

YEAR 10 OPTIONS 2016

***A guide to the curriculum for Years 10 and 11
for parents and students***

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Introduction

Students follow much the same curriculum in primary and secondary schools up to the end of Year 9. The requirement for schools to follow a broad and balanced curriculum dictates both subjects and content for the greater part, which gives parents and teachers confidence that the school's curriculum is appropriate. At Key Stage 4 there is greater depth of study which makes it impossible to follow through with all subjects studied at Key Stage 3. There are also some new subjects and qualifications which become appropriate for students to study at this age. It is at this stage, therefore, that a student's curriculum contains elements of choice. Much will still be determined by the requirement to study a broad and balanced curriculum, but a significant part of the curriculum can be tailored to students' individual strengths, interests and needs.

From Year 10 onwards there begins to be greater and greater choice which makes planning for the future very important. There are a number of educational and career pathways which students have to decide upon at the end of Year 11, and again for many going on to college or university at 18. In comparison, the choices at this stage may seem relatively limited and, for the majority, will cause little problem. Nevertheless it is important that the right choices are made so that students have every opportunity to do well and leave open as many of the career and educational pathways that they might wish to take as possible.

As well as a range of subjects, we also offer two types of qualifications: GCSE and BTEC. You will find more detail about these qualifications and the subjects available in Section 2 of this booklet.

This booklet will explain the range of subject choices and qualifications which are available. It will also inform you about the advice and help that can be sought and the time schedule required to have everything in place in order to prepare for the next academic year.

The Curriculum Plan for Years 10 and 11 for 2016 – 2018

NB: We run a two-week timetable with 50 one-hour lessons over the two-week cycle. The number of periods in the table below is for two weeks.

	Year 10	Year 11	
Subject	N° of periods	N° of periods	Notes
English	7	7	Core curriculum
Mathematics	6	6	Core curriculum
Science	10	10	Core curriculum
PE & Games	4	4	Core curriculum (no qualification)
PSHEE/Careers	1	1	Core curriculum (no qualification)
Religious Education	2	2	Core curriculum (Full GCSE qualification)
Option 1	5	5	
Option 2	5	5	
Option 3	5	5	
Language/Option 4	5	5	

As you will see from the table above, all students will study the following: English; Mathematics; Science; Religious Education; Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education; Physical Education.

The list of subjects from which students can choose is given on pages 2 and 3. The Options Form which accompanies this booklet will help you to understand the different combinations of subjects that students can choose.

How do I make a choice? – *some points of guidance for students*

It is important to take care with these choices. Some of the subjects listed are familiar to you, having studied them previously at Key Stage 3. Some of the subjects however are completely new to you so, with the help of your parents, tutor and teachers, you will have to find out what they are about and if they are suitable for you.

The procedure that you should follow:

- Read this document carefully - it has information on all of the subjects that you will study next year, including the option subjects.
- Consider which subjects you enjoy; students tend to do better at subjects in which they have a natural interest.
- Consider which subjects you are good at; these may coincide with the subjects that you enjoy most, but it isn't always the case.
- Consider your intended career or educational pathways; at this point they may be quite vague but, if you do have general ideas, it is important to choose subjects which will keep those pathways open.
- Talk with your parents; they will probably have a realistic idea of what you are capable of achieving.
- Talk with your tutor who has a good picture of your ability and therefore which subjects might suit you.
- Talk with your subject teachers; most of the subjects in the option lists are subjects that you are studying now. Ask your teachers to tell you more about the courses and whether or not they think that they are suited to you.
- Talk with the careers staff; the Careers Centre is open every day from 1.30pm until 1.45pm. Mr Ashford is there to advise you.
- Consider your curriculum as a whole. You may wish to choose subjects in order to give yourself a broad curriculum. For example, many students will want to study at least one of the humanities (history or geography) and one of the Arts subjects. Or you may choose to specialise in a particular area, such as technology.
- **Finally, when you have made your choices, you must complete the form given with this booklet and return it to your tutor, not later than Monday 21 March**

Will I automatically be given my first choice subjects?

After students have made their choices, the difficult task of staffing and timetabling begins. Subjects will only run if there are sufficient students choosing that subject in order to make a reasonably sized class. Usually, enough students choose each of the option subjects in order for them to run, but none can be guaranteed.

If there are too many students for one group in a subject, another group may be arranged. Again, the extra group must be of a reasonable size and, of course, we must have a teacher available to take it.

We are anxious that as many students as possible get their first choices and we work very hard to try to achieve that. However students are asked to give a reserve choice in case it is not possible to achieve this for every student.

What happens if I change my mind before the start of Year 10?

The majority of students will find choosing their option subjects quite straightforward and will have no difficulty in following the courses through to the end of Year 11. A few students will experience some difficulty in reaching a decision and may need to make alterations as time goes on. Once the date for handing in forms has passed then students who have chosen subjects will have first priority to join a group. If, however, you wish to change choices and there is room in the group that you wish to join, then it is possible to transfer.

What happens if I find the course too difficult or feel that I've made the wrong choice?

Once courses have begun in September it becomes more and more difficult to swap subjects; this is why it is so important to get choices right in the first place. Experience shows that students find it difficult to settle into a group which has already got under way. In the interests of all teachers and students we will only consider changes after term starts in exceptional circumstances. Again a swap can only take place if there is a place available in the group that a student would like to join and the teacher running the group feels that the student will be able to make up the lost ground.

If students do feel that they are in this position in September, they should talk to their tutor straight away for advice.

What subjects might I find useful for my career?

This is a complex question. In general the core subjects which all Year 10 students study will give them the opportunity to follow any career pathway. Clearly if a student has a particular interest in following a career in an Art based area then it is sensible to choose from the Art and Design courses in order to continue to develop skills and ideas. The same is true for all of the other option subjects. However it is also the case that students who intend to continue in education post 16 might be able to pick up these subjects later. The decision, therefore, must be made on an individual basis, so students in doubt should consult teachers in the option subjects as well as getting advice from the careers department and, if necessary, professional bodies and organisations.

Careers Education in Years 10 and 11

Year 10

- As part of the PSHEE programme students will receive approximately eight sessions of careers information. These will focus on the nature of work and the working world, an exercise in assessing their strengths and weaknesses and a job-matching activity using specific careers software. Students will also be supported in using the Careers Centre to research career choices.
- There will be the opportunity to take part in a one week period of planned Work Experience during the summer term. Year 10 tutors and careers staff will assist students with preparation, planning and de-briefing. There may be the opportunity to use Work Experience with GCSE/BTEC assessments in some subjects.

Year 11

- As part of the PSHEE programme there will be approximately six sessions of careers education. These will focus on the different options available post 16.
- Training will be given to students on research, decision making, self-analysis and transitional skills in order for them to make the best possible decisions for their future.
- Some students will be interviewed by the Head of Careers who will assist them in the development of an individual action plan.
- Students' career plans and decision making will be closely monitored by their tutor who will provide general guidance and refer them to the Head of Careers for more specialist help if necessary.

Types of Qualifications

This part contains general information about the types of qualifications being offered at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School. For more detailed information on the subjects, see the subject pages which begin on page 10.

