

Broomfield School



Year 9 Options Booklet 2022-2024

Building a Successful Future

March 2022

Contents

3 – 7	General Information
8	Submitting Your Form
9	People Who Can Help
10 - 17	Core Subjects
18	E-Bacc Subjects
20	History
21	Geography
22	Spanish
23	Option Subjects
24	Art
25	Technology
26	Drama
27	Cambridge National in Information Technology GCSE Computer Science
28	Media Studies
29	Music
30	Religious Education (Full) GCSE
31	Separate Sciences
32	Cambridge National in Sport Studies

BROOMFIELD SCHOOL

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Booklet 2022-2023

This year at Broomfield School we are further developing the structure of our 14-16 curriculum offer. This is the **14-16 Building a Successful Future Programme**. I hope that you find this booklet a useful guide in helping you make right course choices for your future. All our staff are available to advise and guide you.

Please Note - All completed options request forms must be returned by Friday 25th March 2022.

The Three Key Decisions

The best range of courses for each pupil for the next two years will depend on three key aspects:

- the most appropriate course of study which depends on their Key Stage 3 teacher assessments
- the pupil's preferred teaching and learning style
- the areas most appropriate to the individual's career pathway

Pupils will gain the best results if:

- they are studying subjects they enjoy and are attending each day
- they are working in a style with which they are comfortable. We therefore provide a choice between academic and vocational subjects
- they know what is required to improve and parents and carers check their homework regularly.

The **Building a Successful Future** Programme is designed to make sure that the above features are core to the experience of each and every pupil at Broomfield School. We will support pupils with individual interviews, where necessary, to secure their progress to the most appropriate level and courses.

What are the levels of qualification at Broomfield School?

In school we teach and assess pupils at two levels of the *National Qualifications Framework*.

Level	Assessments Available
1	GCSE Grades: PASS, MERIT, DISTINCTION, DISTINCTION*; Cambridge Nationals Level 1
2	GCSE Grades: PASS, MERIT, DISTINCTION, DISTINCTION*; Cambridge Nationals Level 2

Which level of qualification is right for me?

When making your choices you will need to know what are your age-related expectations for this year in your examinations. We will determine your course choice using the information based on Teacher Assessment data and targets.

GCSE Reforms

There has been much discussion in the media regarding the current changes to GCSE's. The information below is designed to help you make some sense of these changes.

The key elements of GCSE Reform that will affect your child are as follows:

- Adoption of a numerical grade scale from 1 to 9 (with 0 for ungraded / fail outcomes).
- A grade 4 or higher will be achieved by the same proportion of pupils who currently attain a grade C or higher.
- A grade 7 should be set such that the proportion achieving at grades 7, 8 or 9 should be the same as those who were awarded A or A* in the last year of current GCSE examinations.

The question therefore is how does the new 1-9 system compare to the old A*-G system. The table below attempts to clarify this.

Current Grade	Simplistic
A*	Half of A* becomes Grade 9, the remainder Grade 8
A	Grade 7
B	Grade 6
C	Mostly Grade 4, some Grade 5
D	Grade 3
E	Grade 2
F	Grade 1
G	
U	Grade 0



Broomfield School - Curriculum Model 2022-2024
KEY STAGE 4 – Year 10 and 11

<u>English</u>	<u>Maths</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Options</u>				<u>RE/PSHE</u> <u>E</u>	<u>PE</u>
<u>8 hours</u> students to be taught in sets across the Year Group	<u>8 hours</u> students to be taught in sets across the Year Group	<u>10 hours</u> students to be taught in sets across the Year Group	<u>5 hours MFL</u> MFL (usually Spanish) taught in sets Some students will study Support Studies or ESOL if required	<u>5 hours Hums option</u> History/ Geog to be taught in sets	<u>5 hours Option A</u>	<u>5 hours Option B</u>	<u>1 hour</u> RE to follow the Hums sets and to have 2 hours PSHE will be taught in six Drop Down Days, one per term over the two years	<u>3 hours</u> students to be taught in mixed gender groups
2 GCSEs	1 GCSE	2 GCSEs	1 GCSE	1 GCSE	1 GCSE/ CNAT	1 GCSE/ CNAT	TOTAL 9 qualifications	

Core subjects

English – all pupils will have the opportunity to sit English GCSE Language and GCSE Literature. These are two separate GCSEs with separate examinations - there will be two English Language exams, and two separate English Literature exams. Both subjects will be taught simultaneously under the general timetabled lesson as 'English'.

Mathematics – all pupils will have the opportunity to sit Mathematics GCSE at the end of year 11.

Science – All students will study combined science as part of the core offer. This leads to 2 GCSEs and students will study biology , chemistry and physics modules.

English Baccalaureate

All pupils, especially if they are hoping to progress onto A level subjects in the Sixth Form, are given the opportunity to follow the English Baccalaureate. This means for most Broomfield pupils they continue their Spanish and a Humanities subject from History or Geography.

Other required subjects

Religious Education – all pupils will complete Entry Level RE over two years.

PSHE – all pupils will follow a PSHE course incorporating elements of Sex Education and Careers information to support future decisions and choices. This provision is addressed via 5 drop-down days over 2 years.

Physical Education – for all pupils this will be recreational PE. There will be the option of studying full course PE over the two years for those interested.

Options

GCSEs

Most courses on offer are **GCSE** courses. They will all involve end of course examinations. There are no longer any controlled assessments. These courses lead to AS levels and BTEC level 3 courses.

