

## **Cheslyn Hay Academy**

Part of Windsor Academy Trust

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## **Key Stage 4**

## **Options 2021-23**

**Information for Students and Parents/Carers**



Dear Parent/Carer

This booklet is designed to give students and parents/carers information about the subjects on offer at Key Stage 4. Making subject choices is a very important decision and there is also information included about core subjects that all students do, such as English and maths. This booklet gives you information about each subject to help make the decision. Students have been given information and guidance in assemblies and from teaching staff.

### **Types of Qualification**

We offer a range of different types of qualifications. Most subjects are GCSEs which are graded using Grades 9 to 1, where Grade 9 is the highest. Most are assessed with exams at the end of Year 11.

We also offer BTEC and Cambridge National qualifications which are more vocational qualifications which are assessed using a combination of coursework and exam. These qualifications are equivalent to GCSEs and carry similar points scores, but are graded using Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*. A Level 2 Pass is equivalent to Grade 4 at GCSE, which in turn is equivalent to a grade C under the old system of grading using A\*-G letters.

### **BTEC, Cambridge National and WJEC Award Qualifications**

These are high quality, hands-on qualifications grounded in the real world of work. They are all about learning by doing and that means students put what they learn into practice straight away. Throughout the course, they work on a series of assignments set in real-life scenarios, developing the practical knowledge and skills employers and universities are looking for.

Most assignments are set and marked by the teacher or tutor and involve a series of tasks designed around a work-related, real-life scenario. They give students the chance to build knowledge and skills over time and deliver a complete, integrated project using a combination of knowledge, skills and behaviours.

For selected units students also take practical assessments set and marked by the exam board. These tests are either based around a real-life task completed in a specified time or practically focused written tests completed in exam conditions.

### **The English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)**

To achieve the Ebacc, students must achieve five GCSEs at grade 5 or above in English, Maths, 2 sciences (can include Computer Science), History or Geography and a language. Please see the guidance leaflet designed for parents by the Department for Education about the Ebacc that can be found on the school website.

The combination of core subjects and option subjects will provide students with a curriculum that meets their needs and that they will enjoy in Key Stage 4.

Mr P Hambleton  
Assistant Headteacher



# Guidance for Students

Key Stage 4 is a very important stage in your education. You have more choice than ever before about what subjects to study alongside your core curriculum. There will be more variety in terms of the type of course you can follow, with vocational courses on offer as well (such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals). This booklet gives an overview of the courses on offer.

Deciding which options to take is an important task. You need to gather the relevant information you need, speak to the relevant people and think about which courses you want to follow. You can seek guidance from various sources, including subject teachers, parents, your Head of House.

We want you to enjoy the courses you take at Key Stage 4 and making the right choices now will influence the next stage of your education.

**The date for returning your Options Form to your tutor is Friday 26th March 2021.**

Here are some helpful tips when deciding options:

- Read this booklet carefully several times
- Ask subject teachers, tutors, Head of House or Mr Hambleton if there is anything you are unsure of or would like more information about
- Think about all the subjects available
- Think about your future education and career options, as well as the possible impact of the English Baccalaureate
- Talk about your ideas and choices with parents/carers
- Talk about the subjects you are considering with subject teachers or older students who have taken it
- Check you and your parents/carers are happy with your choice ranking before handing the form in
- Don't choose a subject just because your friends are choosing it. They may have different aspirations and you may not be in the same class anyway
- Don't choose a subject just because you like the teacher; you may have a different teacher next year
- Don't hand your form in late



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# GCSE English Language and English Literature

## What does the course involve?

All students will follow the AQA course, which includes both English Language and Literature. A separate examination will be taken for both leading to students gaining two separate GCSE qualifications.

GCSE English Language involves the study of language skills (written and spoken) and of literature. Students will work on improving their language skills and will also be studying literature in some depth.

This qualification will be tested in a non-tiered examination (100% of the marks) and students will need to show knowledge of 19th, 20th and 21st century texts including literary texts and extended literary non-fiction, as well as other forms of writing such as essays, reviews and journalistic texts.

GCSE English Literature will involve a far more detailed study of poetry, plays and novels including a play by Shakespeare, a 19th century novel and a selection of poetry from 1789 onwards, including representative Romantic poetry. Questions on unseen poetry will also be included in the examination. Again, this will be assessed by a non-tiered examination (worth 100%).

All qualifications are graded with a number from 9 to 1, where 9 is the top grade.

## Why should I study this subject?

As a core subject, the English GCSE is a statutory requirement for all students. In studying English, you are gaining many skills that are essential to everyday life; these skills are also very useful in other subject areas. Many jobs, colleges, universities and training programmes require a sound grasp of English evidenced by the English qualification due to the wide range of transferable skills that it offers.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

While studying English you will gain skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening; all of which are important life skills. The skills gained will include the following:

- ✓ Knowledge of English Literature and Language
- ✓ A broad vocabulary and ability to use critical terminology appropriately
- ✓ The ability to interpret texts and their meaning
- ✓ Essay writing skills
- ✓ The ability to speak in public on a wide variety of topics
- ✓ Oral and written skills in effective communication and argument



# GCSE Mathematics

## What does the course involve?

Students will follow the Edexcel (9-1) specification. Subject teachers will determine the most appropriate tier of entry based upon the ability and progress of each individual student, as determined by the latest assessment, including mock exams. The Higher tier covers Grade 1-9 work and the Foundation tier covers Grade 1-5 work.

