

KS4 CURRICULUM OPTIONS

The image shows two young women in school uniforms, blue sweaters and plaid skirts, standing outdoors. They are both smiling and looking at white papers they are holding. The papers have 'GCSE RESULTS' printed on them. The background is a blurred green lawn and a building. A dark blue banner at the top left contains the text 'KS4 CURRICULUM OPTIONS' in white. Another dark blue banner at the bottom right contains the text '2024-2025' in white.

2024-2025

CONTENTS

The Curriculum Pathways	3	People and Places	
The College	4	Cambridge B2 First	31
The Faculty	6	French GCSE	32
Guidance to parents/guardians when helping to make Option decisions	7	Geography GCSE	33
		German GCSE	34
		Global Perspectives IGCSE	35
Core Subjects		History GCSE	37
English IGCSE	9	Psychology GCSE	38
Literature in English IGCSE	10	Spanish GCSE	39
English as an Additional Language IGCSE	11		
Mathematics GCSE	12	Creative and Physical	
Double Award Science IGCSE	13	3D Design GCSE	41
Single Award Science IGCSE	15	Art, Craft and Design GCSE	42
Biology IGCSE	16	Creative Digital Media Production BTEC Award	43
Chemistry IGCSE	17	Dance GCSE	44
Physics IGCSE	18	Drama GCSE	45
		Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE	46
Option Subjects		Graphic Communication GCSE	47
Mathematics		Music GCSE	48
Further Mathematics Level 2 Certificate	20	Music BTEC Tech Award	49
Statistics GCSE	21	Photography GCSE	50
		Physical Education GCSE	52
Digital and Commerce		Sport BTEC Tech Award	54
Business GCSE	23		
Computer Science GCSE	24	Course Availability	55
Economics GCSE	26		
Enterprise and Marketing Level 2 Certificate	27		
Esports BTEC Award	29		

THE COLLEGE AND THE FACULTY CURRICULUM PATHWAYS

As a Collegiate with a broad intake of students with wide ranging skills and interests, we seek to provide the type and pace of learning that will enable everyone to achieve their potential. Consequently, Year 10 students can choose between two curriculum pathways – the College and the Faculty.

Both pathways give equal emphasis to the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science, and it is important to ensure that all young people achieve good grades in these core subjects. This is to allow them to have a solid foundation from which to progress to further education or training.

The core curriculum for both pathways is thus:

- GCSE Mathematics
- IGCSE English Language
- IGCSE Science or separate IGCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Students in both the College and Faculty also undertake the following compulsory lessons which do not lead to GCSE level qualifications:

- Physical Education/Games
- Personal Development (RE/Careers/Citizenship/ PSHE)

All students then choose from a range of additional subjects that lead to GCSE or BTEC qualifications. The actual courses available will vary on the two pathways and more detail on this, plus information about each subject, can be found on the following pages and on the option forms. All of our qualifications are challenging,

highly regarded and provide opportunities for students to progress to university and a choice of future careers.

Choosing the Right Pathway

For all students we will have a range of information upon which to base our school recommendations for their Key Stage 4 studies including their interests and future aspirations, the results of CAT4 testing, subject specific performance and teacher assessment, and the Oxford English test (for students with English as a second language only).

Staff will be happy to advise on the best choice and to discuss the different options. We will endeavour to indicate to each student, and their parents or guardians, which school we feel will be most appropriate, although this will be kept under review during the early weeks of Year 10.

Learning Development support will continue to be available for all students who require individual lessons on either pathway.

Examination fees

Please note that, as outlined in the Parent Handbook, all registration and examination fees for both GCSE and BTEC courses are charged to parents when the school is invoiced by the examination board.

GCSE Levels

The cost of GCSE examinations is approximately £62* per subject entry.

BTECs

All students completing a BTEC course must be registered with the examination board by November. BTEC fees are paid at the point of registration and include all of the administration of internal and external units, and final certification, and are approximately £85* per subject entry.