General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE)

GCSE subjects are assessed either through a combination of examination and controlled assessment/coursework or solely by examination at the end of the two year course. Details of how each subject is assessed can be found in the individual subject descriptions.

In a few subjects it is possible to be entered for examinations with a restricted grade, for example in mathematics there are two levels of entry. Details of these are in the individual subject descriptions.

The government has introduced a new grading system which is being phased in over the next 2 years. The new grades will apply to most GCSE subjects for students starting GCSEs in September 2016. In these subjects number grades from 9 to 1 will be awarded.

Business, Resistant Materials, Graphic Products, Chinese, Japanese, Psychology and Sociology, GCSEs will continue to use the letter grades; A*, A, B, C, D, E, F and G for students starting these courses in September 2016.

The table below gives an indication of the approximate equivalence between the two types of grade:

Letter Grades	Number Grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
D	5
E	4
F	3
G	2
U	1
	0

- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above
- Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve an A and above
- For each examination, the top 20 per cent of those who get grade 7 or above will get a grade 9 – the very highest performers
- The bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G
- The new mathematics GCSE will be tiered, with grades 4 and 5 available through both tiers

BTEC

We offer a BTEC First Award course in Health and Social care (see page 34 for full details).

BTEC First Awards are a level 2 qualification equivalent to one GCSE and are graded at:

Level 2 Pass	(GCSE grade C)
Level 2 Merit	(GCSE grade B)
Level 2 Distinction	(GCSE grade A)
Level 2 Distinction*	(GCSE grade A*)

(Those students for whom it is appropriate, may be entered to gain a level 1 qualification which is equivalent to a D grade and below at GCSE).

Students develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. 75% (3 units of study) is delivered and assessed through coursework and practical exercises. As internal assessment is ongoing, students are encouraged to analyse and improve their performance. As a result, they are able to see progress as they go along rather than waiting until the end of the course.

25% (1 unit of study) is assessed externally via an online test.

Students might choose the BTEC qualification if they already feel drawn to a particular vocational career. Other students may prefer the more practical learning style of these courses or be keen to develop the study and personal skills that employers value. These students often achieve at least a Pass grade, which is the equivalent to a grade C at GCSE.

BTEC courses have been taught for over 25 years and have been increasingly popular in schools in recent years. Over 2500 schools in the UK are running BTECs alongside other qualifications such as GCSEs. Around 100 students are currently taking at least one BTEC course in our current Year 10 and Year 11 at Katharine Lady Berkeley's School.

Progression from BTEC Level 2 First Award:

Further Education colleges offer a range of BTEC qualifications, with many at level 3 (BTEC Nationals). BTEC qualifications may help students better prepare for post-16 learning and introduce to them subjects which they choose to continue with at a higher level. (BTEC Nationals are equivalent to A levels and as such, earn UCAS points for university).

Introduction

The Fine Art course is designed to provide the opportunity to explore and enjoy working with a broad range of techniques from painting to sculpture, drawing to printmaking in a vibrant and inspirational environment. Students will be given time to develop their skills with a variety of materials as the portfolio work develops throughout the two years.

The assessed elements of the course divide into two parts:

The Portfolio (coursework) asks for the development of technical skills within adventurous projects that encourage personal interpretations of an overall theme.

The Externally Set Task (examination) provides the opportunity to select a task from a wide choice set by the examination board.

Optional additional expenses

3 sketchbooks @ £2.30 each; 1 portfolio @£2.00

One-day Study Visit to Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford £16.00 approx.

Course Content

A range of approaches including painting, drawing, mixed-media, sculpture, installation, printmaking and lens-based media (some digital photography) and research of art and artists.

Skills developed in Art and Design

The course covers the four principal areas of observation of subject matter; critical evaluation of art and artists; practical making; production of final pieces.

These emphasise the qualities of experimentation, exploration, research and individual expression required at GCSE level.

Methods of learning most often used in Art and Design

Individual work, practical, creative experimentation, independent research, information gathering, problem-solving, perseverance.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Component 1	Candidate Portfolio		Sept 2016 - Spring 2018	60%
Component 2	Externally set assignment	research & preparation plus 10 hours	Summer 2018	40%

What can you do next with a qualification in Art and Design?

Fine Art is a discipline which develops creative problem solving skills and independence. As such it is respected by universities and prospective employers. Specifically it can lead to a career as an Artist; museum and art gallery work; curating; architecture; advertising; film making; photography; teaching; interiors and furniture; tourism; craft; ceramics; jewellery; fashion and costume design; footwear; theatre and set stage design. Many of these are encompassed in the creative industries which are based on individual creativity, skill and talent. Interesting internet links are: www.tate.org.uk/learn/young-people; www.lightboxresource.co.uk

GCSE ART AND DESIGN: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

(Known at KLB as Graphic Art)

Course: WJEC Eduqas

Introduction

The Graphic Art course is designed to provide the opportunity to explore and enjoy working with logos, words and visual images to convey ideas using a broad range of techniques in a vibrant and inspirational environment. Students will be given time to develop their skills with a variety of materials as the portfolio work develops throughout the two years.

The assessed elements of the course divide into two parts:

The Portfolio (coursework) asks for the development of technical skills within adventurous projects that encourage personal interpretations of an overall theme.

The Externally Set Task (exam) provides the opportunity to select a task from a wide choice set by the exam board

Optional additional expenses

3 sketchbooks @ £2.30 each; 1 portfolio @£2.00

One-day Study Visit to Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford £16.00 approx

Course Content

A range of approaches including illustration, printmaking, packaging, corporate identity, branding, digital software, some digital photography and advertising, and research of art and artists.

Skills developed in Art and Design

The course covers the four principal areas of observation of subject matter; critical evaluation of art and artists; practical making; production of final pieces.

These emphasise the qualities of experimentation, exploration, research and individual expression required at GCSE level.

Methods of learning most often used in Art and Design

Individual work, practical, creative experimentation, independent research, information gathering, problem-solving, perseverance.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Component 1	Candidate Portfolio		Sept 2016 - Spring 2018	60%
Component 2	Externally set assignment	research & preparation plus 10 hours	Summer 2018	40%

What can you do next with a qualification in Art and Design?

Graphic Art is a discipline which develops creative problem solving skills and independence. As such it is respected by universities and prospective employers. Specifically it can lead to a career as a Graphic Artist; advertising; branding; corporate design; illustration; computer arts and gaming; film and video; television and set design; fashion; exhibition display; photography; interior design; teaching; Interesting internet links are: www.creative-choices.co.uk; www.tate.org.uk/learn/young-people; www.lightboxresource.co.uk

GCSE BUSINESS

Course: Edexcel 2BSo1

Introduction

The course considers the excitement and the challenges of starting and running a small business. We also investigate how the business can grow and how it might measure its success. We look at the attributes, such as determination and creativity, needed to be a successful entrepreneur. Students consider how the real world of business operates and how their position as customer, employee, employer or supplier changes over time. It is a good preparation for their future, whether they opt to run their own business or not.

