

GCSE Course Guide 2024-2027



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GCSE options

Advice for students

In the first two years of your senior education at Pipers you have studied a wide range of subjects. You have had the opportunity to find out what different subjects entail and where some of your skills and strengths lie.

We are now asking you to start thinking about which subjects you wish to continue to study towards your GCSEs. This is a good point in your school career for you to focus more on what you want to learn and which subjects will be most useful to you as you build towards your chosen career area, by choosing to study some subjects in more depth. This means that in Year 9 you will learn study skills in what we call a pre-GCSE year. Although you won't start studying towards your GCSEs in most subjects, you will be taught the subject specific skills and learning habits that are needed to succeed when you do start your GCSE courses in Year 10.

You may already have an idea of the career you wish to follow or no idea at all. For this reason it is a very good idea to keep your options open at this stage and pick a broad range of subjects that allow you to take different routes at the end of Year 11.

As well as taking the core GCSEs of English, Mathematics and two Science subjects you need to choose four optional subjects resulting in a total of nine GCSE. In addition, you will follow a non-examination programme in PE, Religion and Worldviews, and Life Skills.

This booklet provides information about all the subjects on offer for the next three years to help you to make your choices.

Try to make sure that:

- you include any subject required for a career in which you already have a firm interest.
- you choose subjects which you enjoy and in which you have reached a good standard.
- you discuss possible choices with your family and your teachers.

Remember that a broad range of subjects will give you a sound foundation for later study and provide greater choice and flexibility in the future. This is about your future and not about which subjects your friends are studying or which teachers you like. Even if you pick the same subjects as your friends you may not be in the same class and we cannot guarantee which teachers will take each class from year to year – you must have a real interest in the subject.

We strongly recommend that you consider taking a broad selection of option choices so that you do not reduce the options available to you Post-16. It is sensible to consider a Humanities and/or Social Science subject, and a language alongside the practical and creative subjects.

Beyond the classroom

You will be continually supported throughout the GCSE curriculum, both in and out of lessons.

For those students who want to be challenged and stretched academically, super-curricular activities will be encouraged. These additional activities focus on your subject in more depth, enriching your knowledge and understanding beyond the assessed curriculum. Studying nine GCSEs affords you the time to engage in both extra-curricular and super-curricular activities which are becoming increasingly more valuable to university applications and employers, whilst also having a significant impact on your overall wellbeing and development as learners and thinkers.

If you find that you need some additional support in any of your subjects, we hold lunchtime surgeries and clinics for many GCSE subjects to help develop knowledge and confidence in the topics that we cover. Staff are always happy to discuss any worries or concerns you may have about your studies.

Information for parents

You will notice that within the subject information given in this booklet, we make reference to specification content, exam structures and examination boards. When students approach their Year 10 GCSE studies we will provide further, detailed information about the particular examination board and specifications that Departments have chosen.

Therefore, at this stage, we would advise you to encourage your child to pick a programme of study that has depth and range and to ensure they chooses subject that they both enjoy and have shown an aptitude for.



How to make option choices

In order to help streamline the process of completing GCSE option choices, we use an online system. As well as reducing the possibility of paper options forms being mislaid between home and school, the choices that are made will feed straight into our timetabling software.

It is important to remember that students should choose subjects not only that they enjoy but also ones which will allow them to pursue the career or university course that they want to follow. Please do make sure that you are aware of any particular entry requirements for universities that might affect subject choices.

At this stage in their academic careers, students will need your support and guidance. Following the GCSE Information Evening you will be sent a Pipers Mail with a link to the online booking system. We ask that you enter three choices of subject for your child, in order of preference, that they would be happy to study.

As we tailor our option blocks to the students' choices we cannot guarantee that everyone will get their first choice of subjects. However, if there are any problems with your child's choice it will be discussed with them prior to the timetable being finalised.

The deadline for submitting your child's option choices is **Wednesday 8 March 2023**.

If you would like more inspiration about different jobs and careers in order to help with decisions about Options choices, we recommend using the following information websites:

[BBC Bitesize Careers](#) | Advice on the world of work from people who've found the right path for them

[Prospects](#) | Graduate job search and career advice

[Indigo.careers](#) | Digital platform for careers education

(school account: username: PipersCornerStudent password: PipersCornerStudent2023)

[icould](#) | Career ideas and information for your future

[National Careers Service](#) | Government website

Core subjects taken by all students:

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Two Sciences*
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Optional subjects (choose four):

Art and Design | Fine Art ICT
Art and Design | Textiles Music
Business Physical Education
Dance Religious Studies
Design and Technology Spanish
Drama Third Science
Food Preparation and
Nutrition
French
Geography
German
History

*Two Sciences must be chosen as core subjects. A third Science can be taken as an optional subject.

Core subjects taken by all students

The following pages provide information about the following subjects:

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English Language | Edexcel IGCSE (Specification A)

As Malala Yousafzai often says, words are our most powerful tools. They are also, if necessary, weapons. They move, inspire, persuade, console, transcend and articulate more than shards of bombs and only gather power through the centuries. They allow time travel. They allow us to sit at a table with the greatest thinkers, artists and protestors, and join in the discussion. Appreciating words will allow you to be heard in the House of Commons, from a podium, at the microphone in Trafalgar Square...in a letter. At a time when we wish to arm young people with the power to change the things they care about. English gives each person the greatest power.

An appreciation and mastery of language skills are essential to exploring and working towards an understanding of our world and our place within it. Mastering language in the spoken and written form allows us to be free and independent.

Throughout the English Language IGCSE, we look at writing across the genres of fiction and non-fiction and across the ages, gender and opinion and from different continents. We look at how writers shape language and the effects. We look at the artistry and purpose behind the writing which may not always be obvious. We practise writing for genre, audience and purpose, looking at the artistry and how to write for greatest effect whether it be expository, creative or persuasive. We practise using language skills in our speaking to be able to enrich our expression and articulation, to convey our ideas powerfully. We work on enriching our understanding of current events, themes and questions which arrive in our world, from different perspectives. There is no single story.