100% of the course assessment is examination. Students will be assessed regularly to monitor progress and enable students to identify areas of strength and areas they can improve. Assessment will take the form of Key Assessment Tasks (KATs) in class every 12/13 weeks at the end of each cycle of work. Key Learning Tasks (KLTs) will occur roughly every 2 weeks to identify any areas for development throughout the cycle. Homework tasks are set most weeks in the form of revision for assessments, response tasks or revision of previous topics from our maths website.

Students will take three exams in the summer of Year 11. One paper is non-calculator. Each exam lasts 1.5 hours and has 80 marks available.

## Why should I study this subject?

Mathematics teaches you a wide variety of knowledge and skills. In learning mathematics, you are not just learning the content but learning how to think in a particular way which is attractive to future employers.

Many jobs, colleges, universities and training programmes require a good Mathematics qualification because of the wide range of direct and transferable skills learning mathematics develops.

Mathematics can be a very enjoyable subject in its own right but will also give you skills which will be useful in other subjects.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

You will develop a set of skills to enable you to solve problems, reason mathematically and draw conclusions based on logical deductions. You will learn how to interpret information and communicate your answers and ideas clearly and logically.

You will learn how to tackle problems which at first don't always make sense. You will develop strategies for applying what you know to real-life problems.



# GCSE Science

## What does the course involve?

At Cheslyn Hay Academy we have 2 possible pathways on offer to ensure all students study Science. For both routes there are two tiers: Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9). Teachers will determine the tier of entry which will enable students to achieve the highest grade they are capable of. This decision will be based on assessments throughout the course including mock exams.

### Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Students on this pathway will study for 3 separate GCSEs in Science. This is most suitable for students who enjoy all aspects of Science and want to study more of it. Students will have separate science lessons taught by specialist teachers in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

All examinations will occur at the end of the two-year programme. In Year 11 students will sit two equally-weighted examinations per subject. These will be 1 hour 45 minutes long and comprise a mixture of multiple choice, closed short answer and open response questions. There will be no practical assessment, although students will be required to undertake a number of required practicals during the programme, which will be assessed through the two terminal examinations.

### Combined Science (Trilogy):

Students on this pathway will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will be awarded a combined Science grade to two GCSEs in science.

All examinations will occur at the end of the two-year programme. In Year 11 students will sit six equally-weighted examinations, two for each of the three science subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be 1 hour 15 minutes long and comprise a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed and open short answer with emphasis on knowledge and application. There will be no practical assessment, although students will be required to undertake a number of required practicals during the programme, which will be assessed through the terminal examinations.

## Why should I study this subject?

The impact and effect of science is everywhere, and understanding how it is a part of our daily lives can give individuals a great foundation for success in life. The notion that science is necessary only for scientists and engineers is outdated in today's high-tech world. A solid science education is essential for students of all backgrounds, talents, interests, and abilities. A large part of the general public may not realise the significant role that science plays in our everyday lives. Others may think that science is not for them, but science truly is for everyone, regardless of gender, race, or level of ability, and opportunities exist for all.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

All students need the knowledge and skills that make up what we call "Science literacy" – the ability to make sense of the world around them. By helping students learn how to observe, collect evidence and draw conclusions, science helps to sharpen thinking about ideas and events that are encountered in everyday life. The skills taught through science help with problem solving, independent thought, resilience, practical dexterity, mathematical application, moral and ethical dilemmas, and understanding social and cultural diversity. They also underpin other subjects across the curriculum.



# GCSE 3D Design

## What does the course involve?

Two units of work are required over the GCSE course. Coursework represents 60% of the overall mark and is followed by a final 'practical' exam where students chose **one** from a variety of questions; this allows them to work to their strengths. The exam unit is developed in lessons and completed during a timed controlled test; this takes place within the department. Students will be working in **one or more** of the following areas listed;

- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Jewellery and body adornment
- Interior design
- Designs for theatre
- Exhibition design

3D Design is defined as a process of prototyping and modelling or making of primarily functional and aesthetic products, objects and environments, drawing upon intellectual, creative and practical skills. All students will be taken through a sustained project responding to an initial theme or starting point which may have a historical, contemporary, cultural, social, environmental and creative context. Students will show ideas, feelings, forms and purpose that address specific needs. These will be determined by external factors such as requirements of individual client's expectations or the need of an intended audience, or details of a specific commission. Students will present their ideas, research and investigations on A2 boards, A3 folders, workbooks and progress diaries. Regular portfolio reviews, feedback and 1-1 consultations are vitally important in monitoring individual progress and setting relevant targets.

## Why should I study this subject?

The course allows you to develop a wide range of 3D skills, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of professional design practice. Ideas will be at the heart of what we do and learning to develop ideas through clear design processes and techniques. The course will allow students to develop employable skills to operate in many three dimensional based careers; ceramic design, exhibition work, industrial/product designer, production designer/theatre/TV and film.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

The course will develop many skills, techniques and processes using a variety of materials which could include clay, wood, plastic, found materials and plaster. Students will experience techniques they have not had the opportunity to use before for example model making, constructing, surface treatment, assembling and modelling.



# GCSE Art and Design

## What does the course involve?

Students will complete two units of coursework each involving research into other artists and designers, the development of ideas, use of appropriate materials and observational skills. This represents 60% of the overall mark and is followed by a final examination where students develop a personal response to an exam question, allowing them to work to their strengths (2D or 3D construction).