Optional additional expenses

We typically run one business related trip. In recent years this has been a visit to Cadbury World costing £15 - £20.

Course Content

Unit 1 – Introduction to Small Business

This covers: spotting a business opportunity; showing enterprise; putting a business idea into practice; effective start-ups; the economic context.

Unit 2 – Investigating a Small Business (controlled assessment)

Unit 3 - Building a Business

This covers: marketing; meeting customer needs; financial management; effective people management; the wider world affecting business.

Skills developed in Business Studies

The course is designed to encourage students to think about the practical aspects of business and how the concepts they learn can be applied to the real world. The course also gives students a chance to develop their communication, presentation, numerical and ICT skills.

Methods of learning most often used in Business Studies

The most usual methods involve: individual work; paired or small group work and discussion; reading and note making; practical and creative problem-solving; research tasks; oral work; written responses to case study questions; presentations; competitions.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Unit 1	Multiple choice	45 mins	Summer 2018	25
Unit 2	Controlled Assessment	9 hours	Spring 2018	25
Unit 3	Written exam	1.5 hours	Summer 2018	50

What can you do next with a qualification in Business Studies?

Everything covered in business studies is likely to be of some relevance in your future life and as such it is respected by prospective employers in all industries. It can help gain access to further education such as A levels in Business or Economics and lead to a wide range of careers in just about any field.

Introduction

The course will give students a real, in-depth understanding of how programs are developed and computer technology works. The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science. This subject is a recognised EBac qualification.

Course Content

Computer systems:

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

Programming project: Programming techniques

- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing and evaluation and conclusions

Skills developed in Computing

This course will help students develop critical thinking, analysis, programming and problem solving skills. Students will also develop group working, research and presentation skills. Logical thinking and good maths skills are an advantage in this subject and will be further developed in the course.

Methods of learning most often used in Computing

- Individual programming tasks using a computer
- Individual research/problem-solving tasks using a computer
- Online research, reading and note making

How the course is assessed

Computer systems	40% of the GCSE (1.5 hour paper)
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	40% of the GCSE (1.5 hour paper)
Programming project	20% of the GCSE (20 hour controlled assessment)

What can you do next with a qualification in Computing?

The course has been introduced in response to the shortage of computer programmers in the UK. It will make an excellent preparation for students who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems, for example in computing, engineering, financial and resource management, science, geography, medicine, game design, the Police and Armed Forces, phone App and web page development.

Introduction

Drama involves exploring situations, people, issues and events in a practical way and preparing performances which say something about these to an audience. It is a practical, creative subject and lessons are lively and varied. In Drama students bring their personality to the subject, use their initiative, experiment with different ideas, and work as a team to solve problems and create powerful theatre. It involves analysing theatre performances and the techniques actors and designers use to affect audiences. Drama is useful for any career which involves people skills and is an enjoyable contrast to more theoretical subjects.

Optional additional expenses:

Theatre trips are organised throughout the course. The costs of these vary from £5 to £25 depending on location and production. Occasionally we are able to organise visits to school by travelling theatre companies to save on costs.

Course Content

Throughout the course, students will take part in a range of workshop and projects which focus on: different styles of theatre; acting techniques; performance support skills (lighting, sound, props, costume); leading theatre workshops. Students will learn the skills of evaluating theatre, writing concise and analytical reviews and reflective documentaries on their own work and participation in the creation of drama.

Skills developed in Drama

Drama develops and provides evidence of highly valuable skills: it requires good communication skills and the confidence to present oneself in a group or public situation; creating and giving performances encourages the use of initiative, creativity, problem solving and the ability to collaborate in a team; reflection and analysis is taught through evaluating live performances. Finally, drama demands that students explore and empathise with a wide range of situations and people, encouraging maturity and sensitivity.

Methods of learning most often used in Drama

Collaborative group work; reading plays; analytical discussion; logging practical activities in written notes; watching and writing individually to analyse professional theatre performances.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	% of marks towards the grade
Component 1: Devising	Coursework (internally assessed, externally moderated) – 1500-2000 word portfolio of evidence and a performance or presentation	40%
Component 2: Performance from Text	Coursework (externally assessed by visiting examiner) - performances in/ designs for two key extracts from a performance	20%
Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice	Written Examination (externally marked)	40%

What can you do next with a qualification in Drama?

GCSE Drama is an extremely useful qualification, which is highly respected by colleges, universities and employers. It offers evidence of essential transferable skills as outlined above. It is therefore directly relevant to a wide range of careers and to a wider appreciation of theatre, television, film and literature.

GCSE ENGLISH

Course: AQA English Language 8700
AQA English Literature 8702

Introduction

The skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening are of vital importance in many areas, both in the daily world and the world of the imagination. Not only are they essential in many careers, they also underpin successful study at all levels.

Studying Literature allows students to become critical readers of prose, poetry and drama; to experience different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations; and to develop an understanding of the ways in which literature is rich and influential.

Course Content

A wide range of literary and non-literary non-fiction; literature from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including poetry, prose and drama; Shakespeare; candidates' own writing.

Skills developed in the study of English and English Literature

Experimenting with language to create effects to engage the audience; expressing ideas and information clearly, accurately and appropriately in spoken and written communication; forming independent views; exploring questions; developing interpretations of whole texts, and analysing connections between texts; relating texts to their social and historical contexts, and to the literary traditions of which they are a part.

Methods of learning most often used in English

Individual work, paired or small group work and discussion, reading and note making, extended writing, and creative work.

How the course is assessed

Candidates will take English Language **and** English Literature as two separate GCSE qualifications.

GCSE English Language:

There will be two examinations at the end of the course. Students will study a range of 19th, 20th and 21st century texts and be examined on extracts from these texts. They will also be required to produce their own writing. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in these examinations. There is no coursework or Controlled Assessment element in this qualification. Grades are based entirely on results from the terminal examination during summer 2018. A separate certificate is awarded for Speaking and Listening.

GCSE English Literature:

There will be two examinations at the end of the course. Students will study a range of modern and literary heritage texts. This will include a range of prose, poetry, drama and a Shakespeare play. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be assessed in these examinations. There is no coursework or Controlled Assessment element in this qualification. Grades are based entirely on results from the terminal examination during summer 2018.

What can you do next with a qualification in English Language and Literature?

Proficiency in English allows students to express themselves clearly in any profession. Specifically it can lead to careers in: law; teaching; politics; journalism; editing; writing; the media; public relations; publishing.

Introduction

The food course focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Students will have the opportunity to use technological equipment, use ICT and explore how it is used in the food industry, use a range of industrial applications, test, evaluate and modify products to make improvements.

Throughout this popular course, students make a variety of food products on which they are regularly assessed.

Optional additional expenses

If a student opts for this course it is imperative that they bring the necessary ingredients into school on a regular basis as theory is often taught through practical activities. A folio is required and may be purchased from the department. Students may also purchase a recipe book at a cost of £2.60 which contains all the recipes used during the course.

Course Content

Students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It is a practical course; students are taught to make the connection between theory and practice and to apply their understanding of food and nutrition to practical preparation.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics: Food, nutrition and health; Food science; Food safety; Food choice; Food provenance.