In the pre-IGCSE year (Year 9), we practise specific IGCSE reading, writing and speaking skills, marked against official IGCSE criteria. Each English Language class will be different. You will be exploring language with your teacher as a guide, someone who loves the journey and sharing it with you. The course includes a separate Certificate in Spoken Language. This Award does not affect the IGCSE score, and is awarded on a Pass, Merit, Distinction basis. Skills in Spoken Language are, of course, highly-prized in Higher Education and career settings and we work to have our students achieve the highest grades in this vital skill.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transaction Writing	<p>Section A Reading: a mixture of short summary questions and longer, open-ended language analysis questions on a passage studied in class from the Anthology, also comparing the passage to an unseen passage.</p> <p>Section B Writing: a choice of tasks for persuasive, transactional writing, to persuade an audience (45 minutes).</p>	<p>Written examination: Two hours, 15 minutes</p> <p>45 marks</p> <p>Worth 60% of IGCSE</p>
Paper 2: Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing	<p>Section A Reading: an essay on one of the fiction or poetry pieces studied in class from the Anthology (30 marks).</p> <p>Section B Writing: a creative writing response from a choice (30 marks).</p>	<p>Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes</p> <p>60 marks</p> <p>Worth 40% of IGCSE</p>

Students are given copies of the Anthology in the examinations.

English Literature | Edexcel IGCSE

Why do we read? What makes something literature? What do you think about your thinking about other people's thinking?

From the pre-IGCSE year in Year 9, we begin to move towards understandings of these questions. Why is this piece of writing held as part of the world's heritage and one of the most valuable of creations by a human being? Why might another piece of writing be judged of less-value globally and historically? Judged by whom?

We look at poems, plays and prose writing, some of which are seen as world changing. We work to a greater appreciation and understanding of the power and artistry of great writing from past centuries, different continents and cultures and our world today.

We question our and others' thinking. What might different perspectives be? How can we do as Atticus says, and walk in others' shoes? We work to demonstrate the intellectual power and enjoyment of studying and experiencing the literature people have created. We aim to write powerfully and with convincing thinking about the literature we study. Through this we show that we can articulate our thoughts through fine appreciation of imagery and structure, the paintings we paint with words: precision, authority and flair.

We read to know we are not alone.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Poetry and Modern Prose	<p>Section A Unseen Poetry: one 20 mark question on poet's techniques</p> <p>Section B Anthology Poetry: one 30 mark question from a choice of two, comparing two poems from the Anthology.</p> <p>Section C Modern Prose: one 40 mark question from a choice of two on the modern novel studied in class.</p> <p>Section C is closed book. The text is not allowed in the examination.</p>	<p>Written examination: Two hours</p> <p>90 marks</p> <p>Worth 60% of IGCSE</p>
Coursework: Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts	<p>Assignment A Modern Drama: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text (30 marks).</p> <p>Assignment B Literary Heritage Text: one essay response to a teacher-devised assignment on the studied text (30 marks).</p>	<p>60 marks</p> <p>Worth 40% of IGCSE</p>

Mathematics IGCSE | Pearson Edexcel 4MA1F/4MA1H

You will all continue to study Mathematics for the next three years, moving onto the IGCSE course at the start of Year 9. The Mathematics you study will be a continuation and extension of what you are already doing in Year 8. Some of the work you do will strengthen the foundations of your mathematical knowledge, whilst some of the highest level work will teach you the valuable techniques to prepare you for further study in Mathematics and Science at A Level.

Through your studies you will develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts including number, algebra, geometry, measures, probability and statistics. IGCSE Mathematics places problem solving skills and functionality at the heart of the qualification. You will learn to use your knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts and apply the functional elements of Mathematics in everyday and real life situations.

The examination will be graded using the 9-1 scale, where 9 is the top mark (there is no coursework for Mathematics). There are two tiers of entry, Higher and Foundation, and you may enter for one tier only. Foundation tier candidates can obtain grades 1-5, whilst Higher tier candidates can obtain grades 4-9.

In addition, more-able students will have the opportunity to study Further Mathematics. This is a Level 2 qualification and is particularly valuable to those students wishing to continue studying Mathematics at A Level.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1	Areas covered: Number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.	Written examination: Two hours 100 marks Worth 50% of IGCSE
Paper 2	Areas covered: Number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.	Written examination: Two hours 100 marks Worth 50% of IGCSE

Students are permitted to use a calculator in both exam papers.

Introduction to Science

Students will choose to study either two or three Science subjects at GCSE, each taken as separate awards for which a GCSE grade is obtained. You must choose two of the Science subjects from Biology, Chemistry and Physics – as part of your core subjects, and have the option to choose a third Science as one of your optional subjects. We suggest that students discuss their choices with their Science teachers before coming to a final decision. Each GCSE Science will be taught in two double lessons per week and the grade awarded is assessed through two written papers taken at the end of Year 11. All Science examinations are graded using the 9-1 scale, where 9 is the highest grade. There are two tiers of entry, with grades 9-4 being available to students taking Higher tier papers and grades 5-1 to those sitting Foundation papers.

There is no coursework element to the Science subjects at GCSE but students complete required practicals in each Science as they progress through the course. Your understanding of these and your ability to interpret data and answer questions on experimental design is assessed in the final written papers.

We strongly advise that students who may be considering a future in a science-related career, such as medicine and veterinary science, consult our careers service for advice if they are considering only taking two sciences at GCSE.