Inclusion

Some pupils will be selected to follow the Progress Pathway, support studies or other vocational course. This will be decided dependent on attainment data and identified needs of the pupils.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Whilst we will do our best to place pupils on the courses they request, we may have to ask you to make an alternative choice if there are too many or too few pupils to make a particular course viable or if they occur in the same block.

Once pupils have settled into a programme of study it will not be possible to change courses except in special circumstances and approved by the Head Teacher or Deputy Head Teacher

REMINDER

All completed request forms must be returned by the deadline stated in order to increase the chances of getting onto your first choice of course.

Note:

The school reserves the right to alter the curriculum offer as appropriate, depending on current Government legislation and in the light of OFSTED and other such circumstances. In the event of any such changes parents, carers and pupils will be informed immediately.

Applying for your GCSE Options

Applying for your child's GCSE options will be done virtually this year. The Options form will be available on your child's **Google Classroom** via their tutor page (e.g. 9B/Tg)

You will be asked to complete the following:

- your child's Humanities choice - Geography or History
- four option choices in order of preference
 - they will study two of these
 - they cannot choose CNAT ICT in Option Block A and GCSE Computing in Option Block B
- any other subject that they wish to study that we do not currently offer (NB there is no guarantee we will be able to offer these suggestions)

Once the form is submitted, you will not be able to edit it so it is important that it is correct. You will receive an email confirming your choices once the form has been submitted.

The deadline for this is **Friday 25th March 2022**.

People who can help

GCSE Subject Leaders (Heads of Department)

English	-	Mr A Coyle
Maths	-	Ms A Mohamed
Science	-	Ms K Karydis
History	-	Ms C Anscomb
Geography	-	Ms C Anscomb
Spanish	-	Mrs S Chatterton
Design & Technology	-	Ms A Morris
Drama	-	Mrs J Fox - SENCO
IT / Computer Science	-	Mr S Hossain
Media Studies	-	Ms E Bampanatsa
PE/Sports Science	-	Ms K Millen
RE	-	Mrs L Green
Arts	-	Ms A Morris

Achievement Directors

Year 9	-	Mrs R Malli
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Form tutors

9B	-	Mr T Saidzadehi
9R	-	Mr L Gallagher
9O	-	Ms L Cunningham
9M	-	Ms K Boileau
9F	-	Ms T Miah
9I	-	Ms G Kirdagli
9E	-	Mrs Malli

Interim Head Teacher	-	Mrs C Seymour
Interim Deputy Head Teacher	-	Mrs S Hormann

Core Subjects

All pupils are required to follow the subjects/courses in this section. The Core Subjects are not optional and remain part our core curriculum offer

English Language GCSE

Examining Body - AQA

English Language will inspire and motivate pupils enabling them to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. As well as this it will teach pupils to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a wide range of vocabulary and sentence structures. Pupils will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Pupils will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

Why complete GCSE English Language and where can I go with it?

English Language is central to success in all GCSE subjects. The ability to read and understand complex texts is crucial as all GCSEs become more literacy focused. At university level, English Language is a well-respected GCSE and will therefore aid pupils in attending Russell Group universities. Employers of all jobs will first and foremost consider what grade an interviewee achieved in English Language GCSE thus English Language is a foundation for life.

How is the course structured?

The content of the GCSE course is based on the following three areas:

- **Paper 1** – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing: Reading assessment = section A of the exam; Writing assessment = section B of the exam;
- **Paper 2** – Writers' viewpoints and Perspectives: Reading assessment = section A of the exam; Writing assessment = section B of the exam;
- **Non-examination Assessment:** Spoken Language.
- In order for the GCSE to be awarded, the non-examination assessment must be completed too.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

There are no controlled assessment in English

The total GCSE marks are made up as follows:

- **Paper 1:** Reading 25% and Writing 25%
- **Paper 2:** Reading 25% and Writing 25%

What texts will I study?

- A range of non-fiction texts
- A selection of extracts from literature across time

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mr A Coyle

Head of Faculty

English Literature GCSE

Examining Body - AQA

English Literature encourages pupils to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of historical, social, and spiritual understanding and interpretations of the past. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

Why complete GCSE English Literature and where can I go with it?

English Literature has always been a popular GCSE subject as it helps to develop a personalised response to a wide range of texts. Pupils enjoy applying their own experiences to the narratives and considering how contextual factors are presented by the writers. At university level, English Literature is a well-respected GCSE and will therefore aid pupils in attending Russell Group universities. English Literature also encourages pupils to read more widely in their everyday lives.

How is the course structured?

The content of the GCSE course is based on the following two areas:

- **Paper 1** – Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel.
- **Paper 2** – Modern Texts and Poetry.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

There are no controlled assessments in English Literature

The total G.C.S.E. marks are made up as follows:

- Paper 1: 40% of the final GCSE.
- Paper 2: 60% of the final GCSE.

What texts will I study?

- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare
- *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley
- *AQA Poetry Anthology* - a collection of poets from the English Literary Heritage

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mr A Coyle

Head of Faculty

Mathematics GCSE

Examining Body – EDEXCEL

Everyone does Mathematics because:

Mathematics is a life skill important to understand the world around you.

Mathematics helps you to organise yourself and helps you to survive in everyday life

Employers want people with some qualification in Mathematics.

Mathematics helps you to think, reason and argue in an orderly and logical way.

Mathematics is a universal means of communication.

What will you study?

The use of Mathematics to solve problems.

How to look for patterns in number and shape and then find rules.

Knowledge and understanding of the use of Mathematical language and signs

How to investigate using Mathematics and develop other strategies including Algebra.