* These are the examination fees for the current year 2023/24

THE COLLEGE

The College pathway is designed for students of strong academic ability. The focus throughout Key Stage 4 is the pursuit of excellence, with students helped and encouraged to develop independence in their learning and a real curiosity for their chosen subjects.

The College expectation is that students will be aiming to achieve at least grade 7s in each of their subjects (equivalent to an A grade) through a combination of outstanding teaching, academic challenge, and student endeavour.

All students complete the core subjects of English Language and Mathematics, though most will also be aiming to gain an English Literature IGCSE and/or a Further Mathematics GCSE by the end of Key Stage 4. In Science, dependent upon aptitude and the aim to achieve at least grade 7s, students may work towards the three separate sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics or may complete the Double Award Science course, equivalent to two GCSEs. Decisions on final core subject combinations are made on an individual basis throughout the course in order to maximise student grades.

Each student will also complete up to four additional GCSE options over the two-year course. These can be selected from a wide range of option choices from our creative and physical, digital and commerce, maths and sciences, and people and places subject groupings. Uniquely, the structure of the College curriculum asks students to select just two of their GCSE options in year 10, providing 5 hours a week of teaching in each, with the aim of sitting these qualifications at the end of the year. This has many

benefits for students in providing a real focus for year one, as well as the opportunity to complete two GCSE courses early, experiencing the level of academic learning required, and keeping their curriculum content slightly narrower than it would otherwise be. In the second year of the course, students select up to two further GCSEs from the same wide range, which again provides a focused curriculum for a further year. This one-year GCSE programme structure can be adapted for each individual student as needed, such that they sit examinations and complete qualifications in order to gain the best possible grades.

Students in the College also follow Physical Education (PE) and Personal Development (PD) lessons as non-examined courses. Outside of lessons they are encouraged to choose super-curricular options which are designed to allow them to further develop their knowledge and skills in a chosen area of interest which may link to a future career goal.

The College pathway is undoubtedly challenging but immensely rewarding, requiring students to work quickly and diligently across the demanding range of subjects. College students are hard working and single-minded, supporting each other in class and out, to achieve at the highest possible levels.

In order for students to access this pathway successfully, they should score in the 60th percentile or higher in the CAT4 Mathematics, Spatial and Non Verbal Tests, with consideration also given to achievement levels on their current programmes of study. Students with English as an Additional Language should achieve an Oxford Online English Test score of 66 or higher, or a minimum of IELTS 5.5. Further information about testing and the current scores for each student are available on request.

The Collegiate also offers a 1-year GCSE program for older students joining mid-way through their KS4 studies. This consists of the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science with a choice of two further GCSE options.



THE FACULTY

Students in the Faculty all study the core subjects of English Language, Mathematics and Science but can choose from a wide variety of option subjects which can be a combination of GCSE or BTEC qualifications. Students in the Faculty also have access to the Performance Sport Programme (PSP) and Academy of Dramatic Arts (ADA), which allow students to specialise in sport or the arts alongside a full academic programme. The PSP and ADA programmes are built into the curriculum and students do not need to sacrifice an academic subject to pursue excellence in sport/art. Academic progress remains the priority in The Faculty.

The majority of students will follow a GCSE Double Award Science course over the two years, though students who have the ability to gain at least grade 7s may instead study the separate sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students may also be entered for English Literature if they have the ability to gain a strong grade and this is not to the detriment of their English Language IGCSE.

Non examined core subjects include Physical Education and Personal Development. Students also choose one enrichment or one super-curricular lesson per week. This offers students the chance to be inspired by the curriculum areas they are most passionate about and allows them to develop their interest outside the curriculum, whether in the sports, arts or academia.

International students are able to access EAL support

following the Cambridge B2 First English qualification, and for those students who require additional support to achieve in the core curriculum, there is also the option to follow an additional Mathematics Study Skills course or choose Academic English to support with GCSE outcomes. These are delivered on a small group basis and provide students with a good opportunity to gain the grades required for sixth form study and beyond.

The flexibility of the curriculum pathways, the specialist sport and arts programmes, the range of traditional and vocational qualifications, plus the availability of support sessions and academic learning coaches mean we are able to provide a tailor-made programme to meet each individual's needs to maximise their grades.