Students present their ideas, research and investigations on A2 boards, progress diaries and workbooks. Regular portfolio reviews, feedback and 1-1 consultations are vitally important in monitoring individual progress and setting relevant targets. During Year 10 a three day field trip is an integral part of the course and this provides students with the experience of working out of school, developing observational drawings in a public environment. All students on the course will have the opportunity to visit galleries and current exhibitions over their two year GCSE course.

Students are encouraged to use the department's facilities during supervised lunchtime and after school intervention to catch up on any outstanding work.

## Why should I study this subject?

GCSE qualifications in Art and Design provide a sound basis for students to progress onto either an A Level Art and Design course, or a Level 3 BTEC Vocational Art and Design course (equivalent to 3 A Levels). This course gains direct entry at degree level. Progression routes to higher education and degree courses are excellent. The visual arts offers many career opportunities; interior design, architecture, animation, fashion design/retail, automobile design, visual communication and advertising, theatre set design to name but a few. Visual designers working in industry have almost doubled in the last ten years and contributes £3.6 bn to the UK economy.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Art and Design lays a foundation to an understanding of the ways in which we view the world around us. The course places emphasis on processes that involve creative thinking, independent judgements, problem solving; all skills we would like our students to take on board for future employability. Each unit of work allows students to sustain their own line of enquiry, grasping their imagination and developing their own personal response from a generic starting point. Outstanding results are consistently maintained at both GCSE and Advanced level.



# BTEC Business

## What does the course involve?

This BTEC course offers a diverse approach to business and can help provide many skills and qualities needed in today's job market and the changing world of work as well as providing progression into further business studies courses. The fundamental approach to this subject is based on the view that, in order to understand the nature of business, students must actively experience the business environment. The business theory goes hand in hand with the practical application of students' knowledge to real business.

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. Additionally, they are popular and effective because they engage learners to take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. These skills include: team working; working from a prescribed brief; working to deadlines; presenting information effectively; and accurately completing administrative tasks and processes. BTEC courses motivate learners, and open doors to progression into further study and responsibility within the workplace.

Students will be assessed by two external examinations and two internal pieces of coursework

## Why should I study this subject?

This course will appeal to students who have a keen interest in business and how it operates. The course is suitable for you if you enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to your life and experience. The course is **active** and enjoyable and we relate the theory you study to businesses that are interesting and applicable to the students at our school.

Becoming knowledgeable about how businesses operate helps increase your competitiveness in the job market and to understand how the businesses and governments drive our competitive markets. You will discover how relevant Business Studies is to the society we live in and also develop skills required for success as an entrepreneur, manager or employee.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

- Data analysis – you will be expected to manipulate data in a variety of forms and interpret their result
- The practices and techniques used within marketing, finance, operations management, human resources management and the links between them
- Planning and organising work, taking into account the demands of the task and the time available to complete it
- Conducting research into a specific theme
- The practical application of business concepts and reinforcing understanding of theories and concepts.
- Entrepreneurship



# GCSE Computer Science

## What does the course involve?

Computer Science has 3 components which are as follows;

### **Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving**

Computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

- Fundamentals of Algorithms
- Programming

#### **Questions**

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.

*In paper 1 students will be required to design, write, test and refine program code in Python. Therefore it is important that the student has a keen interest in programming and is willing to practice programming independently on a weekly basis.*

### **Paper 2: Computing concepts**

Theoretical knowledge from;

- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer networks
- Cyber security
- Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)
- Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy

**Questions:** A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

## Why should I study this subject?

Are you a budding programmer? Do you want to create your own apps or get into web development? Do you fancy the challenge of being the person who creates the software rather than just using it? Do you just enjoy working with computers? If the answer is yes to any of these questions then Computer Science is the route for you.

Computer Science has a wide variety of job opportunities including:

Application analyst | Applications developer | Forensic computer analyst. | Data analyst | Database administrator.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

### **Programming**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Refining programs in response to testing outcomes.</li><li>● Apply Problem Solving skills to solve and creating programming that are efficient and effective</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Including authentication and data validation systems/routines within their computer programs</li><li>● Designing and applying test data (normal, boundary and erroneous)</li><li>● Resilience</li></ul> |
|--|---|



# BTEC

## Construction and the Built Environment

### What does the course involve?

This course gives students the opportunity to develop an awareness of the construction industry and how the various trade people, inspectors, site supervisors, architects and project managers work together to complete these varied projects. It is also an opportunity to experience a wide range of crafts for those seeking employment in the Construction Industry.

Each qualification is built from discrete units, but allows for both synoptic learning and assessment. Each unit has an applied purpose which acts as a focus for the learning in the unit. The applied purpose is the vehicle through which the learning contained in the unit is made relevant and purposeful. It is also the means by which learners are enthused, engaged and motivated to study how buildings are constructed. The applied purpose provides the opportunity for authentic work related learning, but more than this, it will require learners to consider how the use and application of their learning impacts on individuals, employers, society and the environment.

The qualifications have been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach to learning where learners are introduced to a context for learning, review previous learning to plan activities, carry out activities and review outcomes and learning. This approach mirrors many work related activities in constructing the built environment and also provides for learning in a range of contexts thus enabling learners to apply and extend their learning. As such, the qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in construction and the built environment and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

### Why should I study this subject?

The construction industry employs about 10% of the UK workforce and creates the buildings in which we work, live, study and enjoy our leisure time. It also creates the roads, railways, airports and seaports we use to help us travel to those buildings. If someone wants to add an extension to their home, add new office buildings on their land or turn a field into a sports centre, they need to:

- make sure they meet planning requirements
- use materials and structures that deliver a safe and efficient building
- provide access by road, rail or water
- ensure it can be built within budget.