How to use calculators and computers effectively to help with your Mathematics.

Mental mathematics (number, measurement, shape, estimations and approximations)

What will you be required to do?

The Maths GCSE has two tiers of entry:

- Foundation (grades 1 – 5)
- Higher (grades 3 – 9)

At the beginning of Year 9 you will have started studying for your GCSE. Each course contains content from the four different attainment targets – Applications, Number and Algebra, Shape and Space and Handling Data.

You will be taught using a variety of resources including worksheets and textbooks (Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Mathematics), as well as with practical activities.

How will you be assessed?

The course is linear which means that there will be a final examination at the end of year 11. This will consist of 3 papers:

Paper 1: Non Calculator Paper; 80 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Calculator paper; 80 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3: Calculator paper; 80 marks; 1 hour 30 minutes

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs Mohamad, Head of mathematics, or any of the Mathematics teachers

Combined Science (2 GCSEs in Science)

Exam Board: AQA

This is a compulsory subject. All students will study combined science in year 10 and 11 leading to a double award (2 GCSEs) in science.

What is Science about?

From trainee chef to nuclear physicist, construction apprentice to cancer researcher, everyone needs some level of relevant science understanding.

Science is the concerted human effort to understand, or to understand better, the history of the natural world and how the natural world works, with observable physical evidence as the basis of that understanding. It is done through observation of natural phenomena, and/or through experimentation that tries to simulate natural processes under controlled conditions. It offers a wide range of skills that are transferable to most jobs and are well sought after by most employers and universities.

Examples of these skills include

- Making Objective observation:
- Using Evidence
- Critical analysis
- Verification and testing:

How is the course structured?

The content of the GCSE course is based on the three areas of science, Biology, Chemistry and Physics:

These all involve both theory and practical work.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

There are no controlled assessments in science. Instead students will carry out 16 core practicals over the two-year course. Students will be assessed on their practical skills in their exams with at least 15% of the marks coming from questions relating to practicals.

At the end of year 11 pupils will sit six exam papers: two biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics. All the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes in length.

Pupils will be entered for either Foundation Tier papers or Higher Tier papers:

Each paper will contain different types of questions including multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response questions

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs K Karydis: Head of Faculty and Assistant Head teacher

Core PE

What is Core PE about?

Core PE is a compulsory subject for all students in all year groups and those in years Year 10 and Year 11. There is no formal assessment within this subject but informal assessment does take place. Pupils are expected to bring their kit and take a full and active role for this subject as they have been doing in Year 7, 8 and 9. Lessons are slightly different than those in the lower school as the focus is on individual performance in both team and individual sports while improving all students' level and understanding of how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle.

How are lessons structured?

The lessons are always practical and there are very few, if any, classroom based lessons. There are 3 lessons per fortnight which will be a mixture of team and individual sports and health related fitness. Lessons can and will take place outside or inside depending on which activity is being followed.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

There is no formal exam throughout the two years of the course. There will be informal assessment based on the Cambridge National PE practical assessment. If students wish to follow the subject at exam level, the school offers Cambridge National PE which involves assessment through written exams and external practical moderation.

Who can give me more information about this subject?

All members of the PE department can answer questions that you may have regarding the GCSE exam course.

Contact: Ms Millen

Head of PE

PSHE and CITIZENSHIP Theme Days

Students will take part in six different theme days over the two years.

What is it about?

The aim for the various theme days is to develop and ensure students acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives. Also the theme days will develop the qualities and attributes students need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society.

Theme day outline:

Theme day 1: Entrepreneurial Skills

Students are involved in fast-moving, team-based challenges; they are introduced to the concept of being enterprising individuals. It also covers in simple terms what enterprise actually means and how being an enterprising person can have such a positive and meaningful impact on their lives now and in the future.

Theme day 2: Positive relationships

Students will explore the following topics; healthy relationship education and self-esteem, exploitation and sexual bullying, laws surrounding sex and STI information. The workshops will allow students to develop their confidence and enable them to make informed choices.

Theme day 3: Finance and budgeting

Students will explore practical ways to save money and how to budget effectively while exploring the current economic situation. The workshop will allow students to explore the various issues surrounding debt and ways to avoid it.

Theme day 4: Study skills

Students will acquire practical skills and methods to effectively revise and prepare for their exams. The workshop aims to encourage students to have a 'growth mind-set', with high aspirations and a motivation to succeed.

Theme day 5: Multiculturalism and diversity

Students will explore reasons why Britain is multicultural and access the benefits this brings to various communities.

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs L Green Head of RE and PSHE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ENTRY LEVEL CERTIFICATE

Examining Body – WJEC

What is Religious Education at Entry Level about?

All pupils will complete the Entry Level Certificate in Humanities; following a Religious Education pathway.

They will have 3 areas of studies and will complete all of the course work in class.

There will be no examination.

The course will be an extension to the work they completed in the RE course in years 7-9.

The key skills that pupils will be developing are the ability to justify their own opinion and then explain a viewpoint. These skills are vital both in RE and across all humanities subjects.

The three areas of work covered are:

- **Religious celebrations**
- **Prejudice and discrimination**
- **Places of worship**

Why complete Entry Level RE and where can I go with it?

Entry Level RE is an exciting course which opens students' minds up to philosophical, religious and political debates. RE teaches you how to make an informed opinion about issues that matter to you and how to analyse a variety of controversial and exciting scriptures and texts. In many areas of work, employers look for someone with transferable **skills**, with an **enquiring mind, understanding and appreciation of other people's point of view: and an ability to come to clear, informed decisions**: these are all skills which are developed in Religious Education.