Biology | AQA 8461

By studying Biology you are learning about a fascinating and ever-changing field. The breakthroughs that are being made in areas such as genetics and medicine make Biology one of the most exciting industries to work in. GCSE Biology provides you with an understanding of the core principles that allow life to exist. You will become familiar with the workings of individual cells and how they are assembled to form tissues and organs. You will learn about infectious disease and how it can be controlled and you will also examine how energy is transformed by cells through photosynthesis and respiration. As the course progresses you will learn how we inherit our characteristics in set patterns and how we control our bodies through hormones and our nervous system, as well as studying the interactions between species and the steps that we can take to conserve them.

We will support you throughout the GCSE curriculum, both in and out of lessons. Resources are provided on Google Classroom and we hold weekly lunchtime surgeries to help develop confidence in the topics that we cover. We collaborate with other departments through events such as Brain Day, which is run in conjunction with Psychology. We also participate in the Biology Olympiad scheme, providing an opportunity to pit your subject-knowledge against students from other schools. The Vets, Medics and Scientists club also provides a forum for students in Year 11 and upwards to go beyond the curriculum and extend their scientific understanding, especially of medically-related topics.

We carry out a huge variety of experiments in class. A frequently asked question is whether dissection is required when studying the subject and, although we do offer the opportunity to carry these out, they are never compulsory. The School grounds are an excellent resource when it comes to practising ecological sampling techniques and we also offer a Life Cycles Club, in which students have the opportunity to learn about different organisms, such as butterflies, amphibians and leaf insects.

Where can GCSE Biology take you?

GCSE Biology opens the door to a host of exciting opportunities and many of our students go on to study A Level. There are wide variety of careers in which you can make use of your biological knowledge. You could study crime scenes as a Forensic Scientist, discover the next vaccine or explore the oceans as a Marine Biologist. Jobs such as Physiotherapy and Personal Training typically require a knowledge of Biology. You would specifically need Biology A Level for degree courses in Medicine, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Dentistry, Dietetics and Veterinary Sciences. Biology is usually required or recommended for courses in Environmental Science, Biochemistry, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Pharmacy, Speech Therapy and Sports Science.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Biology Papers 1 and 2	Paper 1 covers: Cell biology, organisation, infection and response and bioenergetics. Paper 2 covers: Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.	Two written examinations: One hour, 45 minutes each Both worth 100 marks Each paper is worth 50% of GCSE

Chemistry | AQA 8462

Chemistry brings all aspects of the physical sciences together. Everything you see, hear, smell, taste and touch involves chemistry and chemicals (matter).

This broad and complex subject helps us to understand the world in which we live and opens up a range of science-based degree courses and careers.

Chemical scientists lead research on the world's most pressing issues, including challenges around human health, climate change, space exploration and energy. All this and more, plus no other subject offers more bubbles, bangs and changes of colour!

GCSE Chemistry can open up a world of opportunities allowing you to delve deeper into the workings of the world around you whilst building your observational, analytical and problem-solving skills which greatly improve employability.

Where can GCSE Chemistry take you?

Scientific degrees will usually require at least two Science subjects at A Level – often the same subject as the degree plus at least one other Science subject. If you intend to study anything with a medical background at degree level, you must study Chemistry at GCSE and A Level. Careers such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Biomedical Science and Physiotherapy all require Chemistry. A Level Chemistry is also essential if you want to study Biochemistry or Chemical Engineering, and many universities may require it in order for you to study Biology.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Chemistry Papers 1 and 2	<p>Paper 1 covers: Atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes.</p> <p>Paper 2 covers: The rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.</p>	<p>Two written examinations: One hour, 45 minutes each Both worth 100 marks</p> <p>Each paper is worth 50% of GCSE</p>

Physics | AQA 8463

The subject area of Physics is ever-changing, making it an interesting and thrilling field of work to enter into. The work done in this field creates exciting opportunities to discover more about the world around us.

Studying for a GCSE Physics will provide you with the opportunity to develop your problem-solving, practical and mathematical skills.

Undertaking study in Physics will enable you to have a deeper understanding of its components, concepts, and principles, alongside a focus on the topic of experimentation and an explanation of practical elements. You will learn how to apply scientific reasoning to a range of situations and advance your own knowledge of different scientific and technological processes, giving a deeper understanding of varying concepts and principles that are prevalent in the world of Physics.

Subject content:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics
- Key ideas

Where can GCSE Physics take you?

GCSE Physics on its own will not lead you to qualify as a Physicist, however, you will have the solid foundations and knowledge of the core principles to support future study. You will develop important skills, such as problem-solving, that can be applied to a range of professions. If you decide that you wish to pursue a career in Physics and continue to study this subject, you could choose from a range of interesting career paths, such as: academic researcher, acoustic consultant, astronomer, clinical scientist, medical physicist, geophysicist, higher education lecturer, metallurgist, meteorologist, nano-technologist, radiation protection practitioner, research scientist (physical sciences), sound engineer or technical author.

How will you be assessed?

Component	Content	Details
Physics Papers 1 and 2	Paper 1 covers: Energy, electricity, particle model of matter and atomic structure. Paper 2 covers: Forces, waves and magnetism and electromagnetism.	Two written examinations: One hour, 45 minutes each Both worth 100 marks Each paper is worth 50% of GCSE

Optional subjects

The following pages provide information about the following subjects which students can select to study:

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It is important to note that if only a limited number of students choose an option subject it may be that the course will no longer be viable and the subject withdrawn.



Art and Design | Fine Art | AQA 8202

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art and Design is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

Fine Art explores ideas, conveys experiences or responds to a theme or issue of personal significance. The areas of study are very broad and cover drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, printmaking and mixed media.

This course is designed for anyone with a genuine enthusiasm for Art and Design. If your technical ability is not as strong as you would like it to be at present, don't worry too much because with your commitment and our help you will improve greatly over the three year course. To inspire you further we organise gallery trips to see artists' work first-hand and workshops to develop your skills.