Increasingly, society wants construction to be:

- sustainable through using materials that are sourced sustainably and sustainable energy sources
- design conscious; providing buildings that are pleasant to look at and use. These needs and wants are met through the design of the construction project.

This course will enable you to progress your career into areas such as architecture, quantity surveying, civil engineering and building services engineering or into a craft pathway such as electrical, plumbing, joinery and bricklaying.

### What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

The applied purpose will also enable learners to learn in such a way that they develop:

- skills required for independent learning and development;
- a range of generic and transferable skills;
- the ability to solve problems;
- the skills of project based research, development and presentation;
- the fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals, in a professional environment;
- the ability to apply learning in vocational contexts.



# Cambridge National Creative iMedia (ICT)

## What does the course involve?

Cambridge National Creative iMedia equips students with the wide range of knowledge and skills needed to work with creative digital media using ICT packages. They start at pre-production and develop their skills through practical assignments as they create final multimedia products.

**Paper 1: R081 – Pre-Production Skills (Exam): Written Paper - 1 hour 15 mins**

### Exam Unit - What's assessed?

<b>Paper: Pre-Production Skills - 25%</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Mood boards</li> <li>•Mind maps/spider diagrams</li> <li>•Visualisation diagrams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Storyboards</li> <li>•Scripts</li> <li>•Legislation</li> </ul>
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### Coursework Assessments x 3

The teacher-assessed tasks will be practical tasks in the context of an assignment, selected from the OCR bank of model assignments.

<b>R082: Digital Graphics - 25% 30GLH</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Explain characteristics of digital graphics</li> <li>•Plan and create a advert</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Follow client requirements</li> <li>•Evaluate final advert</li> </ul>
<b>R084: Creating Digital Comics - 25% 30GLH</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Explain history of comics</li> <li>•Plan and create a comic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Evidence and justify decisions for creation</li> <li>•Evaluate final comic</li> </ul>
<b>R088 Digital Sound Sequence - 25% 30GLH</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Understand types of digital audio</li> <li>•Plan a audio sequence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Produce and export a sound sequence</li> <li>•Critically review sound sequence</li> </ul>

## Why should I study this subject?

These qualifications will assess the application of creative media skills through their practical use. They will provide learners with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing their employability when they leave education, contributing to their personal development and future economic well-being. The qualifications will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Through the use of these skills, learners will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products. The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will also challenge all learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and techniques; encouraging independence and creativity and providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum.

Creative iMedia has a wide variety of job opportunities including

Graphic Designer | Sound Editor | Artist | Graphical Engineer | CAD Operator | Illustrator | Sound Engineer



# BTEC Dance

## What does the course involve?

This course is a good alternative to GCSE Physical Education and BTEC Sport for those pupils who have a strong interest in dance. This is a Level 2 qualification and is equivalent to one GCSE. The course develops theoretical knowledge and practical skills in a range of dance styles. The course is both externally and internally assessed through a variety of assignments in the following areas:

### External Assessments

- **Component 3** – Pupils will create an extensive piece of group choreography to a set theme, perform it and complete 3 controlled assessments where they will explain their work in detail (this is all sent off to an examiner)

### Internal Assessments

- **Component 1** – Pupils will study professional repertoire across 3 different dance styles and produce written coursework to demonstrate their knowledge of the pieces
- **Component 2** – Pupils will learn and perform a piece of professional dance repertoire, reflecting on their skills and performance throughout the process

Pupils will be graded for each assignment as follows and points from these will be accumulated to make up their overall grade at the end of the course:

- **Pass**
- **Merit**
- **Distinction**
- **Distinction\*** (pupils can achieve this overall at the end of the course if they achieve distinction in all of their assignments)

## Why should I study this subject?

This subject is perfect for students who love dance and want to take a practical subject, taking them out of the normal classroom environment. They will learn and produce coursework about professional dance repertoire across a variety of dance styles, take part in workshops about these pieces, learn professional choreography and have the opportunity to choreograph their own work across the two year course. Pupils will also have the opportunity to perform their work in front of a variety of audiences and settings. This is an excellent opportunity for students to shine and show off their work.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Throughout the duration of the course pupils will not only learn choreography taught to them but will also have the opportunity to choreograph their own work in small groups or individually if they feel able to do so. They will be encouraged to perform their work, in groups, to the class in almost every lesson which really helps to increase their confidence. This confidence can then be transferred to other subjects for assessments where they must deliver presentations or read out loud to the class as they are used to being put in a similar situation.



# GCSE Drama

## What does the course involve?

Assessment: practical activities (through your practical work in lessons and through performances), a piece of coursework based on your practical work and a written exam.

### **Component 1: Written Exam (40%)**

This unit looks at how you write about Drama. You will need to learn key subject terminology for the multiple choice questions. You will also write about how you would act out an extract of a play you will have studied practically in lessons. You will also go to the theatre and will learn how to write about what you've seen.

### **Component 2: Practical Exams/Written Coursework (40%)**

You will work in a group to prepare a piece of drama of your own for an invited audience, focusing on character development, as well as costume, lights, sound, etc. You will be marked on individually on your acting skills in the exam. You will write a Devising Log which is a piece of coursework that allows you to explain your devising process and what was successful.