The understanding you will gain in Religious Education meets needs in broadcasting, journalism, law, publishing, marketing, teaching, finance and even medicine

What about exams and controlled assessments?

The course is 100% coursework based. These are completed in class and there is no examination

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs L Green Head of RE/PSHE

E- BACC Subjects

E-Bacc Pathway – All pupils on this Pathway are required to follow Spanish GCSE and one Humanities Option as part of this pathway.

THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

The Department for Education has introduced the English Baccalaureate as a performance measure for pupils and schools. Some universities have also said they will use the English Baccalaureate as a requirement for entry in the future. In addition, schools will be looked at in the light of Progress measures. All our subjects count towards Progress 8.

The six GCSE subjects (all at Grade 4 or above) that are needed to obtain the English Baccalaureate are:

English Language GCSE
English Literature GCSE
Mathematics GCSE
Combined GCSE Science
History or Geography GCSE
Spanish GCSE

Community languages are allowed to count towards the English Baccalaureate as long as a Grade 4 or above at GCSE is achieved.

Check with the school to see which languages count and if they can be examined at Broomfield.

HISTORY GCSE

Examining Body – Edexcel

Why should you study History at GCSE?

- History is a qualification that is very well respected by universities and employers. It can prepare you for many different careers including the law, the media and journalism, archaeology and teaching. More than 50% of History graduates go into business because the skills they have developed studying History are as valuable for the business sector as it is for teaching.
- If you enjoyed history at Key Stage 3, GCSE history will be a chance to build on your skills and develop your understanding of some of the topics that we have already studied such as the Tudors, Hitler, the Black Death and World War One. However you will also get to study some really exciting new courses.

How is the course structured?

Medicine in Britain c 1250 to present (Thematic Study) - Studying Medicine in Britain will give students an overview of the impact that improved knowledge, understanding and technology has had in Britain from 1250 onwards. It provides a rich contextual environment to support students in their understanding of Britain's citizens and rulers, and their attitudes, since 1250. While studying medicine is something we haven't done yet, it also links back to your year 7 studies of the Middle Ages – e.g. power of the church, and the Black Death.

This is linked with:

The British sector of the Western Front; injuries, treatment and the trenches. (Historic Environment) In this topic, students learn about the relationship between conditions on the Western Front and their impact on the nature of illness and the provision of medical care. The brutal conditions that this war created, including the trench system and new types of wounds and disease caused by new weapons and battle techniques, triggered rapid progress in techniques for treating and healing patients, including solving the problem of blood loss.

Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 (British Depth Study) – For all the students who enjoyed studying the Tudors at KS3, this unit is an excellent opportunity to go into the period of Elizabeth 1 in great detail. Topics that will be studied include 'The power of the queen', the nature and extent of a Catholic threat to her throne – including the problem of Mary, Queen of Scots, the Daily Lives of the Elizabethans, popular culture, and the role of Elizabethan explorers.

Superpower Relations and the Cold War (Period Study) - Here, students will study a period of immense recent significance in the development of our modern world. It is a story of mistrust and nervous tension, spying and treachery, tragedy and new hope, destruction and rebuilding. It is the story of students' parents and grandparents. Topics included are The Cuban Missile Crisis, The building of the Berlin Wall and the Collapse of the Soviet Union and its control of Eastern Europe.

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 to 1939 (Modern Depth Study) – This study offers students a fascinating analysis of how, between the First and Second World Wars, a democratic Germany became a one-party dictatorship. Students will examine four key topics – The beginning of the Weimar Republic, Hitler's rise to power, Nazi dictatorship and life in Hitler's Germany. However, these are not in isolation from one another - there is some chronological overlap between them which highlights the complexity of different aspects within Germany during the years 1918–39. The topic builds upon our KS3 studies of Germany and Hitler from year 9.

What about exams?

History GCSE has three exams and each will examine your knowledge and understanding in different ways;

Paper 1: 1 hour 15 minutes: Section A – British Thematic Study; Medicine in Britain 1250 to present – and section B – Historic Environment; The British section of the Western Front (Injuries, treatment and the Trenches).

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes: Section A Thematic Study; Superpower Relations and the Cold War; and Section B British Depth Study; Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588

Paper 3: 1 hour 20 minutes: Modern Depth Study; Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 to 1939

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Ms C Anscomb Head of Humanities

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Examining Body – AQA

What is Geography about?

Geography is a dynamic and relevant subject for all young people.

Geography inspires pupils to become global citizens by exploring their own place in the world; their values and responsibilities to other people, to the environment and to the sustainability of the planet.

Why complete GCSE Geography and where can I go with it?

- A recent survey showed that Geography is a preferred subject by employers as it provides students with the skills they are looking for.
- Geography studies the important issues and covers the stories you hear in the news and see on the television every day!
- You will develop different skills that will be useful for the careers that you will follow in the future: data collection, decision-making, analysing, interacting with the public, research, ICT, GIS and report writing.
- Students who gain a Geography GCSE are in a strong position to find employment in a wide range of careers including: business management, tourism, the media, transport, telecommunications, environmental management, mineral exploration and engineering, town planning, water supply, energy production, landscape architecture, sports management and law..

How is the course structured? What about exams?

