composition 2: Free composition

A minimum of three minutes of music in total is required. This component is 30% of GCSE marks.

Non-exam assessment (NEA) will be internally marked by teachers and externally moderated by AQA.

BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts *'the skills to succeed-the confidence to progress'*

Examination Board

Pearson

Why study BTEC Performing Arts?

This is a brand new course starting in September 2017.

BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts is the equivalent to 1 GCSE.

This is a hands-on course that runs alongside G.C.S.E's and gives learners a taste of what the performing arts sector is like, as well as the skills and confidence to succeed in your next steps.

Course Content

You will have the opportunity to perform and develop valuable skills and techniques in different disciplines, and explore potential careers in the industry. The BTEC Tech Award is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, you can explore the sector while:

- developing specific skills and techniques
- devising and delivering a workshop performance
- analysing, evaluating and enhancing your skills
- go to see a live piece of theatre

During the two years you will study some of the following modules:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

Aim:-to get a taste of what it's like to be a professional actor, dancer or musical theatre performer (depending on your skill/talent)

Component 2: Developing skills and techniques

Aim:-to develop skills and techniques in the chosen discipline

Component 3: Performing to a brief

Aim:- consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different context and put this into practice

Assessment

An examiner will assess 'component 3'.

You will be expected to hand in two written documents for components 1&2

GCSE Physical Education

Examination Board

Edexcel

Why study GCSE PE?

A qualification in this subject can help pupils who are interested in careers in such areas as: leisure and recreation (one of the largest growth industries in this country today); recreational management; police; fire or armed services; medical profession; professional sports; journalism; teaching; sports science; physiotherapy; coaching; sports administration; ground staff. This can positively contribute to the quality of life, which the pupils will experience when leaving school.

The aims of the course are to improve the student's ability to plan, perform and evaluate physical activity and to Increase the student's knowledge and understanding of physical activity.

Course Content

1. Fitness and Body Systems
2. Health and Performance
3. Practical Skills

Assessment

Written examination for Fitness and Body Systems -36% of GCSE grade

Written examination for Health and Performance -24% of GCSE grade

Practical assessment which is 40% of GCSE grade. Practical Assessment will be from the following list:

- One team activity from set list
- One individual activity from set list
- One free choice activity from set list

GCSE Polish

Examination Board - AQA

Why study GCSE Polish?

Our objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their Polish language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence.

Course core content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Assessment

GCSE Polish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening- Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)

Questions- Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in Polish, to be answered in Polish or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking- Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Questions- Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play.

Paper 3: Reading- Understanding and responding to different types of written language.

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Questions- Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in Polish, to be answered in Polish or non-verbally
- Section C – translation from Polish into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing- Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

Questions Foundation Tier

- Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
- Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into Polish (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks
- Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Higher Tier

- Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into Polish (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

GCSE Sociology

Examination Board

AQA 8192

Why study GCSE Sociology?

Sociology is the study of the relationship between people, their environment and the community around them. By the end of the course you will have a good idea how our society works and why people act and react as they do. Sociology involves analysing how culture and environment affect people and the way they behave. Sociologists also do lots of “hands on” research of their own as well as studying information from books and other people. Research into issues such as inequality, gender socialisation, crime and punishment, gangs and youth subcultures as well as equal rights form the basis of much of the work.

It will expand your understanding of the world in which we live and encourage you to question what we consider to be common sense. It will give you a good foundation for business, economics, politics, law, humanities and social sciences at a higher level. It will give you opportunities for employment in business, media and journalism, teaching, finance, law, social services including social work and youth work. It complements all other Humanities subjects along with Media Studies, English and Psychology.

Course Content

- The sociological approach
- Social structures, processes and social issues
- Families
- Education
- Crime and deviance
- Social stratification
- Sociological research methods

Assessment

Sociology GCSE is assessed through 100% examination. Students will sit 2 papers at the end of the two year course.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of the GCSE)

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of the GCSE)

Each paper will include two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.