### **Component 3: Practical Exams/Written Coursework (30%)**

You will perform two extracts from a play in a small group. This will be marked by a visiting examiner in an evening performance.

## Why should I study this subject?

### **The sort of person who might enjoy GCSE Drama is someone who:**

- ✓ Enjoys working practically
- ✓ Enjoys working with a group
- ✓ Enjoys making new friends and meeting new people
- ✓ Has something to say about the world
- ✓ Is able to work independently and be self-motivated
- ✓ Is creative and imaginative
- ✓ Has a lot to say and is a good listener

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

The study of Drama can help encourage the following: enthusiasm, confidence, self-esteem, conversation, social skills, empathy, tolerance, problem solving, listening and co-operation.

In 2011 the Russell Group (group of prestigious academic universities) asked the HR departments of all the FTSE 250 companies what the most important qualities that they looked for in an employee were. The two most common answers were *teamwork* and *communication*.

Drama doesn't just lead to careers in drama or theatre. Previous students who have studied Drama at GCSE (and often A level) have gone on to study law, teaching, nursing, midwifery, business, psychology, English and many other varied courses/careers!



# GCSE French

## What does the course involve?

**The students study the following themes on which assessment at the end of Year 11 is based:**

Theme 1 Identity and Culture; Theme 2 Local area, Holiday and Travel; Theme 3 School; Theme 4 Future aspirations, Study and Work and Theme 5 International and Global dimension. Students will be entered at either Foundation or Higher level in all four assessment skills

**Paper 1: A Listening exam completed at the end of Year 11 worth 25% of the overall grade.**

The Listening exam will test your understanding of French and French culture with a range of questions, some gap-fill, some match-up and longer questions involving detailed answers.

**Paper 2: A Speaking exam completed at the end of Year 11 worth 25% of the overall grade.**

The Speaking exam is your chance to show off what you can do in French. A role-play, discussion of a photo card and a conversation with your teacher.

**Paper 3: A Reading exam completed at the end of Year 11 worth 25% of the overall grade.**

The Reading exam will test your ability to read for gist, for detailed comprehension and translation into English.

**Paper 4: Written Exam worth 25% of the overall grade.**

You will need to show that you can communicate effectively in writing through a written response to a photo, translation from English into French and structured writing tasks.

## Why should I study this subject?

Studying any Modern Foreign Language shows that you are an able student with the ability to approach your work in a variety of ways. Using both the creative and logical parts of the brain, holding a qualification in Languages will impress future employers and Universities, as well as allowing you to travel and communicate with people all around the world. The MFL Department aims to offer GCSE students the opportunity to practise their language skills with native speakers and trips abroad.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

With skills in another language you should:

- have more educational opportunities
- have more job & career opportunities
- improve your knowledge of other cultures
- develop skills in problem solving, organisation, listening and communication
- gain greater appreciation of literature, art, music, theatre & sports
- find travelling to other countries easier & more fun!



# GCSE Geography

## What does the course involve?

Has there ever been a better and more important time to study geography than now? Just look at all the hazards, such as flooding and earthquakes that affect our everyday life. Geography is always on the news with the increasing importance of China due to globalisation and what is global warming and should we be concerned? How can we live more sustainable lifestyles and what is your carbon footprint when you go on holiday? So, without Geography you are nowhere. Geography is important because without it we will never overcome the serious global issues that we face today – and tomorrow. Geography knowledge is POWER. It links the world, history, citizenship, science and much, much more. Geography is everywhere and everything and holds the key to our future.

We follow the AQA (A) course:

**Unit 1:** Living with the Physical Environment (1½hr written exam) [35%]

**Unit 2:** Challenges of the Human Environment (1½ hr written exam) [35%]

**Unit 3:** Geographical issues (1¼ hour written exam on pre-released material) [30%]

Topics include:

**Urban Issues & Challenges** – for the first time ever more people now live in cities than in the countryside. So what? How is this going to affect our futures?

**The Changing Economic World** – Globalisation – good or bad?

**Resource Management** – 7.5 billion live on the planet. In the near future this is still set to increase rapidly – should we be concerned about water, food and energy supplies?

**Rivers & Coasts** – Why do rivers continue to flood and what is happening at our coastline?

**Natural Hazards** – Why do we have earthquakes and volcanic eruptions? Are storm events more common now due to climate change? Is our weather getting worse?

**The Living World** – Why do we continue to destroy rainforests and who cares anyway?

## Why should I study this subject?

Geography tackles the big issues – environmental responsibility, global independence, cultural understanding and commerce, trade and industry. The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset to you and potential employers in the future. Geographers are good communicators, spatially aware, problem solvers, good team players, computer literate and well-rounded, flexible thinkers.

**Fact...** “Compared to other subjects, geography graduates are among the most employable. They possess the skills that employers look for. In part this is because the subject combines knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts.” TES 2008

***We love it.....and want you to love it too!***

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

### **GEOGRAPHERS CAN:**

Make a concise report  
Handle data  
Ask questions and find the answers  
Make decisions about an issue  
Analyse material  
Manage them  
Solve problems

### **GEOGRAPHERS ARE:**

Good communicators  
Spatially aware  
Socially and environmentally aware  
Problem solvers  
Good team players  
Computer literate  
Rounded, flexible thinkers



# Cambridge National Health and Social Care

## What does the course involve?

### **What is a Cambridge National Qualification?**

Cambridge Nationals are vocationally related qualifications that take an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. They're industry relevant, geared to key sector requirements and very popular with schools and colleges because they suit such a broad range of learning styles and abilities.