The course follows 3 Units:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

Unit 2 Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Unit 3 Geographical Applications

- Issues evaluation
- Fieldwork

All students are examined at the end of the course in Year 11

Unit 1 Exam: One hour thirty minutes (35% Of total marks)

Unit 2 Exam: One hour thirty minutes (35% of total marks)

Unit 3 Exam: One hour fifteen minutes (30% of total marks)

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Ms C Anscomb Head of Humanities

Spanish GCSE

Examining Body - AQA

What is Spanish about?

Spanish is used in many parts of Europe and throughout South America. It is also the second language of the USA with over 20 million speakers of Spanish as a first language. Spain is also one of the most visited countries in the world. Spanish is a language desired by Industry, especially businesses who deal with Central and Latin America. Spanish goes well with many subjects including Business and Economics and Tourism.

Why complete GCSE Spanish?

Modern Foreign Languages are increasingly important in today's global economy, where they are required for jobs in the UK as well as for travelling. With the creation of the EBacc, it is highly recommended you choose a language at GCSE. There are also more than 20 top UK universities that will not consider an application from candidates without a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language. It's worthwhile taking a language at GCSE, and fun!

How is the course structured?

The content of the GCSE course is based on the following three themes:

- Identity & Culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and Future Study & Employment

What about exams and controlled assessments?

There will no longer be any Controlled Assessment. The exam result will be based on the 4 exams taken at the end of Year 11.

The total GCSE marks are made up as follows:

Listening – 25%

Reading – 25%

Speaking – 25%

Writing – 25%

- All exams are taken at the end of the 2 year course. Your teacher will decide whether to enter you for the foundation or higher paper for each of the skills.
- The writing exam consists of 3 sections and you will be set a range of tasks which may include writing lists, notes, a letter, a blog or a report in the target language.
- The spoken exam is between 10 and fifteen minutes and consists of three sections, a role play card, a conversation and a visual, whereby students will need to respond to questions and statements in the target language.

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs S Chatterton

Head of Department

Note: If a pupil has already completed a Spanish GCSE, they will be required to complete both History and Geography GCSEs.

Option Subjects

Pupils must choose two subjects from this group. The subjects are:

1. *Art GCSE*
2. *Cambridge National in ICT*
3. *GCSE Computer Science*
4. *Drama GCSE*
5. *Media Studies GCSE*
6. *Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Science*
7. *Design and Technology GCSE*
8. *RE GCSE (full course)*
9. *Separate Sciences GCSE*
10. *Music GCSE*
11. *Film studies GCSE*

Art and Design

Examining Body - EDEXCEL

What is Art about?

GCSE Art, Craft and Design is about having an investigative and adventurous approach to Art and Design and developing skills to express it. You will develop an understanding of past and contemporary art which you will use to inform and inspire your own ideas and work.

You will experience a range of materials and techniques as well as developing your research skills. Work will be set for you to do in your Sketchbook which will not only push your learning and skill levels in drawing and painting but will be an important element that accompanies every project.

Why complete GCSE Art?

You could go on to take AS or A level in Art and Design, or a Vocational 'A' level in Art and Design or a related subject. You may wish to do Art and Design just because you like it or to form the basis of a future interest, or go on to a job where it might be useful to have these skills. These might include careers in advertising, marketing, fashion, Graphic design, architecture, photography, publishing and the media. Whichever you choose, studying Art can help you develop transferable skills, which you can take into any job or career.

How is the course structured?

The GCSE is made up of two components – both components are based on coursework and practical work. However, component 2 also includes a timed test.

Component 1 - 60% of the overall Art GCSE grade

Component 1 consists of practical work done in class and at home. Tasks will be set by your teacher throughout the course based on different themes and areas of study. Homework will be additionally set and done in order to support development of skills and ideas.

Component 2 – 40% of the overall Art GCSE grade

In component 2, students are given a choice of themes by the exam board. You then select the theme of your choice and create artwork and artistic research around that theme. Component 2 ends with a timed exam where you create a piece of art based on all the work you have completed.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

The timed test is set by the exam board as part of component 2 and takes the form of a single theme, something like 'I, Me, Mine' or 'Barriers'. You will be given some suggestions and starting points to help you develop your own ideas. You will have eight school weeks to prepare for the timed test of ten hours, where you will produce your final piece of work. This makes up 40% of the marks.

Who can give me more information about this subject?

GCSE Design & Technology

Examining Body - AQA

What is Design & Technology about?

Design and Technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. They acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art. Pupils learn how to take risks, becoming resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable citizens. Through the evaluation of past and present design and technology, they develop a critical understanding of its impact on daily life and the wider world. High-quality design and technology education makes an essential contribution to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of the nation.

Why complete GCSE Design & Technology?

You could go on to take AS or A level in Product Design, or a Vocational A level in Product Design or a related subject. You may wish to do Product Design/Design & Technology just because you like it or to form the basis of a future interest, or go on to a career where it might be useful to have these skills. These might include careers in Product Design, Marketing, Electronics, Graphic Design, Engineering, Architecture/Interior, Publishing and the Media. Whichever you choose, studying Design & Technology can help you develop transferable skills, which you can take into any job or career.

How is the course structured?

The GCSE Design & Technology course contains one exam paper which is 2 hours. Students will be marked out of **100 which is 50% of the GCSE Design & Technology exam.**

What is assessed?

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

What about controlled assessments/Design & Technology coursework?

What's assessed

Practical application of: Core technical principles, Specialist technical principles, Designing and making principles, Substantial design and make task.

How it's assessed

Students will produce a prototype model of their product and a portfolio of evidence. Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA. Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx.

100 marks which 50% of the GCSE Design & Technology coursework

Who can give me more information about this subject?