During the coursework students will put their knowledge and skills into a series of practical tasks presented in a report and a portfolio.

Methods of learning most often used in Food Technology

Students will learn through both theory and practical lessons. They will use their knowledge to experiment with recipes and develop their understanding of processes and cooking methods.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	% of marks towards the grade
Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition	Written examination	1 hour 45 mins	50%
Non-exam assessments Task 1: Food Investigation	Written or electronic 1500-2000 word report including photographic evidence		50%
Task 2: Food preparation assessment	Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence		

What can you do next with a qualification in Food Technology?

Depending on the grade achieved, students can use this qualification to support applications for vocational courses or study for A level Food courses. These courses can lead on to careers in the food industry: media; food science; hospitality; research; dieticians; retailing; microbiology and test kitchens; food manufacturing.

Introduction

The study of geography gives students the opportunity to understand more about the World, the challenges it faces and their place in it. This GCSE course will deepen the understanding of geographical processes, highlight the dynamic links between places and environments at different scales and develop students' competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills. Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

Optional additional expenses

A requirement of the course is that students will complete **two days** of fieldwork and this will incur a charge.

Course Content

Changing landscapes of the UK; Weather hazards and climate change; Ecosystems; Changing cities; Global development and resource management. The two fieldwork days will be assessed through a written examination.

Skills developed in Geography

Students develop and extend their competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and Geographical Information systems. A greater emphasis is now placed on students developing mathematical and statistics skills throughout their course of study.

Methods of learning most often used in Geography

Individual work, paired or small group work and discussions, reading and note making, fieldwork, extended writing, problem-solving and decision making.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Terminal exam	Written Exam	1 3/4 hours	Summer (Year 11)	50%
Sustainable Decision making examination	Written Exam	1 1/2 hours	Summer (Year 11)	25 %
Controlled Assessment	Geographical enquiry written in class	6 weeks	Year 10 (summer)	25%

What can you do next with a qualification in Geography?

Geography equips students with transferable skills that make them highly employable and is a subject respected by prospective employers in many industries. Geography is a very diverse subject; beyond GCSE and A level it can be combined with other subjects at higher education level leading to courses as varied as East Asian studies, modern European studies, geology, environmental science and tourism amongst many others. Geography can lead into a vast range of careers including teaching, travel and tourism, journalism, accountancy and marine biology depending on the route taken.

GCSE GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Course: AQA 4552

Introduction

In Graphic Products students study the impact of graphic and product design on the modern world. They look at the work of great designers and, through a wide range of small design and make tasks, develop a design style of their own. Throughout the course students use ICT to design and make simple, yet professional looking, products. Alongside this they will be taught how to use the laser cutter and vinyl plotters to produce more complex products and their related packaging.

The style of the course promotes a good work ethic within a relaxed environment. Students enjoy their time in Graphic Products and GCSE results are excellent.

Optional additional expenses

Most of the expense is covered by the school. However, if the student would like additional materials for products, small fees will apply.

Course Content

Students will develop skills in presentation, drawing, and the use of design software. They will be taught how to creatively design packaging and products.

Skills developed in Graphics Products

- Presentation skills that are generated by hand and by Computer Aided Design
- Creative techniques that are used to promote products professionally
- CAD/CAM skills applicable to industry
- Technical problem solving

Methods of learning most often used in Graphic Products

Students will learn through both theory and ICT based lessons. They will use their knowledge to experiment with drawing techniques and develop their understanding of processes and manufacturing methods such as CAD/CAM. Some activities will be carried out as team tasks, but the majority will be enabling students to work individually at designing and making a range of graphic products.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Paper 1	Written Exam	2 hours	Summer 2018	40%
Controlled Assessment	Practical Project	40 hours	Feb 2018	60%

What can you do next with a qualification in Graphic Products?

Depending on the grade achieved, students can use this qualification to support applications for Art based or Technology based courses. Many of the students who achieve higher grades like to study Product Design A level at the school and then go on to related higher education at university in subjects such as: graphic design; architecture; engineering; CAD/CAM; computer game design; visual effects for television or film.

GCSE HISTORY

Course: OCR History A J410

Introduction

History teaches us to think in a combination of ways not found in any other subject. Historians and students of history have to use sources as evidence to answer questions about the way people behaved, thought, and felt in the past. The methods of investigation, study and research which are involved are very useful training for a variety of careers. In a study of history there are rarely clear-cut or simple answers to the questions which historians seek to answer. History, as an attempt to reconstruct the past, or to tell 'how it was', will always be open to different opinions and interpretations.

Course Content

Migration to Britain c1000 to c2010

Impact of Empire on Britain c1688 to c1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration

USA 1919-48: The People and the State

International Relations: the changing international order 1918 - 2001

Skills developed in History

Evaluating and analysing sources for bias and prejudice, arguing points of view, reaching balanced conclusions, based on evidence and challenging their own ideas about issues from history.

Methods of learning most often used in History

Individual work, reading and note making, extended writing, lively classroom debate.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Paper 1: International Relations and the USA	Written Exam	1 hour 45 mins	Summer 2018	50%
Paper 2: Migration to Britain	Written Exam	1hour	Summer 2018	25%
Paper 3: Impact of Empire on Britain with Urban Environments	Written Exam	1 hour 15 mins	Summer 2018	25%

What can you do next with a qualification in History?

History is recognised as a demanding academic discipline. As such it is respected by prospective employers in many industries. Specifically it can lead to careers in: teaching; archaeology; museum work; antiques; library services; law; commerce; Civil Service; journalism; tourism.

Introduction

Mathematics is the language of logic and the process of problem solving through structured method and strategy. It is the aim of the Mathematics department to develop all students' abilities in tackling the problems they encounter in a confident, efficient and logical manner using a wide range of mathematical skills and concepts. At Key Stage 4, students follow the Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics course. There are two tiers of entry; at Foundation Tier, grades 1 – 5 are available, and for Higher Tier, grades 4 – 9 are available. (An award of grade 3 at Higher Tier may be made at the discretion of the examination board, but this is not stipulated in the qualification design.)

Optional additional expenses

Scientific calculator (available for around £8) – strongly recommended.

Course Content

National Curriculum; GCSE (9-1) Mathematics from 2015

(<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse15/maths/Pages/default.aspx>)

Skills developed in Mathematics

Mathematics develops the logical mind. It allows students to solve problems using a range of numerical, algebraic and statistical methods and helps to develop reasoning skills through proof and example. It is a creative and highly inter-connected discipline that has been developed over centuries, providing the solution to some of history's most intriguing problems. It is essential to everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering, and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. A high-quality mathematics education therefore provides a foundation for understanding the world, the ability to reason mathematically, an appreciation of the beauty and power of mathematics, and a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about the subject.

Methods of learning most often used in Mathematics

Individual, paired and small group work tasks are all common. Problem-solving is paramount, with responses being required in both verbal and written forms.

How the course is assessed

The course is assessed through three equally-weighted examination papers, taken at the end of the course. All three papers must be at the same tier of entry and are equally weighted. Paper 1 is non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes and the content of the course will be assessed across all three papers.