In order for students to access the Faculty programmes, they should score in the 25th percentile or higher in the CAT4 Mathematics, Spatial and Non Verbal Tests. In the case of international students, they should achieve a score of 60 or higher on our Oxford Online English Test, or a minimum of IELTS 5.0. Further information about testing and the current scores for each student are available on request.

GUIDANCE TO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS WHEN HELPING TO MAKE OPTION DECISIONS

The subject choices made at the end of Key Stage 3 form the foundation for future learning. All pupils are now required to study towards A Levels, vocational qualifications or to take an apprenticeship post-16, and many then proceed to higher education.

A broad and balanced curriculum is necessary if it is to support future choices - we recommend therefore that students select a range of subjects for 14-16 study. Specialisation will come at a later stage of their education. With the exception of English, Mathematics, Science and Languages, most career paths do not require your child to have studied a particular subject in Key Stage 4. Most employers are more interested in the grades achieved and enthusiasm for learning, than the fact that they did, or did not, study any one subject at 14-16.

For a very small number of jobs, particular sixth form subjects are needed which require success at GCSE, so it is worth checking requirements. However, in most cases the best advice is to study as broad a range of subjects as possible - subjects that students enjoy. The Queen Ethelburga's options policy is designed to encourage this, by ensuring that every pupil is given a wide range of subjects from which to choose. The purpose of the Options Booklet is to give information about each subject that students can study. Please note that we set maximum numbers for some practical subjects.

Some things for students to think about:

What do I enjoy studying? What are my strengths?

Am I choosing the best way of working? (For example, some students do better with regular assessments, others perform well in examinations).

If I choose this subject now, will it keep more options open for future study/training/work?

Some things to consider with your son/ daughter:

Some pupils say that they like a subject when they are really motivated by a belief that it won't involve much work. Remember, however, your son/daughter will have to work hard in all subjects to attain a good qualification.

Some choose a subject to stay in the same class as friends but because timetabling everyone's needs is complex, your son/daughter might well be split from their friends for a particular subject.

Another easy mistake for students to make is to think they like the subject because they like the teacher. Again, timetabling (and the possibility of staff changes) can place them with a different teacher. Your son/daughter should be confident that they will enjoy the subject no matter who teaches it.

The options process is designed to fully inform students so that they can confidently begin the path to a successful future. Please ask if you require further explanation or help with any stage of the process.

“

“This course provided me with all the skills required to continue to study A2 science.

The course is current and involves several practical elements. Questions help me to think critically and I have learned how to apply information in different contexts.”

“I think the English as an Additional Language course suits me better as I develop my English skills”.

Core Subjects

“GCSE maths teaches you fundamental basics that’ll help you later on in life”

”

ENGLISH

IGCSE - CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS 0990

Topics covered

Reading: a range of modern texts, mainly non-fiction, testing skills such as: finding information, analysing writer's choices, summary and re-writing in a different form

Writing: three coursework assignments including descriptive, narrative and responding to a text.

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hr, 50% Component 3: Coursework 50%

Why should I study this subject?

English Language is a compulsory and essential subject for all students in Key Stage 4. A good grade in English demonstrates your command of the English language and will open doors for further study in many subjects, not just English. Indeed, a good pass in English will be essential for those wishing to go to University in future, and very valuable when applying for future careers.

The IGCSE English course will help students to develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing but will also teach the correct use of vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Learners will develop a personal style in their writing and an awareness of the audience being addressed. From studying this course, students will also build more general analysis and communication skills such as inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

'I really enjoyed doing the coursework as it allowed me the chance to improve my work and follow my own interests'.



Where this course can lead

English Language will give you the skills not only for further study in English, but also for many other subjects that require a good command of English and a wide vocabulary.

LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS 0992

Topics covered

Paper 1: Poetry and Prose

Paper 3: Drama

Assessment

Paper 1: 1hr 30, 50%

Paper 3: 45 mins, 25%

Component 5: Coursework 25%

Why should I study this subject?