Where can GCSE Fine Art take you?

If you wish to you can continue your studies at A Level in the Sixth Form. Studying GCSE Fine Art will help you to develop valuable transferable skills including problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork. After completing an A Level in Art, most of our students either go straight onto university or choose to do a year's foundation course before moving onto university to do an Art-based degree.

If you are thinking of a career in any area of Art or Design or have questions about Art at GCSE, do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Art Department.

Additional costs

- Coursework portfolio and sketchbooks | Total costs £30. Students will also need some of their own art materials at home.
- National day trips | Approximately £30 per student (subject to gallery visited and number of students going)
- International trips (when organised) | £800 per student (subject to country visited, date, duration of trip, itinerary and number of students going)

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1	Portfolio: Produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study.	Non-examined assessment (NEA) set and marked by the School. Moderated by AQA during a visit. 96 marks Worth 60% of GCSE
Component 2	Externally set assignment: The externally set task paper features seven tasks and you have to complete one of them.	Non-examined assessment (NEA) set by AQA and marked by the School. Moderated by AQA during a visit. Preparatory period followed by ten hours of supervised time. 96 marks Worth 40% of GCSE

Art and Design | Textiles | OCR J174

Studying for a GCSE in Textiles will provide you with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore a range of textile media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. It will allow you to actively engage in using textile materials to create a range of different outcomes.

You will learn how to use a variety of different approaches to garment construction as well as making items for interiors, sculptural and installation final pieces.

You will not only develop your existing creative skills but you will also be required to develop research and observational techniques, including drawing, to explore ways of designing and making quality outcomes. You will discover the rich sources of inspiration through the influences of culture and history on the production of decorative textiles. You will develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical and an experimental approach to a number of artists and craftspeople, materials and practical techniques. Elements of design, pattern, texture, shape and line will be developed, explored and realised through various projects, using dye and embellishment to enhance aesthetic values.

Where can GCSE Textiles take you?

GCSE Textiles leads nicely onto studying A Level Textiles. You will learn a broad array of transferable skills and creative thought processes that would benefit any career path. Many of our students go on to do a foundation course in Art and Design, or move straight onto degree courses in Textiles Design, Fashion, Fashion Marketing and Communication and Interior Design, as well as Theatre Set Design and Costume.

Additional costs

- Materials and equipment | £25 added to invoice annually in Years 9-11. Students will also need some of their own art materials and specific fabrics if needed.
- National day trips | Approximately £30 per student (subject to gallery visited and number of students going)
- International trips (when organised) | £800-£1000 per student (subject to country visited, date, duration of trip, itinerary and number of students going)

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1	Portfolio: A portfolio of practical work showing a personal response to either a centre or learner set starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus.	Non-examined assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated) 120 marks Worth 60% of GCSE
Component 2	Externally set assignment: The externally set task paper gives a choice of five themes, each with a choice of written and/or visual starting points or stimuli. You need to select one of these themes and generate a personal response to it. Preparation for the assignment will take place over one term and followed by 10 hours of supervised time.	Non-examined assessment (internally assessed and externally moderated) 80 marks Worth 40% of GCSE

Business | Pearson Edexcel 1BSO

The study of Business enables students to develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems. Studying a GCSE in Business will require you to use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between facts and opinion and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data, to help build arguments and make informed judgements.

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. Topics covered are enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective and understanding external influences on 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. It also considers the impact of the wider world on the decisions a business makes as it grows.

Where can GCSE Business take you?

If you wish to you can continue your studies at A Level in the Sixth Form. Business would also be useful if you are interested in going on to study or work in field such as accountancy, business management, law, ICT, retail management, travel and leisure management, marketing or human resources.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Theme 1: Investigating small business	The paper is divided into three sections – Section A: 35 marks, Section B: 30 marks and Section C: 25 marks. Consists of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in a source booklet.	Written examination: One hour and 45 minutes 90 marks Worth 50% of GCSE
Theme 2: Building a business	The paper is divided into three sections – Section A: 35 marks, Section B: 30 marks and Section C: 25 marks. Consists of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in a Source Booklet.	Written examination: One hour and 45 minutes 90 marks Worth 50% of GCSE

Dance | AQA 8236

This is an exciting option if you have an interest in, and passion for, Dance. The foundation course in Year 9 directly supports the GCSE Dance course from Year 10 through to Year 11 and will enable you to study different dance styles, professional dance works and choreographers. You will have the opportunity to create your own dances, as well as strengthen your technical ability and performance skills.

Studying dance enables you to experience numerous roles such as dancer, performer, choreographer and critic. During the course you will have the opportunity to direct others which will enhance your interpersonal and communication skills. You will also be able to improve your critical appreciation of dance through the study of numerous professional dance works.

There will be various workshops during the course which will cover many different dance styles, such as jazz, ballet and contemporary. There will also be regular trips to the theatre to see both classical and modern productions.

It would be a mistake to think of Dance as an easy option. You need to have a strong background in dance, and the confidence to be expressive as well as perform individually in front of an audience. You also need to have the ability to work well within a group. To enjoy creating your own choreography using problem-solving skills and imagination are important and good organisational skills are essential in preparing choreography and working independently.

Where can GCSE Dance take you?

Dance GCSE provides an excellent route to A Level Dance, as well as to further and higher education in the performing arts, teaching and choreography. It is also a brilliant foundation for vocational and professional training.