Your son/daughter will be awarded a **Certificate** which is the **equivalent to a GCSE.**

### **How is it assessed?**

The qualification is assessed with both internal and external assessment.

### **What will I be learning about?**

#### **Mandatory units to be studied:**

R021: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings – 1 hour exam

R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings – internal coursework unit

2 other units will also be studied and internally assessed via coursework:

R025: Understanding life stages -

R031: Using basic first aid procedures.

## Why should I study this subject?

This subject supports careers such as nursing, social work, physiotherapy, sports coaching, nursery nursing, teaching, the police and any careers to do with health and well-being or careers where you work with members of the public. For example, nursing, including midwifery; health visiting; teaching (including, nursery, primary and secondary); police, occupational therapy, social work. Any other health related profession such as, paramedics or physiotherapy, counselling, sport or exercise careers.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Some of the skills you will develop include: independent and group research; carrying out a health promotion study; writing up research using ICT skills; presentations; peer teaching and peer marking. You will also learn how to use Harvard referencing and learn how to analyse and evaluate. Time management and organisation skills will also be developed throughout the course as you will be expected to meet deadlines.



# GCSE History

## What does the course involve?

### **Paper 1 (worth 50%)**

#### **America 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality**

We investigate how America's society and economy boomed in the 1920s despite gangsters and the prohibition of alcohol, before examining the disaster of the depression in the 1930s and how America transformed its government to provide economic security for its people. We go on to study the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, considering such aspects as Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Black Power, and Presidents Kennedy and Johnson and the "Great Society".

#### **The Cold War 1945-1972**

We examine why tensions arose between the USSR and the USA after the Second World War and how this nearly led to the end of the world in a nuclear holocaust in the Cuban Missile Crisis. We also consider key indicators of Cold War tension, such as the arms race, U2 crisis, building of the Berlin Wall and the Prague Spring.

### **Paper 2 (worth 50%)**

#### **Britain: Health and the people: 1000 to the present day**

In this thematic study we see how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. We consider the causes, scale, nature and consequences of medical developments on British society, and also study the importance on the extent of medical progress of factors such as war, religion, government intervention, chance.

#### **Norman England 1066-1100**

We explore in depth the arrival of the Normans, the Battle of Hastings and the establishment of their rule. The study will focus on major economic, religious, political, social and cultural aspects of Norman rule.

## Why should I study this subject?

A person might as well ask why should I know what it is to be human? History has been studied for thousands of years since the first humans asked, 'Why?' Students who are intrigued by questions like why war starts, why we arrange governments in different ways and how the past shapes and influences our present should pick this subject. Students who enjoy challenge, debate, the joy of producing a polished essay and vibrant classes full of purpose should pick this subject.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

History provides students with extremely beneficial skills, valued by top universities and employers. For example, many universities prefer students to have a background in history before they commence a law degree.

Students of history learn to think deeply about change, causation and interpretation. Students must then learn to read complex information closely and communicate it effectively in both verbal and written form. History is a deeply analytical subject, a skill that is most valued in all the most sought after careers.



# WJEC Level 1/2 Award Hospitality and Catering

## What does the course involve?

This course concentrates on the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time

You will learn about the hospitality and catering industry by completing lots of practical work to learn new skills with weekly practical lessons. Therefore, it is essential that you are prepared to bring ingredients at least once a week

### ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 (40%): The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be externally assessed with an on line examination that lasts 90 minutes. You will be graded as follows:

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction

Unit 2 (60%): Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed: This involves you completing a piece of controlled assessment in school under examination conditions. You will be set a task by WJEC and will have to safely plan, prepare, cook and present dishes to satisfy the task.

## Why should I study this subject?

Hospitality and Catering is the right option for those students who have a real passion and interest in the creative industries. Have you ever thought that you could make something better or tastier? Have you ever wondered what different jobs people do in catering and hospitality? Ideally you will need to have a good interest in learning new skills and be organised with bringing equipment into lessons. You will be learning about the Hospitality and Catering industry so if you are interested in working with food or in catering then this would be an ideal starting point and would lead on to Level 2 or 3 courses.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

The course is a vocational course that prepares learners for the world of work and is both hands on and theory based. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the catering and hospitality industry and the careers involved within that . Possible career opportunities can be found below:

Chef, sports science, dietician, food journalism, product development, home economist, events management, hospitality, front of house, conference management, buyer, production manager, public relations, hygiene control, National Health Service, health promotion, technical management, food quality, food preparation and retail.



# GCSE Music

## What does the course involve?

The course has three components-

**Performing:** 30% of the marks

Solo performance 15% – all instruments including keyboard, guitar and your own voice are acceptable.

Ensemble performance 15% - playing in a group, duet or band.

**Composing and Arranging:** 30% of the marks

You are required to write two compositions 15% each. One will be a free composition and one will be to a set brief.

**Listening and Appraising:** 40% of the marks

Assessed by a written paper which lasts 90 minutes.

This is an exam with questions relating to 4 areas of study. This assess' your knowledge of certain types of music and your understanding of the musical elements.