English Literature is an optional subject offered to those students within their English lessons who are working at a strong level in English and have the passion for literature. The course will help students to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Students will develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed within written texts. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The IGCSE Literature syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.

'I enjoyed the set texts but found the coursework allowed me to explore other texts that I was really engaged with.'



Where this course can lead

English Literature will obviously lead into A Level in this subject, but also other subjects requiring analytical skills.

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

**CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL
EXAMINATIONS 0772**

Topics covered

Topics covered

Paper 1: Listening

Paper 2: Reading

Paper 3: Speaking

Paper 4: Writing

Assessment

Assessment

Paper 1: 40 mins, 25%

Paper 2: 1 hr, 25%

Paper 3: 10 mins

Paper 4: 1 hr

Why should I study this subject?

This course is offered as an alternative to IGCSE English for students with English as an additional language who would find the qualification too challenging. The course is run during English lessons and will help to develop learners' ability to communicate in English clearly in a range of familiar situations. It will help to build knowledge of vocabulary and grammar in the context of five topic areas including the world of work, personal and social lives and the world. The course will also focus on building transferable skills in confidence, drawing inferences and creativity.

"I think the English as an Additional Language course suits me better as I develop my English skills".



Where this course can lead

From studying and successfully completing this course, you will build your English skills and proficiency to be able to more easily access A Level and BTEC content in the Sixth Form.

MATHEMATICS

GCSE - AQA 8300

Topics covered

Number

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

Algebra

Geometry and measures

Probability

Statistics

Assessment

Paper 1: 1h30min, Non-Calculator

Paper 2: 1h30min, Calculator

Paper 3: 1h30min, Calculator

Equally weighted

Why should I study this subject?

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. The qualification is designed to support and enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy and succeed in maths.

Not only will you learn how to solve complex mathematical equations, but the skills you develop whilst working on mathematical functions will develop your problem-solving abilities in other ways, including: Pattern spotting, Visualising, Working systematically, Using logical reasoning. Whether or not you choose to continue your study of mathematics, these talents will be of value in any number of subjects and careers.

Extension/Support Opportunities

Students in the top sets are also considered for entry in a Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (AQA 8360)

and/or FSMQ Additional Mathematics (OCR 6993).

These qualifications offer the opportunity to stretch and challenge students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, as well as by building on the GCSE curriculum in preparation for AS Level Mathematics. The content covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. They also give an introduction to calculus and matrices and develops further skills in trigonometry, functions and graphs. Within these courses, greater emphasis is placed on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.

“GCSE maths teaches you fundamental basics that’ll help you later on in life”

Where this course can lead

A strong mathematical background is one of the most desirable skill sets out there, and there are jobs in every imaginable industry for people want to use maths at work. Here’s even more good news: since maths is very often used to make critical business decisions, there is really no limit to where a career in mathematics can take you. A few example careers are: Statistician, Accountant, Economist, Logistician, Computer Scientist, Actuary, Cost Estimator, Mechanical Engineer, Surveyor, Physicist

DOUBLE AWARD IGCSE SCIENCE

IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4DSO

Topics covered

Year 1

Biology

1. The nature and variety of living organisms
2. Structures and functions in living organisms

Chemistry

1. Principles of chemistry
2. Inorganic chemistry

Physics

1. Forces and motion
2. Electricity
3. Waves
4. Energy resources and energy transfers
5. Solids, liquids and gases

Year 2

Biology

3. Reproduction and inheritance
4. Ecology and the environment
5. Use of biological resources.

Chemistry

3. Physical chemistry
4. Organic chemistry.

Physics

6. Magnetism and electromagnetism
7. Radioactivity and particles
8. Astrophysics.

Assessment

Paper 1 Biology :

2 hours

110 marks

33.3 % of total mark

Paper 1 Chemistry :

2 hours

110 marks

33.3 % of total mark

Paper 1 Physics:

2 hours

110 marks

33.3 % of total mark

Note that single award also has 3 examinations but each is only 1h10m long

Why should I study this subject?

IGCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. In this course, you will delve into the main scientific teachings of biology, chemistry, and physics, opening your eyes to the wonderful scientific patterns and frameworks that exist all around us. This course includes essential practical skills, it improves analytical and logic skills and addresses the need to use mathematical skills to interpret and analyse data to draw valid conclusions.

"This course provided me with all the skills required to continue to study A2 science. The course is current and involves several practical elements. Questions help me to think critically and I have learned how to apply information in different contexts."



Where this course can lead

An IGCSE Science qualification demonstrates that you have the ability to analyse problems and devise practical methods to solve them. It can, therefore, help you to proceed in almost any direction, whether into an engineering trade, business, the arts, social sciences, computer programming, or a physical science. IGCSE Science is essential preparation for any A Level Science study.

SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE

IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4SSO

Topics covered

Biology

Year 1

- 1 The nature and variety of living organisms
- 2 Structures and functions in living organisms

Year 2

- 3 Reproduction and inheritance
- 4 Ecology and the environment
- 5 Use of biological resources

Chemistry

Year 1

- 1 Principles of chemistry
- 2 Inorganic chemistry

Year 2

- 3 Physical chemistry
- 4 Organic chemistry

Physics

Year 1

- 1 Forces and motion
- 2 Electricity
- 3 Waves

Year 2

- 4 Energy resources and energy transfers
- 5 Solids, liquids and gases
- 6 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 7 Radioactivity and particles
- 8 Astrophysics

Assessment

Paper 1: 1h10m, 60 marks, 33%

Paper 2: 1h10m, 60 marks, 33%

Paper 3: 1h10m, 60 marks, 33%

Why should I study this subject?

GCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All students should learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas that relate to the sciences and that are both inter-linked and of universal application. This Single Award Science course is an alternative to the Double Award Science. It provides all of the main content of Science topics but in a lower level of detail. This course is available for those students who would be more suited to gaining a higher grade in the Single Award. Students and parents will be advised if this is the case at the end of Year 10 study.

Where this course can lead

An IGCSE Science qualification demonstrates that you have the ability to analyse problems and devise practical methods to solve them. It can, therefore, help you to proceed in almost any direction, whether into an engineering trade, business, the arts, social sciences, computer programming, or a physical science.

BIOLOGY

IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4BI1

Topics covered

Year 1

1. The nature and variety of living organisms
2. Structures and functions in living organisms

Year 2

3. Reproduction and inheritance
4. Ecology and the environment
5. Use of biological resources

Assessment

Paper 1:

2 hours

110 marks

61.1 % of total mark

Paper 2:

1 hour 15

70 marks

38.9% of total IGCSE

Why should I study this subject?

Biology is an essential foundation for studying science at university and for careers in medicine, health care and ecology. Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. This course includes essential practical skills, it improves analytical and logic skills and addresses the need to use mathematical skills to interpret and analyse data to draw valid conclusions.

“GCSE Biology is a great subject that dives into a range of topics about all things science, it was one of my favourite subjects during GCSE and is very interactive with lots of interesting practical”. GCSE Biology helped me lock in my interest into medicine.”



Where this course can lead

Biology IGCSE prepares pupils for progression to AS and A2 level. The course is accepted in all UK and international schools and is supported by UCAS when studied at A Level. Many pupils who study this subject progress into medicine related and STEM careers.

CHEMISTRY

IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4CH1

Topics covered

Year 1 (Paper 1)

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry

Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures

Topic 3 – Chemical changes

Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria

Topic 5 – Separate chemistry 1

Year 2 (Paper 2)

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry (revision)

Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table

Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes

Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science

Topic 9 – Separate chemistry 2

Assessment

Paper 1: 1h45m, 100 marks, 50%

Paper 2: 1h45m, 100 marks, 50%

Why should I study this subject?

IGCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All students should learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas that relate to the sciences and that are both inter-linked and of universal application.

“Chemistry has taught me to use critical thinking skills to collect data from experiments, analyse information and apply my knowledge to come to a conclusion.