Additional costs

Theatre trips and workshops are essential to the course and every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum. Costs would approximately be £75 per year.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1: Performance and choreography	Performance Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration). Duet/trio performance: three minutes in a dance which is a maximum of five minutes in duration. Choreography Solo or group choreography: a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes).	Non-examined assessment (NEA) marked by the school and moderated by AQA. Performance: 40 marks Worth 30% of GCSE Choreography: 40 marks Worth 30% of GCSE
Component 2: Dance appreciation	Component 2 covers: Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills. Critical appreciation of own work. Critical appreciation of professional works.	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 80 marks Worth 40% of GCSE

Design and Technology | AQA 8552

Studying for a GCSE in Design and Technology will provide you with the opportunity to develop your skills in problem-solving, designing and making. The teaching of Design and Technology will prepare you to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies, encouraging you to think both creatively and analytically. Practical skills are combined with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues, function and industrial practices. Design and Technology will educate you to become discriminating and informed creators of products, and become innovators.

The Department offers GCSE Design and Technology, starting with a foundation in Year 9 which directly supports the GCSE course through to the end of Year 11. You will work in a variety of disciplines within the subject including computer aided design and manufacturing, developing collaborative and communication skills, whilst also gaining experience of working in wood, metal and plastics and learning some electronics and textiles. You will have the opportunity to problem-solve situations by designing products based around the properties of relevant materials. You will be encouraged to succeed, with individual achievement and personal creativity being greatly valued.

Where can GCSE Design and Technology take you?

If you wish to you can continue your studies at A Level in the Sixth Form. The study of Design and Technology provides an ideal foundation for a variety of university BA and BSc degree programmes including architecture, engineering, graphics, product and interior design. It can also provide evidence of practical ability, teamwork and problem-solving which are highly regarded by university admissions in other disciplines as a complement to other subjects.

Additional costs

Students will be charged for materials used during the course in relation to their projects, at an approximate cost of £30 per annum.

Trips have included:

- SonyTec UK | Approximately £28
- Design Museum for Year 9 | Approximately £20

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1	<p>Section A Core technical principles: Multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>Section B Specialist technical: Several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.</p> <p>Section C Designing and making principles: Mixture of short answer and extended response questions.</p>	<p>Written examination: Two hours 100 marks Worth 50% of GCSE</p>
Component 2	<p>Substantial design and make task (the practical application of Component 1). Assessment criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying and investigating design possibilities• Producing a design brief and specification• Generating design ideas• Developing design ideas• Realising design ideas• Analysing and evaluating	<p>Non-examined assessment: 30–35 hours 100 marks Worth 50% of GCSE</p>

Drama | Pearson Edexcel 1DR0

Drama is a very exciting, challenging and creative choice for GCSE and is a subject that will teach life skills such as the ability to communicate well with others, self-confidence, negotiation and presenting yourself with poise. You need to be able to think imaginatively, communicate clearly and work as a member of a group. Throughout the course there will be lots of opportunities to see live theatre, work with visiting theatre companies and to get involved in school productions.

You will study performance texts in order to gain an understanding of their social, cultural and historical context, including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created. You will also develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to your own performances. Studying GCSE Drama will help to develop your ability to recognise and understand the roles and responsibilities of a performer, designer and director and help you to understand how performance texts can be interpreted and performed.

GCSE Drama is an excellent course for all students in terms of confidence building, presentation and public speaking skills. However, it does require lots of practical input; you must be prepared to perform every lesson and be a co-operative, focused team player.

Where can GCSE Drama take you?

If you wish to you can continue your studies at A Level in the Sixth Form. The study of Drama will help if you want to take further vocational study in Performing Arts. It will also help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career, especially fields such as retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face-to-face.

Additional costs

Theatre trips and workshops are essential to the course and every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum, approximately £50 per student.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1: Devising	You will create, develop and perform a devised piece of drama from a stimulus of a maximum of 15- 20 minutes and analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance. All students must then reflect on and evaluate the effectiveness of the devising process in a written or recorded portfolio.	Coursework 60 marks Worth 40% of GCSE
Component 2: Performance from Text	You will perform in two key extracts from a performance text, leading to a final performance which will be externally assessed by visiting examiner.	Coursework 48 marks Worth 20% of GCSE
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice	Section A Bringing Texts to Life: This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on an unseen extract from the chosen performance text. Section B Live Theatre Evaluation: This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen. Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 60 marks Worth 40% of GCSE

Food Preparation and Nutrition | AQA 8585

Food may be essential to our existence, but having the skills and ability to prepare and cook a range of delicious meals is also an enjoyable and rewarding activity. GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will provide you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge and practical skills in an area that is relevant to your own life and gain an understanding of where food and nutrition fits in our modern, changing, multi-cultural society.

The Food Department is a busy and popular Department and Food is a very creative and interesting subject to study at GCSE. There is much to learn and the majority of this will involve learning by doing.

The course has five core topics:

- Food nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

These core areas lead students to ask how and why does a cake rise? Why do people choose the foods they do when they are shopping? How can I develop my own palette? How do my food choices affect other people around the world? What exciting foods can I make to keep me healthy?

Where can GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition take you?

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition can lead to exciting careers such as sports science, medicine, nutrition and dietetics. Food Scientists are much sought after and it is estimated there are three jobs for every graduate leaving university. A Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will also help you develop many important and valuable skills which include, organisation, teamwork, resilience and independence.

Additional costs

All students will be required to wear a chef's jacket and mid-length apron. The School can provide these items at a cost between £15-£20.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Non-examined assessments (NEA) 1	Food Science Exam board set task experimenting with how ingredients function in food products. A 1500-2000 word report to be prepared showing practical work to answer the brief.	10 hours in lesson time Worth 15% of GCSE
Non-examined assessments (NEA) 2	Food Preparation Exam board set a task to prepare a three course meal.	20 hours in lesson time Three hours cooking assessment Worth 35% of GCSE
Examination	Written examination covering all content of the specification.	20 marks multiple choice 80 marks short and longer Worth 50% of GCSE

Foreign Languages | AQA

French 8652 | German 8662 | Spanish 8692

Learning a language, as you have no doubt discovered already, involves a lot of different skills: it offers numerous and exciting challenges, it poses a vast range of problems to solve and it is fun as well. You have the opportunity not only to learn a second language but also to understand and explore a different culture, history and traditions. It is highly-recommended that students study a language at GCSE as not only can this lead to further study at A Level, but a GCSE in a language can be advantageous when applying for certain universities, as well as being associated with increased employment opportunities.