## Why should I study this subject?

We will work on the same skills you have already met in KS3 and it is a very practical subject with lots of opportunities to be creative and perform. The essentials for this course are musical enthusiasm, a desire to develop an appreciation of music, and willingness to practise regularly. GCSE students are strongly encouraged to take instrumental lessons either in school or by making their own arrangements. All students have had the necessary grounding in Years 7, 8 and 9 and can choose to continue their studies on either voice, keyboard, guitar or any other instrument they can play.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

It is a good indication that you have displayed perseverance, dedication and commitment by learning to play an instrument. This shows future employers that you can be relied upon to show commitment and will be an asset when applying for jobs.

Music also builds your confidence and helps to develop your team work skills.



# GCSE Photography

## What does the course involve?

Two units of work are required over the GCSE course. Coursework represents 60% of the overall mark and is followed by a final 'practical' exam where students choose **one** option from a variety of questions; this allows them to work to their strengths. The exam unit is developed in lessons and completed during a timed controlled test; this takes place within the department.

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. The majority of mobile phones now have good cameras; this will be suitable for the course. Students will need to have access to a phone or a camera, as these cannot be supplied. They will be made aware of both traditional and new technologies. Students will **not be sitting on computers** but will use sketchbooks to create, display and analyse their work. They may wish to develop their drawing skills in order to produce storyboards, thumbnail sketches and/or diagrams, where appropriate. Students are required to work in **one or more** areas of Photography, such as those listed: portraiture; landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment); still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world); fashion photography; experimental imagery.

Students will be expected to demonstrate a range of skills, while showing an ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of Photography. **Written work** is required to evaluate and analyse historical and contemporary photographers, as well as their own work.

On the course students will respond to an issue, theme, concept or work to a brief in Photography. They will gain an understanding of specialist terminology such as: appreciation of viewpoint; composition; aperture; depth of field; shutter speed and movement. Students are encouraged to use the department's facilities during supervised lunchtime and after school intervention.

## Why should I study this subject?

You should study Photography if you have true interest and enthusiasm for the subject. Photography is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects. Within the Photography course You'll develop a range of skills such as: problem solving, creative thinking, investigation, research, communication and teamwork skills, and gain the ability to develop, refine and present ideas.

Photography is an exciting medium that can be used in many different ways. Careers in photography include Art careers, Advertising, Commercial work, Editorial, Fashion, Film, Food, Forensic, Industrial, Architectural, Aerial, Portraiture and Wedding photography, Sports and Travel etc.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

This GCSE Photography course will teach you to look at the world in a creative way. The creative course will enable you to apply creative, analytical and critical thinking and problem solving, in order to visually communicate ideas through photography. Students will learn about a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes including hands-on experimentation with traditional materials and some digital manipulation. Time management and organisation skills will also be developed throughout the course as you will be expected to meet deadlines.



# Core Physical Education

## What does the course involve?

The course involves taking part in a variety of practical physical games and activities to build on and further develop the skills and knowledge of physical activity experienced in earlier years.

A number of activities will be covered during the course such as: Athletics, Badminton, Dodgeball, Football, Hockey, Netball, Rugby, Handball, Fitness Suite, Trampolining, Boxercise, Softball, Dance, Aerobics, Rounders, Tennis, Cricket, Swimming and Table Tennis.

## Why should I study this subject?

Physical Education is a compulsory course for all students in Years 10 and 11 in line with the National Curriculum. Physical Education enables students to become confident, connected, actively involved and lifelong learners.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Studying PE enables students to build on the skills and knowledge of physical activity experienced in earlier years and to allow students to gain experiences and confidence to take part in physical activity after they leave school. The course is based on active participation and will highlight the features of safe participation, the contribution made to a healthy lifestyle and leisure interests. Physical Education also promotes active lifestyles, engages and energises students and also develops teamwork, leadership and interpersonal skills, decision making and builds confidence.



# GCSE Physical Education

## What does the course involve?

The theoretical element of the course focuses on securing the knowledge and understanding required, for the candidate to take responsibility for their own physical growth and development, as part of a personal healthy active lifestyle.

This course incorporates both practical performance and theoretical knowledge and is made up of the following:

### *A written exam - 60%*

The exam will cover areas from the specification based around knowledge and understanding from the following areas: Applied Anatomy & Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Use of Data, Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences and Health, Fitness and Well Being.

The two written exam papers contain three sections which will include a range of multiple choice, short answer and extended answer questions.

### *Three practical activities – 40%*

The practical grades can be achieved by assessment in player/performer and must be a combination of individual performance and group/team performance on a ratio of 2:1 of either combination. Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

All examinations will happen at the end of Year 11 whereas practical assessments are ongoing throughout Years 10 and 11

## Why should I study this subject?

GCSE Physical Education is an interesting and exciting course for anyone with a passion for sport. GCSE Physical Education is a challenging yet rewarding course which enables students to excel both practically and academically and therefore good attainment in English, Maths and Science is a necessity. The GCSE Physical Education course covers many different academic components that include scientific, psychological and contemporary features which allow students to achieve an in-depth understanding of Physical Education.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Studying Physical Education enables students to develop both skills and attributes that would help them throughout their GCSE studies. Personal attributes such as communication and listening skills are all developed within lessons. The ability to be independent, responsible and patient are other key attributes that are nurtured and developed throughout the course.

Students will also develop a range of skills to include leadership, team work and research skills that will; then be enhanced further during sixth form or within the work place. We like our students to take an active role within the department in terms of assisting with clubs and teams. This allows the students to give back to the school and also cultivate their skills and attributes further.