Paper 1: Code 1MA1/1F or 1MA1/1H (Non-calculator)

Paper 2: Code 1MA1/2F or 1MA1/2H (Calculator allowed)

Paper 3: Code 1MA1/3F or 1MA1/3H (Calculator allowed)

Overview of content:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Assessment Objectives and weightings:

		% Foundation	% Higher
A01	<p>Use and apply standard techniques Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accurately recall facts, terminology and definitions • use and interpret notation correctly • accurately carry out routine procedures or set tasks requiring multi-step solutions. 	50	40
A02	<p>Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make deductions, inferences and draw conclusions from mathematical information • construct chains of reasoning to achieve a given result • interpret and communicate information accurately • present arguments and proofs • assess the validity of an argument and critically evaluate a given way of presenting information. 	25	30
A03	<p>Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translate problems in mathematical or non-mathematical contexts into a process or a series of mathematical processes • make and use connections between different parts of mathematics • interpret results in the context of the given problem • evaluate methods used and results obtained • evaluate solutions to identify how they may have been affected by assumptions made. 	25	30

What can you do next with a qualification in Mathematics?

Mathematics is recognised as a demanding academic discipline. As such it is respected by prospective employers in many areas of work. Mathematics can be studied independently or, more commonly, as a feature of an applied discipline. Specifically, it can lead to careers in academia, engineering, science and finance, as well as design disciplines such as graphics and software development.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES FRENCH and SPANISH

Exam board: TBC

Introduction

We live in a multicultural world where foreign languages are an essential tool. Seventy five per cent of the world's population speak no English. Some 80% of English exporters are unable to conduct business in a foreign language and more than 30% of UK businesses recruit people specifically for their language skills. Our students may find themselves in competition for jobs here with overseas candidates, or they may wish to take up for themselves the fantastic opportunity of working abroad. Alternatively our students may wish to holiday abroad and be able to communicate with those they meet. We want our students to be ready to meet these challenges.

Optional additional expenses

Exchange trips are offered in Year 10 to France and Spain. Cost is dependent on numbers travelling and time of year. Last year the French exchange cost £300.

Course Content

The themes covered are: Identity and Culture; Local, national, international and global areas of interest; Current and future study and employment.

Skills developed in Languages

Studying a language involves both understanding and using the language. It can contribute to a better appreciation of English and help develop self-confidence as students learn to communicate about themselves. We study both the language and the culture of other countries which can help foster positive relations with other nations.

Methods of learning most often used in Languages

Oral work in pairs and in groups; working individually and in pairs on listening and speaking skills in the Sanako equipped audio room; work in the computer suite with language learning and foreign websites; creative and problem-solving activities; written activities; individual paired or small group work.

How the course is assessed

Students must complete the four examinations at the end of the course. Each examination will be worth 25% of the final mark. Higher and Foundation level papers will be available in all skills, but a student must be entered at the same tier for all skills.

Examinations and provisional timings

Listening (35 minutes Foundation; 45 minutes Higher)

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

Speaking (Preparation time for all + 7-9 minutes Foundation; 10-12 minutes Higher)

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech. This is likely to include a photo card, a role-play and general conversation

Reading (45 minutes Foundation; 1 hour Higher)

Understanding and responding to different types of written language

Writing (1hour Foundation; 1hour 15 minutes Foundation)

Communicating in writing is likely to include translation, structured responses and open-ended responses.

What can you do next with a qualification in Languages?

Languages are demanding academic disciplines, respected by prospective employers and by higher education establishments. They can be an essential part of careers in almost any area: Business; Industry; Travel and tourism; Teaching; Law; Civil Service.

Introduction

Japanese GCSE offers students the opportunity to develop languages skills further, while continuing to learn about Japanese culture. Japanese teaches students to improve their communication skills and to learn a wider range of vocabulary and grammar which will enable them to read, write, say and understand much more Japanese language than they did at Key Stage 3. Topics in the course are useful for communicating in everyday situations and relevant to the world in which we live. Students can also increase their knowledge of language and culture further by joining the exchange trip to Japan and/or hosting a Japanese student.

Optional additional expenses:

Participation in the Japanese exchange

Japanese dictionary (the only one we would recommend is the Oxford Beginner's Japanese Dictionary)

Course Content

For speaking and writing, topics include media, travel and culture; sport, leisure and work. Topic areas common to all four skills include customer service and transactions; personal information; future plans, education and work.

Skills developed in Japanese

Conversation and presentation skills; letter-writing and essay-writing skills; listening comprehension skills; Japanese ICT skills, techniques for learning and remembering non-roman scripts.

Methods of learning most often used in Japanese

Individual, paired and group work, reading, listening, conversation, presentation, essay-writing, being creative and imaginative, memory-development techniques and games.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Unit 1	Listening	50 minutes	June of Year 11	23%
Unit 2	Speaking	8-10 minutes	March of Year 11	27%
Unit 3	Reading	55 minutes	June of Year 11	23%
Unit 4	Writing	60 minutes	June of Year 11	27%

What can you do next with a GCSE in Japanese?

Language GCSEs are a common requirement of many university courses, and are very important in the world of work. Students may carry on Japanese at university or use it as a unique selling point on a CV or UCAS application. Edexcel's decision not to continue A level Japanese is under review and we are waiting to hear more from the exam board in the near future.

Introduction

Mandarin Chinese GCSE offers students the opportunity to consolidate the language they have learnt at KS3 and develop their skills further, as well as continuing to learn about Chinese culture and history. Students will improve their communication skills, learn a wider range of vocabulary and grammar which will lead to a greater confidence in reproduction of the language, and increase their understanding of how the Chinese language and Chinese people work.

Optional additional expenses:

Chinese dictionary (we recommend Oxford Pocket Chinese dictionary)

Participation in the China trip. This trip is dependent on the availability of staff and places offered by the Institute of Education and is reviewed annually.

Course Content

The course offers practice in all four skills; speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students cover the following topics in detail: my life, school, leisure, media, where I live, holidays, food and drink, lifestyle including fashion, famous people today and in history, and the world of work.

Skills developed in Chinese

Conversation and presentation skills; essay writing skills; listening comprehension skills; Chinese ICT skills; techniques for learning and remembering Chinese characters; dictionary skills.

Methods of learning most often used in Chinese

Individual work; paired or small group work; reading; listening; conversation and creative writing; analysing single and compound characters; dictionary skills; flashcard work; some websites.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Paper 1	Listening Exam	45mins	Summer 2018	25%
Paper 2	Oral Exams	2 exams of 6 mins each	Sept 2017 to April 2018	25%
Paper 3	Reading Exam	1hr15mins	Summer 2018	25%
Controlled Assessment	Essays written in class	2 weeks preparation in class	September 2017 to May 2018	25%

What can you do next with a qualification in Chinese?