“Evaluation is a key skill I have learnt from chemistry. Taking a practical I may be unfamiliar with and applying my own knowledge from lessons to be critical of the results and suggest improvements.”

“Chemistry has improved my skills with team work. It has allowed me to collaborate with my peers on practical work, use the guidance from my teachers and collectively come to an accurate conclusion.”

“Studying chemistry has enlightened me to its importance and its presence in all areas of life: from fuelling aeroplanes to establishing the causes of climate change. From this, chemistry can be used to find solutions which is an exciting matter to be a part of.”



Where this course can lead

IGCSE Chemistry teaches students analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking; skills valued highly by Universities and employers.

PHYSICS

IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4PH1

Topics covered

- 1 Forces and motion
- 2 Electricity
- 3 Waves
- 4 Energy resources and energy transfers

Year 2

- 5 Solids, liquids and gases
- 6 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 7 Radioactivity and particles
- 8 Astrophysics

Assessment

Paper 1

- 2 hours
- 110 marks
- 61.1 % of total GCSE

Paper 2

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- 70 marks
- 38.9% of total IGCSE

Why should I study this subject?

Physics is a diverse and engaging subject, and it provides pupils with several skills. For example, pupils can develop problem-solving and analytical skills which can be utilised in any profession. The course covers key topics and ensures pupils are equipped with practical skills for progression to study at AS/A2 level.

“This course helped me to develop my knowledge of physics. I particularly enjoyed learning about Astrophysics. I had the opportunity to take part in several practical activities to help me understand challenging concepts.”



Where this course can lead

Physics can lead to several different STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, for example, engineering, computer science, mechanics, medicine, astro physics and many more.

“ “ *Options Subjects*
Mathematics

“It’s like the arts and crafts
of maths plus complements
subjects such as geography,
business, economics”

” ”

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE

Topics covered

Number

Algebra

Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)

Calculus

Matrix Transformations

Geometry

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50%, Calculator

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50%, Calculator

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification challenges high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at Level 3. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to the GCSE Mathematics, rather than as a replacement. The content assumes prior knowledge of the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study and covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.



Where this course can lead

AQA's Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths goes beyond the GCSE curriculum to challenge and engage the highest attaining students. It deepens students' understanding of algebra, geometry and number and extends their knowledge to new topics including calculus and matrices. It boosts students' GCSE attainment, prepares them for A-level, and gives them the opportunity to reach their full potential. new topics including calculus and matrices. It boosts students' GCSE attainment, prepares them for A-level, and gives them the opportunity to reach their full potential.

STATISTICS

GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1ST0

Topics covered

Collection of Data
Processing and Representing Data
Summarising Data
Scatter Diagrams and Correlation
Time Series
Probability
Index Numbers
Probability Distributions

Assessment

Paper 1: 1h 30m, 50%
Paper 2: 1h 30m, 50%
Calculators allowed for both papers

Why should I study this subject?

Statistics is a subject which you can relate to easily with an abundance of real-life examples in an ever-changing world. With the opportunity to develop transferable skills, through an appreciation of the statistical enquiry cycle, you gain knowledge in analysing data and appreciating a variety of ways of representing data to suit the end user.

The course will complement your knowledge of GCSE Mathematics and encourage an inquisitive mind to develop curiosity.

“It’s like the arts and crafts of maths plus complements subjects such as geography, business, economics”



Where this course can lead

Statistics is a valuable GCSE qualification; it can be a secure base to explore Statistics at A Level. The opportunities are limitless beyond A Level, with many universities encouraging Statistics A Level across a variety of courses with career opportunities in, for example, accountancy, marketing, product data analysis to name a few, solving problems for example:-

The Coca-Cola Co. and product consistency. “Many people think the world’s best kept secret may just be the formula for Coke, but it’s not, it’s the formula for orange juice.” Coke engineers identified more than 600 (!) possible flavours of oranges and then built a proprietary algorithm to ensure consistent taste and texture from one batch of orange juice to the next. The orange juice data profiles shield its Minute Maid and Simply Orange brands from unknowns such as orange crop availability or taste variance from one orange to the next. This encouraged businesses to identify places where consistency in the face of external elements is necessary, such as the supply chain.