DRAMA GCSE

Examining Body – AQA

AQA's GCSE (9-1) qualification in Drama has been designed to be a practical, engaging and creative course. It will provide opportunities for you to examine drama and the work of others, to explore a range of drama as a practical art form, and to work independently to create your own drama performances making informed artistic choices.

Drama provides a curriculum to ignite and engage your creativity, passion and interests. It also provides freedom for you to experiment and take risks with your work whilst working on developing your own style.

What is GCSE Drama all about?

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. You will work creatively in teams and individually. We will go to the theatre on trips.

Why complete GCSE Drama and where can I go with it?

There are the obvious benefits to studying Drama GCSE; the first is the active and creative experience you will have every lesson. You will improve your self-confidence and develop your imagination. You will also develop your problem solving skills to overcome differences to achieve a common goal with your peers. Studying Drama can be a great starting point for careers such as teaching, law, and politics, not to mention broadcasting and performing. And the ability to speak confidently in front of a group is a must for any career.

How is the course structured?

The course is divided into three Units:

Devising Drama

Students will create their own devised performance based on a chosen stimulus from the exam board stimulus paper. In addition to the performance, students will be marked on an accompanying portfolio with evidence of the process and decisions made whilst creating and developing their performance.

Presenting and Performing Texts

Students will take part in a showcase, demonstrating their performance skills in a live performance.

Students will be required to produce an accompanying document which outlines their intentions for and approach to the performance showcase.

Written Exam: Performance and Response

This component requires students to study text and performance.

For Section A, students study one performance text in detail from a set list given by the exam board. This section of the paper will contain questions which require short and medium length answers. It assesses students' knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed and performed.

In Section B, students will be required to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen using accurate subject-specific terminology.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

The total G.C.S.E. marks are made up as follows:

Teacher Assessed: 60% Written Exam 40%

Who can give me more information about this subject

GCSE Computer Science - J277

Examining Body - OCR

What is GCSE Computer Science about?

GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

Why complete GCSE Computer Science?

- Studying Computer Science empowers you to solve complex, challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world.
- Computing jobs often come with high salaries.
- Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions, from astronomy to financial analysis – not just in IT related jobs!
- There are many opportunities for travel and/or remote working for people with high-level computing skills.
- Studying Computer Science can significantly improve performance in other academic subjects.
- The future possibilities for people with Computer Science skills are unlimited, and these skills are only going to become more important.
- Computers are everywhere so understanding them puts you in charge of your world.

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science will encourage you to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

How is the course structured?

Units	Content
Component 01: Computer systems	Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.
Component 02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.
Practical programming	Students are to be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s) during their course of study which allows them to develop their skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Students will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02 (section B).

What about exams and controlled assessments?

Units	Assessment method
Computer systems - J277/01	Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE 80 marks
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - J277/02	Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of total GCSE 80 marks

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Cambridge National in Information Technologies Level 1 / 2 - J836

Examining Body - OCR

What is Cambridge National in IT about?

Cambridge National in IT is an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- using different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products
- creating a data manipulation solution
- creating an Augmented Reality prototype.

The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

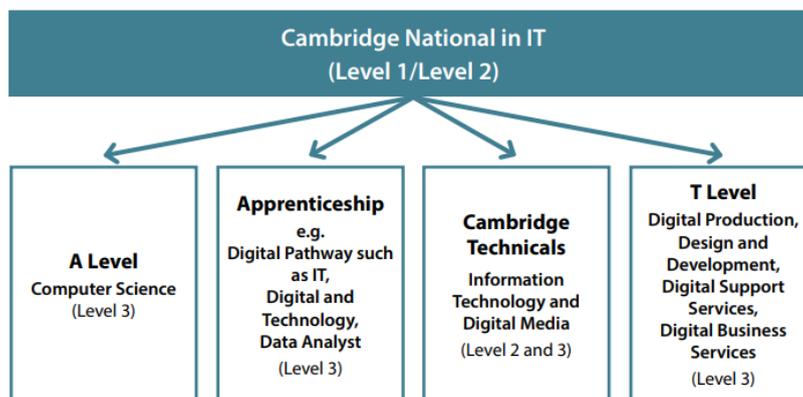
- planning and designing IT solutions and products for a given purpose
- selecting the best tools and techniques to solve a problem
- solving problems by exploring different software application tools and techniques
- creating IT solutions and digital products
- use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised and timely way
- finding imaginative ways to solve IT problems.

This qualification will complement other learning that you're completing for GCSEs or vocational qualifications at Key Stage 4 and help to prepare you for further study

Why complete Cambridge National IT?

This qualification will enable you to learn about the different design tools that can be used, the principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing when creating IT solutions or products. You will also understand the uses of Internet of Everything and the application of this in everyday life. You will develop the skills to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet a client's requirements. You will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create the spreadsheet solution which will be tested, and you will learn to evaluate your spreadsheet solution. Finally, you will develop the knowledge and skills relating to the purpose, use and types of Augmented Reality (AR) in different contexts and how it is used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to design, create, test and review an AR model prototype. This will provide you with the learning for a range of IT related further study, important transferable skills and some basic industry knowledge and skills

The knowledge and skills developed will help you to progress onto a range of academic, technical and applied post-16 study including:



How is the course structured?

Units	Content
Unit R050: IT in the digital world	In this unit you will learn the theoretical knowledge and understanding to apply design tools for applications, principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing in different contexts when creating IT solutions or products. You will understand the uses of Internet of Everything and the application of this in everyday life, cyber-security and legislations related to the use of IT systems, and the different types of digital communications software, devices, and distribution channels.
Unit R060: Data manipulation	In this unit you will learn the skills to be able to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet client requirements. You will be able to use a range of tools and techniques to create a spreadsheet solution based on your design, which you will test. You will be able to evaluate your solution based on the user requirements.