A GCSE in Chinese on a CV or UCAS application will jump out at a University tutor or prospective employer as a unique skill. Pupils will be able to use it as a conversation starter and selling point for the rest of their lives, and it may actually be the key into the job they want to do. Few non-Chinese background people in the UK have a GCSE in Chinese, compared to those with European languages. Pupils could continue studying Chinese to Pre-U level, and even study it at University as some KLB pupils have done. Former pupils have spent their university year-abroad in Taipei, Nanjing, Beijing and Shanghai.

Introduction

There is a clear link between musical aptitude and academic success. Study of Music develops pathways in the brain that no other subjects do. It links aural, mathematical, linguistic and creative skills with manual dexterity, and in doing so is a true universal language. Musical qualifications are highly rated by Further Education establishments and the wider professional community.

GCSE Music allows students already proficient on an instrument to pursue their interest and make the most of their skill, whilst equally encouraging less experienced performers to foster a potential lifelong hobby.

Optional additional expenses:

Student versions of Sibelius notation software @£85-90

Own musical instrument and relevant extras (strings, reeds, amps, etc)

Where applicable, school instrumental tuition is subsidised. The subsidy is 50% of the normal cost of tuition. For 2015/16 the cost of tuition is currently £300 or £450 (depending on length of lessons).

Course Content

Practical work (Performing and Composing) and an end of course Listening exam (similar to End of Year exams in KS3) are delivered through four Areas of Study (Western Classical Music 1600-1899, Music in the 20th century, Popular Music in Context and World music). *These are the current Areas of Study, though this will change for September 2016; Year 9 students will be told about the changes when they are confirmed by the examination board.*

Skills developed in Music

Performing as a soloist and in a group, completing small melody/chord exercises and seeing how to expand them into larger compositions and study of diverse musical areas through analysis of individual pieces of music.

Methods of learning most often used in Music

- Individual practise, small group and whole class performing work
- Small technical creating exercises, designed to help more formal composing skills
- Listening to a variety of new music, following the scores and analysing structure
- Reading around the subject and occasional note-taking.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Unit 1	Performing	Controlled Assessment	Throughout course	30%
Unit 2	Composing	Controlled Assessment	Throughout course	30%
Unit 3	Listening	1¾ hrs	End of course	40%

What can you do next with a qualification in Music?

Many employers take notice of students with Music GCSE. It is evidence of application as well as an interesting talent, social skill and communication tool. It is useful throughout the worlds of entertainment, broadcasting and recording, as well as other creative fields. School-based teachers with musical skills have increased employability. Private instrumental tuition is a fulfilling career. Other musical careers include performer (soloist, band, orchestral/freelance/ Armed Forces musician) composer (Film/TV, computer games FX, song-writer) instrument maker/tuner/technician, publishing/sales, librarian/editing, music-therapist.

Introduction

The GCSE specification is focused on participation and performance in physical activity as well as developing an understanding of the physical, mental and social factors that influence physical activity and sport.

Optional additional expenses:

It is recommended that students purchase a GCSE PE top due to the increased number of practical lessons they will be participating in.

Course Content

Anatomy and physiology of the body; movement analysis in sport; physical training principles and methods; health, fitness and wellbeing; nutrition in sport; mental preparation and psychological factors that impact performance in sport; and social-cultural factors that impact on physical activity and sport.

Skills developed in Physical Education

Students will develop a range of skills during the course, assuming different roles regarding organisation and health and safety as well as the management of their own physical fitness programme. Students will develop technical skills and tactical awareness in a range of sports. They will also develop their ability to analyse and evaluate their own performance in order to bring about improvement in one of their chosen activities.

Methods of learning most often used in Physical Education

Classroom based lessons will involve note making, applying theoretical concepts to practical scenarios and group discussions. Practical lessons will involve lots of group work, with students performing, coaching, leading and providing feedback to others.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport	Written Examination	1 hour 15 minutes	Summer 2018	30%
Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport	Written Examination	1 hour 15 minutes	Summer 2018	30%
Practical performance in physical activity and sport	Practical assessment in three different activities including one team and one individual activity Analysis and evaluation of performance in one activity		Ongoing throughout the course At the end of Year 10	40%

What can you do next with a qualification in Physical Education?

Physical Education is recognised as having both theoretical and practical challenges, both of which are transferable to higher education and work environments. Specifically it can lead to careers in: Teaching; coaching; sports development; physiotherapy; facility management; sports journalism; health and leisure industry.

GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

Course: AQA

Introduction

Psychology is the scientific study of human behaviour. In psychology we are particularly interested in how we understand and make sense of other people. Students will discover the science behind topics such as non-verbal communication (NVC), personality, aggression and memory. It will help students to understand what is going on around them and how they can put some of the knowledge gained into practice; such as memory techniques to improve study skills, which will also help in other subjects. A key aspect of psychology that underlies its scientific nature is that of its research methods. This element of the course will be taught alongside the areas referred to above and includes the experimental method, observations and correlational analysis. Students will therefore be conducting their own mini investigations.

Course content

Memory; non-verbal communication; development of personality; stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination; learning; social influence; sex and gender; aggression.

Research methods: Self-report; observation; correlational analysis; the experimental method

Skills developed in psychology

- provides a sound understanding of methods and approaches in psychology at an introductory level
- develops investigation and report writing skills
- develops analytical and critical thinking skills
- encourages an appreciation of how science works

Methods of learning most often used in psychology

Individual work, paired or small group work, discussions, reading and note making, practical investigations.

How the course is assessed

title	type	time	when	% of marks towards final grade
Making sense of other people	Written exam	1h30m	Summer (Y11)	50%
Understanding other people	Written exam	1h30m	Summer (Y11)	50%

What goes well with psychology?

Psychology complements other social science subjects due to the analytical and research skills that students learn and are then able to apply to different subjects. It goes well with biology and mathematics because of psychology's link with the scientific methodology that is needed to prove every psychological study.

What can you do next with a qualification in psychology?

GCSE psychology provides an excellent foundation to continue the subject further into A level and beyond. Studying psychology is of importance to anyone wishing to pursue a career in the psychological side of health care, work in prisons, businesses and other organisations, sport psychology, criminal psychology and educational psychology.

Introduction

The Religious Studies department is in the process of investigating different examination boards' specifications for the new GCSEs. More details about the courses will be given in the summer term once the decision has been made.

Course Content

The Religious Studies GCSE (Full Course) enables students to think critically, engage with contemporary religious, moral and ethical issues and prepares them for some of the challenges they may face when they leave school and go into our multi-ethnic, multi-faith society. Religious Studies at Key Stage 4 is a compulsory component of secondary education. Students explore and engage with their own views, the views of their peers and some of the views and teachings found in Christianity and Islam.

Skills developed in Religious Studies

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Express their personal responses and offer informed insights on fundamental questions and issues about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments
- Adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- Enhance their personal, social and cultural development, their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and contribute to social and community cohesion
- Reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes

Methods of learning most often used in Religious Studies

Discussing, presenting, reading, researching, planning, implementing, and evaluating campaign activities, analysing media and writing.

How the course is assessed

The Religious Studies Department is in the process of investigating different examination boards' specifications for the new GCSEs. However, each examination board broadly makes the same requirements in their specifications, and more information will be given when a decision has been reached.