French | France is, in more ways than one, the gateway to Europe, and French has traditionally been the first foreign language studied in British schools. French culture and history have always been rich, varied and highly respected around the world.

German | German is the mother tongue of more people in the European Union than any other language. It is one of the world's main scientific and technological languages, because Germany is historically a successful trading nation.

Spanish | Spanish is a world language, opening up not only Spain itself, but also the fascinating countries of Central and South America. Spanish culture and civilisation are vibrant and exciting and the language is a wonderful way to explore these colourful countries.

The examination will be graded using the 1-9 scale, where 9 is the top mark. Foundation tier candidates can obtain grades 1-5, whilst Higher tier candidates can obtain grades 4-9.

Additional costs

Residential Trip to Spain during October half-term for Year 9 students- approximately £850 per student - whilst this trip is not compulsory it is highly-recommended.



How will you be assessed?

Higher Tier		
Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Listening	Understanding and responding to spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar for each tier and dictation of short, spoken extracts Section A Listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks) Section B Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (10 marks)	Written examination: 45 minutes 50 marks 25% of GCSE
Paper 2: Speaking	Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake Role-play 10 marks 1-1.5 minutes Reading aloud task and short conversation 15 marks 3-3.5 minutes Photo card discussion – 25 marks 4.5-5.5 minutes	Non-exam assessment 10–12 minutes plus preparation time 50 marks 25% of GCSE
Paper 3: Reading	Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they are embedded in written sentences Translating from French into English Section A Reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or nonverbally (40 marks) Section B Translation from French into English, minimum of 50 words (10 marks)	Written examination: One hour 50 marks 25% of GCSE
Paper 4: Writing	Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli Translating from English into French. Question 1 Translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 50 words in total (10 marks) Question 2 (overlap question) Student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks) Question 3 Open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks)	Written examination: One hour, 15 minutes 50 marks 25% of GCSE
Foundation Tier		
Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Listening	Understanding and responding to spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar for each tier and dictation of short, spoken extracts Section A Listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation Tier) Section B Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks)	Written examination: 35 minutes 40 marks 25% of GCSE
Paper 2: Speaking	Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a Role-play Carry out a Reading aloud task Talk about visual stimuli Role-play 10 marks 1-1.5 minutes Reading aloud task and short conversation 15 marks 2-2.5 minutes Photo card discussion 25 marks 4-5 minute	Non-exam assessment (NEA) 7-9 minutes plus preparation time 50 marks 25% of GCSE
Paper 3: Reading	Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they are embedded in written sentences Translating from French into English Section A Reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or nonverbally (40 marks) Section B Translation from French into English, minimum of 35 words (10 marks)	Written examination: 45 minutes 50 marks 25% of GCSE
Paper 4: Writing	Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli Translating from English into French. Question 1 Student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks) Question 2 Student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks) Question 3 Student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks) Question 4 Translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 35 words in total (10 marks) Question 5 (overlap question) Student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)	Written examination: 70 minutes 50 marks 25% of GCSE

Geography | AQA 8035

Geography is, undoubtedly, the subject for learning about the world we live in and for gaining an understanding of the complex relationships between people and the environment. Geography is a valuable subject, as it combines well with both the sciences and the arts.

The AQA specification we follow, aims to provide a wide view of both physical and human geography. It forms a good basis for further study in the Sixth Form and aims to provoke an interest in current issues within the world, providing an opportunity to study a range of case studies in depth. You will also have the chance to use a wide range of investigative skills through fieldwork opportunities, bringing the subject to life outside of the classroom. You will critically analyse and evaluate responses on contemporary geographical issues, such as those related to food security, climate change and globalisation. You will also make use of your existing map reading and graphical skills.

Each of these study areas has already been introduced in Years 7 and 8 Geography and therefore the move to GCSE should be a smooth transition. The Year 9 pre-GCSE year, will provide you with an opportunity to build your literacy and numeracy skills, through a thematic approach to contemporary global issues.

Where can GCSE Geography take you?

You could go on to take an A Level in Geography in the Sixth Form. The knowledge gained from studying the subject, paired with your essential curiosity, will give you the sought-after transferable skills for success in further education and the workplace. Future career choices could include town planner, surveyor, architect, conservationist, environmental engineer and teacher – to name but a few.

Additional costs

There will be a two-night residential fieldwork trip, to a location within the UK, usually in the Summer Term of Year 10. The cost of the trip will depend upon the destination, cost of transport and the number of students in attendance, but is likely to be in the region of £250.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Living with the physical environment	Areas covered: The challenge of natural hazards, the living world, including ecosystems and tropical rainforests, together with hot deserts and physical landscapes in the UK, including coasts and rivers. Question types: multiple choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 88 marks Worth 35% of GCSE
Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment	Areas covered: Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management and food. Question types: multiple choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 88 marks Worth 35% of GCSE
Paper 3: Geographical applications	Areas covered: Issue evaluation, fieldwork, and geographical skills. Question types: multiple choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose.	Written examination: One hour, 15 minutes 76 marks Worth 30% of GCSE

History IGCSE | Pearson Edexcel 4HI1

Studying History will enable you to make sense of the world in which you live, to make informed judgements when faced with differing points of view and to understand how to contribute to society in a positive way.