Unit R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information	In this unit you will learn the basics of Augmented Reality (AR) and the creation of a model prototype product to showcase how it can be used appropriately for a defined target audience to present information. You will also learn the purpose, use and types of AR in different contexts and how they are used on different digital devices. You will develop the skills to be able to design and create an AR model prototype, using a range of tools and techniques. You will also be able to test and review your AR model prototype.
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What about exams and controlled assessments?

Units	Assessment method
Unit R050: IT in the digital world	Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour 30 minute written examination 70 marks
Unit R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets	OCR-set assignment 60 marks Centre-assessed and OCR moderated
Unit R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information	OCR-set assignment 60 marks Centre-assessed and OCR moderated

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mr.Hossain Head of Computing/ IT

Media Studies GCSE

Examining Body – AQA

What is Media Studies about?

Media Studies is an academic subject respected by universities and employers. The subject encourages debate and consideration of many key concepts and theories. In addition it develops independent learning and innovative thinking. The subject also encourages an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and its role in daily life, and practical and creative skills through opportunities for personal engagement and creativity.

The new syllabus will give the pupils an opportunity to work towards a linear qualification in Media Studies. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their coursework at the end of the two year course.

Why complete GCSE Media Studies and where can I go with it?

Media Studies can help you become more analytical about the way texts and images are presented. It helps to formulate your ideas about representation in society and Media as a whole. You will learn how to use equipment and programmes used in the Media industry today.

Career opportunities are endless:

- Reporting and editing for local and national newspapers
- Working for broadcasting, print and e-media industries such as: the BBC, Vogue and online companies respectively.
- Advertising and Marketing companies
- Teaching

How is the course structured?

- Clearer assessment structure with 30% controlled assessment and 70% external assessment.
- Greater flexibility with a linear structure, Students will be required to take all GCSE assessments at the end of the course, and external assessment no longer tiered.
- Updated content to more closely reflect the current media and educational landscapes and allow pupils to explore new media technologies.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

- **Paper 1 Media Studies:** a 1 hour 30 minute exam of three areas of the theoretical framework: industries, audiences and representation.
- Questions will include:
 - Multiple choice questions assessing breadth of knowledge.
 - Short answer questions assessing in depth knowledge.
 - An extended response question assessing in depth knowledge
- It is worth a total of 84 marks, 35% of the overall linear course.
- **Paper 2 Media Language and contexts of Media:** a 1 hour and 30 minutes exam on media language and contexts of media. Close Study Products are cases set by the AQA every year and will ask students to engage in the depth analysis of at least one audio-visual, one print and one online media form. It is worth a total of 84 marks, 35% of the overall linear course.
- **Non- exam Assessment: creating a media product (NEA):** This is a controlled assessment folder. To complete the NEA, students must independently create a media product in response to a brief set by AQA. The set brief changes annually. Students research, plan and present their products. It is worth a total 72 marks and a 30% of their GCSE grade.

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Ms Bampanatsa **Head of Media/Achievement Director KS4**

Music GCSE

Examining Body – AQA

AQA's GCSE (9-1) qualification has been designed to be practical, engaging and creative. The course provides the opportunity to express yourself creatively, writing your own music using the latest music software, performing on your instrument and exploring the work of great composers and musicians.

Music provides a curriculum to ignite and engage your creativity, passion and interests. It also provides freedom for you to experiment and take risks with your work whilst working on developing your own style.

Personal Attributes Required:

You need to be able to sing or play an instrument to a reasonable standard. If you do not already play an instrument you must be keen to learn one, the music department provides instrument/ vocal lessons on a range of instruments, which you must attend as a GCSE student. However, you can also complete a Music GCSE using music software instead of playing an instrument. You need to work hard and work well with others.

What will you learn?

There are three main areas of study: Performance, Composition, Listening and Appraising. Students will learn about a range of types of music, including vocal, instrumental, music for film, pop, jazz, fusion, and new music.

Ø **Performance - 30% of final score** - Students give a performance for a minimum four minutes, including at least one minute of a group piece (ensemble playing).

Ø **Composition - 30% of final score** - Students create two compositions. In the first year of the course, they compose a piece of their choice. In the second, the piece is set by the exam board, usually from a choice of options.

Ø **Listening and appraising/understanding - 40% of the final score** - This is the only exam and is usually one and a half hours. Students are asked to listen to, and answer questions about, set works they've studied during the course. They then do the same for previously unheard pieces.

How will Music help me in the future?

GCSE Music will show employers you have a wide range of interests and skills, as well as demonstrating that you have shown dedication and commitment to learning a musical instrument and to studying music. GCSE Music can also help with confidence and performance skills needed in situations such as job interviews. Music GCSE is hard work, but equally one of the most enjoyable subjects to learn and succeed in. Whatever your hopes for your final years of study at school, GCSE music is a wise choice. If you have a passion for music, you're much more likely to enjoy your study and be motivated to revise and practise. Yet there are so many other reasons why you will benefit from studying music.

Where could GCSE music lead?