“

Digital and Commerce

“Economics helps you learn about what’s happening in the world and see these events in a different light”

“I chose Computer Science because I think it can be really useful in the future. As the world is advancing programming skills become more and more relevant and I think GCSE Computer Science can help me develop these skills. I really enjoy component 2 in computer science the practical programming aspect. I think its really cool how we are able to create, test and use our own programs for things in the real world.”

“I really enjoy the work and our teachers are very supportive and help us understand exactly what we need to do in our work.”

”

BUSINESS

GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1BS0

Topics covered

Theme 1:

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Spotting a Business Opportunity

Putting a Business Idea into Practice

Making the Business Effective

Understanding External Influence

Theme 2:

Growing the Business

Making Marketing Decisions

Making Operational Business

Making Financial Decisions

Making Human Resource Decision

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins, 90 marks. 50%

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins, 90 marks. 50%

Why should I study this subject?

If you see yourself on Dragon's Den and believe you have the 'next best thing' then this course will teach you step by step all you need to know about business structure, the law and decision making. Business GCSE helps students to develop an understanding of organisations, how they market their products and generate profit.

This involves looking at how businesses are managed, how decisions are made and how businesses react to different circumstances. This course provides a great grounding for the A Level Business course and any related courses at university. It also supports a wide range of other courses, from art to science, which increasingly have elements of business management.

In the modern world every career choice requires some understanding of business and the global business environment.

"Business is an exciting subject, which has taught me about the economy and how money is made and lost in business, whilst also teaching me about the moral and ethical side of business. Looking forward to seeing what comes next!"

Where this course can lead

This GCSE is well respected and will give you access onto any KS5 programme. It gives students an essential understanding of how the world of commerce functions and can inspire young entrepreneurs or politicians to make future plans.

A GCSE in Business Studies can open many doors to the business and finance world. The course offers a huge insight into all areas of business and provides a strong but not essential platform to A Level Business and Economics. If you decide to progress to university then it can help you enter any business and international business-related degree at some of the best business schools in the world. It is an exciting course that will provide students with so much more than just a GCSE but knowledge on how the world works and help set you apart from other students when it comes to university applications and applying for jobs.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE - OCR J277

Topics covered

Understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to interpret, amend and create algorithms

Understanding of binary representation, data presentation, data storage and compression, encryption and databases; ability to use SQL to insert, amend and extract data stored in a structured database

Understanding of components of computer systems; ability to construct truth tables, produce logic statements and read and interpret fragments of assembly code•

Understanding of computer networks, the internet and the World Wide Web; ability to use HTML and CSS to construct web pages

Awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues

Practical Programming Task This is a practical 'making task' that enables students to demonstrate their computational techniques using a programming language (Python). Students will:

- deconstruct problems into sub-problems
- create original algorithms or work with algorithms produced by others
- design, write, test, and evaluate programs

Assessment

Principles of Computer Science -1 hour 30 minute written examination (50%) at the end of Year 11.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming - 1 hour 30 minute written examination (50%) at the end of Year 11.

Practical Programming Task -A controlled assessment that will take place over 15 hours in Year 11 and will consist of three tasks.

Why should I study this subject?

Students have grown up in a world where technology is evolving rapidly, creating new subject areas to explore and changing the way people work in every area, from medicine and fashion to engineering. So whatever a student's career plans, it is vital for them to develop their grasp of these ideas and concepts that will shape their world. The course explores the principles of digital technology and a way of working that is called 'computational thinking', with coding as a core of the course. It will make students think, stretch them and test their powers of logic. This course will be best suited for students working at a high level in Mathematics at Key Stage 3 but speak to the Computing/ICT department for more information.

"I chose computer science because I think it can be really useful in the future. As the world is advancing programming skills become more and more relevant and I think GCSE Computer Science can help me develop these skills. I really enjoy component 2 in computer science the practical programming aspect. I think its really cool how we are able to create, test and use our own programs for things in the real world."