An IGCSE in History is a valued qualification. Employers who see that you have this qualification will know that you have thought about the decisions people make, what motivates them, what they think and feel, and how far they are influenced by the society into which they are born; you are able to conduct investigations using different kinds of information; you are able to analyse this information and you can check it for opinion; you are able to communicate clearly and persuasively, both verbally and on paper.

In your pre-IGCSE year (Year 9), your lessons will focus on building up your skills and your knowledge base ready for the IGCSE examined units. You will study the following topics: Victorian Britain, the British Empire, World War One, the quest for female suffrage in Britain, Russia 1900-1945, 20th century dictatorships, and World War Two. In Years 10 and 11, we follow the Edexcel IGCSE History specification and offer the following units for examination: Changes in medicine c1848–1948, the USA 1918–41, the origins and course of the First World War, 1905–18, development of dictatorship: Germany 1918–1945 and a divided union: civil rights in the USA 1945–74.

We hope to offer optional trips to the Battlefields (Year 9) and to Germany (Year 11) as part of the History experience.

Where can IGCSE History take you?

You could go on to take an A Level in History in the Sixth Form. With a qualification in History, you can go on to work in a huge variety of careers, in areas as diverse as law, education, journalism and the media, politics, leisure and tourism, museums, libraries, art galleries, the police service, the armed forces, the civil service and business.

Additional costs

- Battlefields Trip | Approximately £480
- Germany Trip | Approximately £730

Whilst trips are not compulsory, they are highly-recommended.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Depth Studies	Students are assessed through an examination based on their selected depth studies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Germany: development of dictatorship, 1918–45• A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945–74	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 60 marks Worth 50% of IGCSE
Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies	Students are assessed through an examination based on their historical investigation and breadth study in change: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The USA, 1918–41 or the origins and course of the First World War, 1905–18• Changes in medicine, c1848–c1948	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 60 marks Worth 50% of IGCSE

Information and Communication Technology IGCSE | Cambridge 0417

Do you enjoy editing that photo until it is just perfect? Always fixing the family gadgets? Feel lost without your tech? If so, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the ideal course for you.

In an era where technology is integral to every aspect of our lives, our IGCSE ICT course is designed to equip students with the essential skills and knowledge to thrive in a digital world.

Create web sites, develop an understanding of when, and when not to use AI in your tasks, take your photo editing to the next level. These are all things that you will learn in the IGCSE ICT course.

The course is structured to cover a diverse range of topics, ensuring that students develop a well-rounded understanding of the key concepts in Information Technology. It is designed to encourage creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. With access to relevant software, online resources, and industry-standard tools, from Adobe and Microsoft we ensure that students are well-prepared for the demands of the digital age.

Assessment is a combination of written and practical examinations. This ensures that students not only understand theoretical concepts but also can apply their skills in real-world scenarios.

Where can IGCSE Information and Communication Technology take you?

Upon completion of the GCSE ICT programme, students will be well-prepared for further studies in Computer Science, Information Technology, or related fields, including A Level IT in our Sixth Form. The skills acquired will also be valuable in various professions where digital literacy is essential.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: Theory	This paper includes questions on all sections of the subject content.	Written examination: One hour, 30 minutes 80 marks Worth 40% of IGCSE
Paper 2: Document production, databases and presentations	This paper assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in the following sections of the subject content: document production, databases and presentations.	Practical examination: Two hours, 15 minutes 70 marks Worth 30% of IGCSE
Paper 3: Spreadsheets and Website Authoring	This paper assesses the practical skills needed to use the applications covered in the following sections of the subject content: spreadsheets and website authoring.	Practical examination: Two hours, 15 minutes 70 marks Worth 30% of IGCSE

Music | Pearson Edexcel 1MU0

Music is an excellent GCSE choice if you have a love for the subject. The course involves listening to music, performing music, creating your own music and extending your understanding of different styles and genres. If you like to create music of your own, composing will give you the opportunity to do so. On the Music GCSE course you will learn how to compose in a range of styles, from song writing and musicals, to film music, world music and instrumental music. You will explore composition techniques and approaches and you will work practically to compose in groups as well as individually. You will also be able to develop your ICT skills on composition software such as Sibelius and Logic Pro.

You will have the opportunity to discover and learn about styles of music that are new to you through listening, practical and theory work. GCSE Music is a very practical and creative subject. You will also develop your listening skills and will learn how to analyse musical ideas.

If you love to perform, or want to develop your repertoire and skills, GCSE Music will give you the opportunity to build your confidence in performing in a range of styles. This course will encourage you to improve every aspect of your performance by developing instrumental or vocal technique, musical expression and your musicianship working in solo and ensemble contexts both in and out of the classroom.

GCSE Music caters for musicians of varying abilities and backgrounds, and will support and stretch every member of the class. When performing, how well you play or sing is rewarded more highly than how difficult a piece you play so you are welcome to consider Music GCSE if you are currently Grade 2-3 on your instrument or voice as you will have time to develop. There is also no set style in which you must perform so you can play to your strengths.

Where can GCSE Music take you?

You could go on to take an A Level in Music in the Sixth Form. The skills you will learn will be useful for future careers in many sectors and it is a respected qualification. For any career in music production, performance, composition or musicology, a GCSE in Music will cover central skills and knowledge. It will also help develop skills of analysis, reasoning, comprehension of a range of cultures and contexts, and develop confidence in presenting through performance work and creativity in composition. These are transferable skills which are beneficial to further study and the workplace.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1: Performing – Solo and Ensemble	Students perform for at least four minutes' combined duration. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solo performance• An Ensemble performance, involving at least three performers Each performance is worth 30 marks.	Non-examined assessment: internally recorded and marked and externally moderated 60 marks Worth 30% of GCSE
Component 2: Composing	Students compose two compositions, with a minimum of three minutes' combined duration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One composition to a brief set by Edexcel• One free composition set by the student Each composition is worth 30 marks.	Non-examined assessment: internally recorded and marked and externally moderated 60 marks Worth 30% of GCSE
Component 3: Appraising	Section A Aural awareness, technical and musical knowledge of the eight set works in the Areas of Study, dictation, and unfamiliar pieces. Section B Extended response comparison between a set work and one unfamiliar piece. Areas of Study Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusion.	Written examination: One hour, 45 minutes 80 marks Worth 40% of GCSE

Physical Education | AQA 8582

Sport and fitness is a huge and fast-growing industry. If you're keen on sport you can make a healthy living from your passion.