What can you do next with a qualification in Religious Studies?

Students will learn many skills that will be useful in later life. Being able to see the world from other people's points of view will not only help them to understand what is going on around them, but also enable them to engage with the wider community and society. Many employers value the skills that Religious Studies develop which will be relevant to future careers in the public sector, Law and any job that involves interaction with other people. A GCSE in Religious Studies will support further study at A Level and beyond.

Introduction

Students studying Resistant Materials will spend the majority of their lessons undertaking a range of designing and practical tasks within a workshop. During Year 10, students will be taught how to use a wide range of tools and processes and to work with all categories of materials.

This course is ideal for students who enjoy the practical elements of technology, as the controlled assessment element is worth 60% of the final mark.

Optional additional expenses:

Year 11 students undertake a major project. The materials for this project are bought from the school or sourced from a range of suppliers to enable the students to manufacture their design.

Course Content

In Year 10, students will manufacture a hanging basket bracket, a wooden hexagonal box and an electronic FM Radio utilising the CAD/CAM laser machine to produce a casing for the product, as well as smaller skill-based projects.

Towards the end of Year 10, students will begin the process of designing and making a single product that will be developed and manufactured throughout Year 11 as part of their GCSE controlled assessment. Projects will be directed by the AQA examinations board, but will typically be accurately made and well finished small wooden items of furniture or storage.

Skills developed in Resistant Materials

Students will learn how to use hand tools, machine equipment and power tools skilfully and safely. The project will concentrate on the characteristics and properties of materials. Skills will be developed on a range of metal and wood related processes.

Methods of learning most often used in Resistant Materials

Students will learn through both theory and practical lessons. They will use their knowledge and understanding to manufacture a range of metal, wood and plastic products in year 10. During year 11, students will design and make an individual project that is directed by the board and manufactured throughout the year. This will draw upon the experiences of year 10.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
Paper 1	Written Exam	2 hours	Summer 2018	40%
Controlled Assessment	Practical Project	40 hours	Feb 2018	60%

What can you do next with a qualification in Resistant Materials?

Depending on the grade achieved, students can use this qualification to support applications for practical jobs and apprenticeships. Many of the students who achieve higher grades like to study Product Design A level at the school and then go on to related higher education at university in subjects such as: graphic design; architecture; engineering; CAD/CAM; computer game design; visual effects for television or film.

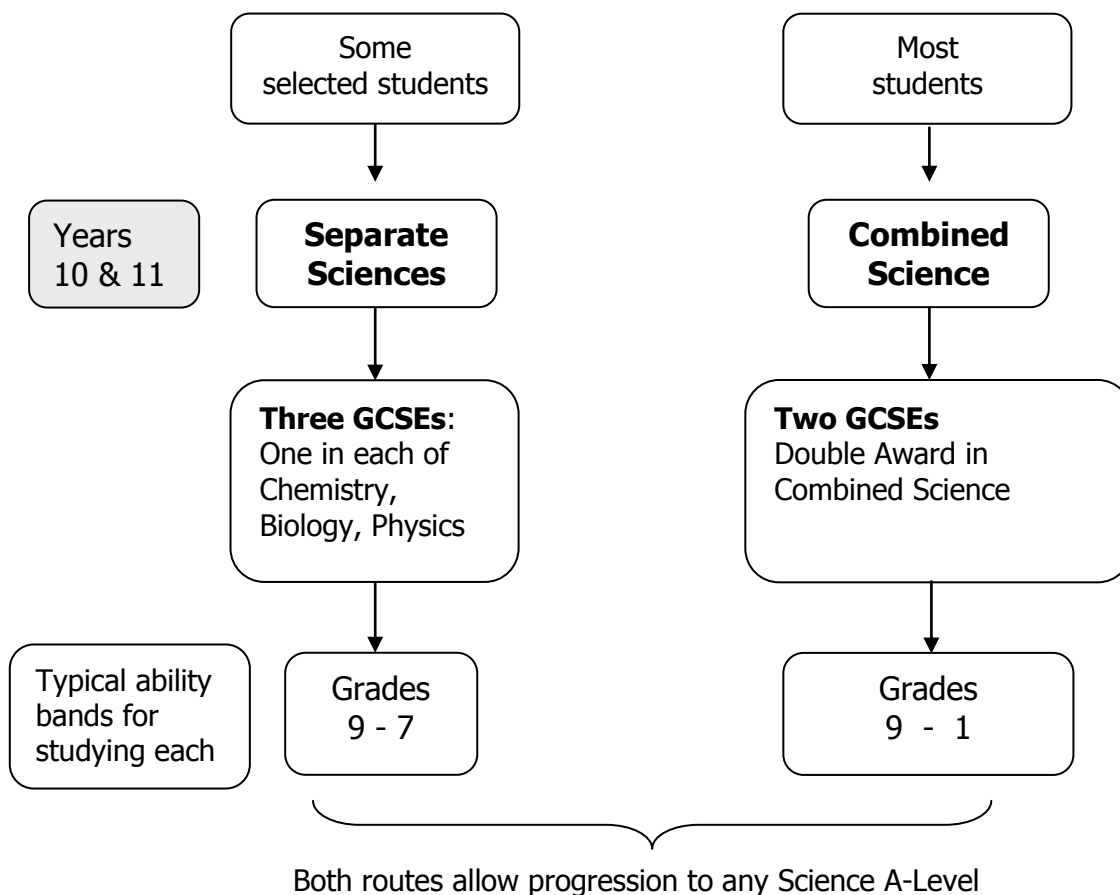
GCSE SCIENCES:

The GCSE Science qualifications have been redeveloped and new courses are being written by examination boards for first teaching in September 2016. The specific board and assessment structure is currently being evaluated. The course options below outline the two routes students may study and their resulting qualifications.

Introduction

Science is taken by all Year 10 and 11 students, but there are two different routes by which Science qualifications may be obtained. The majority of students will follow a Combined Science course; a double award course equivalent to two GCSEs. Two sets of students will follow the path leading to the award of Separate Science GCSE's in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The decision of which pupils study this course is made at Easter in Year 9.

Course Options



Details of the Science Courses

Combined Science route:

In Year 10 and 11 the majority of students will study the Combined Science GCSE course. On completion this leads to the award of a double award i.e. it counts as two GCSE's. The course has units drawn from Biology, Chemistry and Physics in much the same way as KS3 Science. In a key change to previous years this route will only have terminal exams which may comprise six examination papers each of 1 hour 15 mins. length*. There is no controlled assessment; practical and investigative skill will now be assessed through questions written into the terminal examination papers.

Separate Sciences route:

Some students (two sets) throughout Years 10 and 11 will study the Separate Science Course, leading to the award of three separate GCSE grades, one for each discipline: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The decision as to which students this will benefit most will be made in the spring term of Year 9. It will be based on performance on a range of tasks (including the year 9 on-going assessments and a SATs style paper) and on the student's work ethic.

This course covers three GCSEs of material in the time allowance for two. It therefore has higher demands and is studied by the top two sets in the year group. Separate Science students are therefore expected to be able, conscientious and very motivated.