If you continue with your studies, you could choose from a range of different subjects. You may choose to continue with music, by studying A-level or BTEC music or performing arts. But equally, you might want to study other subjects. Either way, choosing music at GCSE will have benefited them because it provides many transferable skills. If you don't want to study music beyond GCSE, it is still a smart choice. It can open doors to a range of education and employment pathways in:

Music - Being a musician isn't the only career in music – other options include being a sound technician, community musician, music therapist, teacher, or private tutor, or a range of careers in the music industry, in a concert hall or music venue.

The arts/creative industries - This might include work in film, TV, theatre, radio, arts administration, or creative education.

Professions such as medicine, law, accountancy - Music is highly regarded as an academic subject and so could complement your other studies in leading to a professional career.

Any other pathway a young person might choose GCSE Music provides a range of transferable skills that will provide a good foundation, whatever pathway your child chooses.

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mr Boys-Layton - Head of Music

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Full) GCSE

Examining Body – Edexcel

What is Religious Education at GCSE about?

We cover exciting topical issues such as whether euthanasia should be legalised, should the death penalty be reintroduced and whether racism can ever be stopped. Your ability to do well will depend very much on your ability to explain your opinion, formulate an argument and think rationally and analytically about real issues.

The key skills that you will be developing are the ability to justify your own opinion and to explain a viewpoint with understanding and empathy. You will also learn to reflect, analysis and evaluate your own ideas and those of others. These skills are vital both in RE and across all humanities subjects.

Here are some of the issues you can expect to cover

- Why do people suffer?
- Is abortion acceptable?
- Can euthanasia ever be right?
- What should we do about prejudice, racism and discrimination?
- How do we decide what is right and what is wrong?
- Is marriage necessary for family life?

Why complete GCSE RE and where can I go with IT?

The Full course RE is an exciting course which opens students' minds up to philosophical, religious and political debates. RE teaches you how to make an informed opinion about issues that matter to you and how to analyse a variety of controversial and exciting scriptures and texts. In many areas of work, employers look for someone with transferable **skills**, with an **enquiring mind, understanding and appreciation of other people's point of view: and an ability to come to clear, informed decisions**: these are all skills which are developed in Religious Education.

The understanding you will gain in Religious Education meets needs in broadcasting, journalism, law, publishing, marketing, teaching, finance and even medicine, essentially any career where there is interaction with other members of a diverse society.

How is the course structured?

Paper 1:

Religion and Ethics through Christianity

Christian beliefs

Marriage and family

Living the Christian Life

Matters of Life and death

Paper 2:

Religion, peace and conflict through Islam

Muslim beliefs

Crime and punishment

Living the Muslim life

Peace and conflict

What about exams and controlled assessments?

You will have two exams of 1hr 45 mins at the end of Year 11

There is no coursework

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs L Green Head of RE/PSHE

Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs in Science: Biology, Physics and Chemistry)

Exam Board: AQA

(This is an option subject and will be studied in addition to the compulsory combined science option)

Who is this option suitable for?

Pupils who opt for separate sciences will find themselves with 15 lessons of science per cycle. This option is aimed at students who enjoy science and are definitely planning to continue studying science subjects at A' level.

This option is only suitable for students who are securely meeting or exceeding age related expectations in science.

How is the course structured?

You will be taught additional content to that covered in the combined science lessons to enable you to sit a full GCSE in each of the three separate sciences; Biology, Physics and Chemistry. You will receive a separate grade for each subject.

Each subject involves both theory and practical work.

What about exams and controlled assessments?

In addition to the 16 core practicals completed as part of the Combined science course students will complete a further 8 compulsory practicals. As with Combined Science Students will be assessed on their practical skills in their exams with at least 15% of the marks coming from questions relating to practicals.

At the end of year 11 pupils will sit six exam papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each will assess different topics. All the papers are 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

Please note these are the only science exams the students will sit as they will also examine the content delivered through the combined science course.

Pupils will be entered for either Foundation Tier papers or Higher Tier papers:

Each paper will contain different types of questions including multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response questions

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Mrs K Karydis Head of Faculty and Assistant Head teacher

Cambridge National in Sports Science

Examining Body – OCR

What is a Cambridge National?

Cambridge Nationals are vocational qualifications at Level 1 and 2 for students aged 14-16 which are equivalent to a GCSE. The vocational physical education course gives pupils the knowledge and understanding of how to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. It also prepares pupils for careers in the leisure industry and informs subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Science.

Why choose OCR/Cambridge National Sports Science?

Sport is a high profile and expanding industry with a growing need for qualified professionals. There is a wide range of job roles to progress into such as Activity Leaders, Sports Coach, Fitness Instructor and Leisure Assistants. When following the Sports Science course, students will also be able to develop their own physical performance as well as leading others.

The qualifications are recognised by Ofqual DFE and by 16-19 providers as progression to a A-Level therefore the course acts as an excellent starting point for taking the subject further into education by completing courses like Cambridge Technical, BTEC Level 3 and A-Level Sports courses.

How is the course structured?

The course is based around producing evidence in the form of written assignments/projects for each unit that is studied. There are four units studied in the following format:

There are two Mandatory Units:

- 1) **Reducing Risk in Sport** – Written paper 1 Hour – 60 marks (25% of the course), some of the topics studied are:
 - i) Risk Factors
 - ii) Injuries
 - iii) Treatment of injuries
- 2) **Principles of Training.** Students apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sports and physical activity to their own practical performance.

Two from four Optional Units –

The optional units allow the teacher to tailor the course to the students' needs and abilities. Each unit is assessed through 4 assignments which can be written or practical tasks. The units Broomfield pupils study are;

- i) Response of the body to exercise
- ii) Nutrition

Who can give me more information about this subject?

Ms K Millen – Head of PE