In your pre-GCSE year in Year 9, your lessons will focus on developing your analytical and evaluative skills when observing performances and learning about the importance of health, fitness and well-being. In Years 10 and 11 areas of study include applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, as well as reviewing health and fitness.

Success in Physical Education (PE) depends on enthusiasm, hard work and commitment. You should have a genuine interest in PE and sport and enjoy regularly watching sporting programmes, matches or documentaries, or reading a wide variety of sporting news articles. We expect that you will be a regular performer for the School and have a good level of sporting ability across the three sports, either within or outside of school. We require for at least one of these sports, you regularly train and play with a club outside of school. A parental commitment is also required to support the gathering of footage for the Non-Exam Assessment (practical).

Where can GCSE Physical Education take you?

You could go on to take an A Level in PE in the Sixth Form. There are many obvious sports-related careers which taking a GCSE in Physical Education would lead into such as being a PE teacher, sports coach/instructor, sports development officer or sports psychologist. However, other areas include youth work, outdoor pursuits instructing, physiotherapy, personal fitness training, fire service, police, armed forces and sports event management.

Additional costs

Possible additional costs if selected as one of the three sports:

- Rockclimbing | Approximately £50
- Skiing at The Hemel Hempstead Snow Dome | Approximately £150 (students are required to be competent skiers)

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	Areas covered: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training and use of data. Multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions.	Written examination: One hour, 15 minutes 78 marks Worth 30% of GCSE
Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport	Areas covered: Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and use of data. Multiple choice questions, short answer and extended answer questions.	Written examination: One hour, 15 minutes 78 marks Worth 30% of GCSE
Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport	Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or individual activity). Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.	Non-exam assessment :assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA 100 marks Worth 40% of GCSE

To view the full list of activities you can perform in, including restrictions, please visit <http://pipers.sc/GCSEPhysicalEducation>, pages 46–49.

Religious Studies | AQA 8062

In order to understand the world in the 21st century you need to understand religion.

A GCSE in Religious Studies will require you to develop your knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism. By systematically studying two very different belief systems (Christianity and Buddhism or Judaism) you will engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life.

Both universities and employers recognise that after studying for a GCSE in Religious Studies, you will have the ability to think critically and reflectively on issues of life, philosophy, ethics and religion.

If you have enjoyed the subject in the past, and if you are interested in thinking critically and philosophically about religion and beliefs, you should seriously consider taking this GCSE.

The course will equip you to assess different view points and to respect the opinions of others whilst developing their own ideas clearly and logically; all vital ingredients in any working environment. You will also develop skills including logical thought, analysis, argument, interpretation, evaluation, critical awareness, discussion and research.

Where can GCSE Religious Studies take you?

You could go on to take an A Level in Religious Studies in the Sixth Form. You will learn the essential skills of both written and verbal argument. Former students have gone on to study the subject at university and moved into careers as diverse as law, criminology and fashion.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment	Content	Details
Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices	Areas covered: Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Buddhism or Christianity and Judaism. Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions worth 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks respectively.	Written examination: One hour, 45 minutes 102 marks Worth 50% of GCSE
Component 2: Thematic studies	Areas covered: Philosophical and ethical studies including issues of war, science, relationships, medical ethics, crime and arguments for and against the existence of God. Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question worth 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks respectively.	Written examination: One hour, 45 minutes 102 marks Worth 50% of GCSE

Non-examination subjects

All students will study the following subjects alongside the core subjects and their GCSE options. These subjects are designed to enhance your physical and emotional Well-Being, whilst broadening your social and political awareness.

Physical Education

Core PE lessons will consist of a range of activities including Basketball, use of the Fitness Suite, Leadership and Rounders. You will take an active role in playing, organising and leading activities and develop an appreciation of the importance of regular participation in physical activity. The varied range of activities hopes to promote lifelong participation in physical activity following your own interests, abilities and ambitions.

Religion and Worldviews

The core Religion and Worldviews curriculum is designed to enable you to develop a broader understanding of various religions and their place in both history and modern society. In Year 9, for example, we study topics such as Sikhism, Prejudice and Discrimination and Poverty. Moving into Year 10, we explore Peace and Conflict, New Religious Movements and Government policies. The Year 11 course builds on the skills and knowledge acquired in previous years, engaging with challenging topics like medical ethics, which includes euthanasia, designer babies and cloning. Throughout all years, students are encouraged to explore and answer ethical and philosophical questions. While there is no examination at the end of the course, active participation, demonstrating curiosity, interest and wider reading, are encouraged in all lessons. Classes are offered on a four-week rotation, alongside Life Skills.

Life Skills | Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education and Citizenship

The main aim of Life Skills teaching and learning is to provide you with the knowledge, skills and understanding you need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens.

You will be encouraged to reflect on your own experiences and in doing so recognise your own worth, helping you to deal with the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues you may face as you grow up and reach adulthood.

Life Skills will help you to understand and responsibly manage a wider range of relationships as you mature and show respect for the diversity of and differences between people, always aware of a common humanity.

Life Skills also aims to develop your Well-Being and self-esteem, encouraging belief in your ability to succeed and enabling you to take responsibility for your learning and future choices of courses and career.




Above all, our aim is to enable you to analyse, reflect, speculate, discuss and argue constructively about your understanding of issues.



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