For each GCSE (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) all assessment is now by terminal examination in the summer of Year 11. These may comprise six examination papers each of 1 hour 45 mins length*. There is no controlled assessment; practical and investigative skill will now be assessed through questions written into the terminal examination papers.

Skills developed in Science

At the centre of all courses is "How Science Works". This is the understanding of recent science issues, ethical debates and the skills of collecting, analysing and presenting scientific data. The aim is to allow students to gain a deeper understanding of the role of science in society. Students learn skills such as performing their own experiments, using appropriate equipment with sufficient precision, processing data, solving problems and using ICT in analysing and presenting information.

A comprehensive breakdown of the GCSE course with more detail on structure and assessment will be provided to all parents and students at the start of their courses in September.

* details are examination board dependent and are predictions based on draft released materials.

Introduction

Sociology is the study of society. Sociologists are keen to understand human behaviour. They conduct research to describe and explain why something in society may happen or occur and gather evidence to provide answers to burning issues in society such as:

- Why do people commit crime?
- Are the official criminal statistics on crime accurate?
- Why do certain groups underachieve in education?
- What are the effects of the mass media on its audience?
- Do we need 'the family'?

Course Content

The sociology of: Crime and Deviance; The Family; Mass Media; Education. Students will also learn about the process of socialisation; the formation of culture; identity.

Skills developed in Sociology

Students will be expected to evaluate the different sources sociologists use to test a hypothesis or question they have about social life. Students will be expected to conduct research using key sociological research methods to investigate a choice of topic.

Methods of learning most often used in Sociology

Students will be expected to: Work independently; make notes; write extended pieces; debate; visit a Crown Court.

How the course is assessed

Title	Type	Time	Date	% of marks towards the grade
B671 (Sociology the Basics)	Written Exam	1 hour	Summer Y11	25%
B672 (Topics in Socialisation)	Written Exam	1 hour 30 mins	Summer Y11	50%
B673 (Research Skills)	Written Exam	1 hour	Summer Y11	25%

What can you do next with a qualification in Sociology?

Sociology is recognised as a rigorous academic subject. The skills that students acquire in the subject may lead to careers in the law; the police; education; social work; marketing and business; health work; and many others.

If you enjoy writing and debating, sociology will be the subject for you.

Introduction

The health and social care sector employs some of the most talented and brilliant people the country has to offer. The NHS, as the main employer, has a continual need for doctors, nurses, ambulance staff and support staff, and there are further opportunities to work for the NHS in social care in hospitals, educational settings and residential homes. When you include the sizeable private and voluntary care sectors, you have a huge and diverse range of progressive career opportunities.

Optional additional expenses:

Visits to various health & social care providers are an integral part of this course. A small charge to cover transport costs may be requested.

Course Content

Students will study core units in Human Lifespan Development and Health and Social Care Values. There is the opportunity to learn an additional 2 optional specialist units from the following: Communication; Social Influences; Health and Wellbeing; The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing; Equality and Diversity; and Individual Rights. Visits to various health and social care providers are an integral part of this course.

Skills developed in Health & Social Care

The core units provide students with a solid foundation in human lifespan development. Students will also gain an appreciation of the importance of health and social care values in the sector. All students will have the opportunity to experience vocational elements of the programme, and develop practical skills, such as demonstrating health and social care values that will help pupils prepare for the world of work.

Methods of learning most often used in BTEC qualifications

Individual work, paired or small group work, research, presentations, discussion, reading and note-making, extended writing, creative, problem-solving, oral and visual work, site visits.

How the course is assessed

Title of qualification		% of marks towards the grade
BTEC Level 2 First Award	3 Units of coursework to include written reports, observations, presentations, role-play.	75%
	1 Unit which is externally assessed through a 1 hour examination.	25%

What can you do next with a BTEC qualification in Health & Social Care?

Students who complete a BTEC Level 2 First Award in Health & Social Care will obtain a qualification which will enable progression to further study, training or employment, and enable them to make informed choices with regard to a career in this sector. They may progress to study further qualifications such as BTEC Level 3 or A Level in Health and Social Care and progress into Higher Education.

Introduction

The aim of the qualification is to develop and demonstrate a range of personal key employability skills which lead to personal effectiveness for the world of work. It can also allow students to gain credit for a variety of activities both inside and outside of the formal classroom environment.

Students have a variety of challenges which they will be responsible for planning, organising, doing and reviewing. This will enable them to gain valuable life and work experience, which is a good basis for further qualifications and the workplace. The modules and challenges reflect the skills and subject areas employers and colleges have said they want to see in young people and come from areas across the curriculum.

Course Structure

There are 12 modules available with three levels of challenge within each one. Each challenge is allocated a set number of hours and, on completion of each challenge level, students are awarded a credit. Students need to achieve a minimum of 12 credits to complete the course.

The module titles are:

- Communication, e.g. planning and delivering a presentation on an area of choice
- Sport and Leisure, e.g. learning a new sport, planning a journey, first aid
- Independent living, e.g. furnishing a flat; planning and preparing a meal
- The environment, e.g. sustainability, horticulture, energy, wildlife
- Vocational preparation, e.g. work experience, career planning, interview preparation
- Health and fitness, e.g. designing a programme, interviewing a sportsman
- Work related learning, e.g. applying for college, jobs; workplace skills
- Science and technology, e.g. role of materials, energy systems
- International links, e.g. researching other countries, planning a world tour, a holiday
- Expressive arts, e.g. drama and arts, practical and expressive activities
- Beliefs and values, e.g. role of charities, inspirational figures, human rights
- Citizenship and community, e.g. rights, community issues, economy, politics

Key skills are developed and assessed in:

Planning and organisation; Working with others; Independent work and problem solving; Research, presentation and discussion skills.

How the course is assessed?

There are no examinations as students are assessed on a portfolio of evidence that they build throughout the course. For level 1 they need to complete the key skills and achieve any 12 credits. For level 2 they need to complete the key skills and achieve six of their credits at level 2 in the challenges available.

What can you do next with a COPE qualification?

Students who have completed the CoPE level 1 may access level 1 or 2 courses at college. Those who achieve level 2 CoPE may access level 2 or 3 courses.

Qualification

CoPE has a GCSE equivalent of 25 points at Level 1 (grade E/F) and 46 points at Level 2 (grade B).

Personal, Social, Citizenship, Health and Economic Education (PSCHEE)

All students will follow a two year course, based on personal and economic wellbeing, structured as a rotation around five areas of study.

The five areas are:

- Sex and relationships education - raising awareness of health implications, risk, respect and responsibilities
- Citizenship - raising awareness of personal safety and personal responsibilities, the community and global awareness
- Mental and Physical Health - developing strategies to develop a healthy lifestyle and to be aware of drugs, social, emotional and financial pressures on well-being
- Careers - raising awareness of employability skills, enterprise and career opportunities available locally, nationally and within the global market
- Financial capability and economic understanding - developing skills in managing personal finances and an ability to make informed choices regarding resources

In Year 10, groups will have a block of four lessons on each topic and in Year 11 three lessons on each topic.

The course is not assessed.