# GCSE Religious Studies

## What does the course involve?

Students will study a full course qualification – AQA GCSE Religious Studies A. RS is a 100% exam based subject where students will take two exams at the end of year 11. There is no coursework/controlled assessment for this GCSE. Throughout the course students will be given support and guidance as to how to reach their target grade and answer the questions effectively. Extra-curricular intervention/ support programs are also staggered throughout the qualification to support pupils.

Students will study two units:

### **The Study of Religions**

Christianity – Beliefs, teachings and practices

Islam – Beliefs, teachings and practices

### **Thematic Studies**

Religion and Life

Religion, Peace and Conflict

Religion, Crime and Punishment

Relationships and Families

Students will learn the beliefs and practices of two world religions in detail: Christianity and Islam. Key teachings will then be applied to the topical issues in the thematic unit.

## Why should I study this subject?

One of the things that make our society and surrounding area so unique is the amount of diversity and multicultural beliefs. RS will provide you with an awareness of differences in society as well as looking at the problems such as discrimination and prejudice. With recent acts of terror and war, it has never been more important to study a subject that allows you to ask questions about events that have the potential to change our outlook on life. What's more, RS is an academic subject that will introduce you to the philosophy of religion as well as exploring different ethical issues such as animal cruelty, abortion, and war. RS can therefore be an excellent platform for those students that wish to pursue A Level Philosophy and Ethics in the Sixth Form. All that is required from you is an open mind to embrace these issues!

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Skills gained include the following:

Ability to debate a topic

Research skills

Independence

Essay writing skills

Evaluation skills

Empathy

Reflection

Looking at a variety of sources of information and philosophical views to decide which is the most useful

Interpretation skills

Presentation skills



# Cambridge National Sports Studies

## What does the course involve?

Cambridge National Sports Studies is a vocational qualification which offers students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.

The course is split into four units, each worth 25%. One of these units is a one hour written exam, the remaining units are assessed using a combination of ongoing written and practical coursework.

### **R051: Contemporary Issues in Sport (Exam)**

Students will explore a range of contemporary issues in sport such as barriers to participation in sport, the role of sport in promoting values, performance enhancing drugs, the importance of major sporting events and the role of national governing bodies in promoting and developing sport.

### **R052: Developing Sports Skills (Coursework)**

Students will develop their use of skills, techniques, tactics and strategies in a range of sports. Practical marks are awarded for performance in a team sport, an individual sport and as an official. They will also produce coursework analysing their own performance in a sport along with a plan of how to improve.

### **R053: Sports Leadership (Coursework)**

Students will explore different leadership roles in sport and the skills required to be an effective leader. They will plan and deliver a sports session to their peers and evaluate their own performance as a leader.

### **R054: Sport and the Media (Coursework)**

Students will explore how sports are covered by a range of different types of media, the relationship between sport and the media and the positive and negative effects media coverage can have on sport.

## Why should I study this subject?

If you enjoy PE and sport but work better by submitting coursework rather than exams then this is the course for you. There is a one hour written exam but the rest of the course is completed through written assignments and practical tasks.

This course is a good choice for anyone thinking about a career in the sports and leisure industry and provides a solid foundation for those studying sport in 6th form or at degree level in the future.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

Students will develop the ability to work independently using a wide range of written and practical skills. Students will also develop a range of skills such as:

- Decision making
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Time management
- Organisation
- Resourcefulness
- Research skills



# GCSE Textiles

## What does the course involve?

Two units of work are required over the GCSE course. Coursework represents 60% of the overall mark and is followed by a final 'practical' exam where students chose **one** from a variety of questions; this allows them to work to their strengths. The exam unit is developed in lessons and completed during a timed controlled test; this takes place within the department. Students will be working in **one or more** of the following areas listed;

- Fashion, design and illustration
- Costume design
- Surface pattern
- Printed and dyed textiles
- Constructed textiles.

These areas may combine and overlap. All students will be taken through a sustained project responding to an initial theme, brief or starting point. Students present their ideas, research and investigations on A2 boards, A3 folders, workbooks and progress diaries. Regular portfolio reviews, feedback and 1-1 consultations are vitally important in monitoring individual progress and setting relevant targets. We believe the departments rigorous profiling procedure is a key feature in students achieving success! All students on the course will have the opportunity to visit current fashion industries and trade show to inform their research and ideas. Students are encouraged to use the department's facilities during supervised lunchtime and afterschool intervention.

## Why should I study this subject?

Developing a portfolio- it starts here! All employers, internships and universities look for students with 'Creativity'. The following are examples of prospective employment for the future- Fashion designers, Footwear/Accessories designers, Costume designers, Textile designers. Producing a portfolio of work offers you the opportunity of progression at Advanced level. The department presently offers Level 3 BTEC (equivalent to 3 A levels) this course gains direct entry at degree level. Progression routes to higher education and degree courses are excellent.

## What skills can I gain from studying this subject?

**Artistic Abilities** – Express your visions through design and illustration.

**Communication Skills** - are vital when working in a team, presenting your ideas and communicating your intentions.

**Creativity** – Designers work with a variety of fabrics, shapes, colours. They have to be unique, stylish and functional.

**Decision Making Skills**- You're exposed to many ideas; you decide which ideas will impact on your design.

**Detail Orientated**- You must have a good eye for detail, differentiation in colour, shape line.....can make a difference to design success!