Where this course can lead

Computational thinking is a useful component of many A Level courses and students will find the skills developed during computing lessons will be invaluable. Some students will develop their programming skills as a hobby such as writing computer games which can translate into a career later on. Other students may want to take the course further and go onto the A Level Computing course to extend their knowledge of computing and their programming skills, again possibly leading to a career in computing.

ECONOMICS

GCSE - OCR J205

Topics covered

Unit 1: Introduction to Economics

This unit covers issues that directly affect consumers and workers

The main economic groups and factors of production

The basic economic problem

How markets work, including demand, supply and price determination

How firms operate in markets, including competition,

Production, wages and Labour markets

Financial markets

Unit 2: National and International Economics

This unit looks at economics in terms of the national and international economy

Key economic objectives – economic growth, inflation and unemployment

Government revenue and expenditure, including taxation

Government policies – fiscal, monetary and supply side

Importance of international trade & globalisation

International competitiveness including exchange rates

Assessment

Unit 1: hour 30 minutes - 80 marks, 50% of the GCSE

Unit 2: 1 hour 30 minutes - 80 marks, 50% of the GCSE

Why should I study this subject?

Economics is a subject that is about people – what they spend, how they live and what affects their lives. It covers the local area, country and the world. It is about the things that affect people now and in the future.

GCSE Economics will enable students to understand

how markets operate and the role of consumers, producers or workers within markets. They will learn how the economy works nationally and globally and how governments reach their different objectives.

A wide range of skills will be developed on the course such as being able to apply economic knowledge and skills to investigate current and historical economic situation and issues in a variety of different areas.

“Economics enables you to understand the world around you.”

“Economics is really dynamic, it helps prepare you for the real world”

“Economics helps you learn about what’s happening in the world and see these events in a different light”

“Economics helps develop the way you think about the world”

Where this course can lead

Economics is a highly respected and valued course by universities and employers, it is considered to be one of the ‘facilitating’ courses at A Level favoured by STEM courses and the Russell Group of universities.

Careers in Economics are amongst the most rewarding with Economics graduates regularly being in the top 5 for post-graduate earnings by subject.

Careers in Economics include: Economist, Banking, Insurer, Business and Financial Consultancy, Pricing Analyst, Social Relations, Public Sector, Accountancy, Public Relations, Journalist, Financial Consultant, Stockbroker, Taxation, Actuarial and Data Analyst.

ENTERPRISE & MARKETING

OCR LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL

Topics covered

Unit R067: Enterprise and Marketing Concepts. This is assessed by an exam. In this unit, you will learn about the key factors to consider and activities that need to happen to operate a successful small start-up business.

Topics include:

- Characteristics, risk and reward for enterprise
- Market research to target a specific customer
- What makes a product financially viable
- Creating a marketing mix to support a product
- Factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise.

Unit R068: Design a Business Proposal

This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit, you will identify a customer profile for a specific product, complete market research to generate product design ideas, and use financial calculations to propose a pricing strategy and determine the viability of their product proposal.

Topics include:

- Market research
- How to identify a customer profile
- Develop a product proposal for a business brief
- Review whether a business proposal is financially viable
- Review the likely success of the business proposal.

Unit R069: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal.

This is assessed by a set assignment. In this unit, you will develop pitching skills to be able to pitch your business proposal to an external audience. Finally, you will review your pitching skills and business proposal using self-assessment and feedback gathered.

Topics include:

- Develop a brand identity to target a specific customer profile
- Create a promotional campaign for a brand and product
- Plan and pitch a proposal
- Review a brand proposal, promotional campaign and professional pitch.

Assessment

Unit R067: Enterprise and Marketing Concepts is assessed by an external exam

Units R068: Design a Business Proposal and R069: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal are both centre assessed coursework assignments.

The three units are graded at Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification will help students to develop:

- entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, which are key to the business and enterprise sector, sole trader skills and knowledge in areas such as e-marketing, creativity, pitching and cost modelling.
- a full range of transferable skills including Verbal Communication/Presentation, Research, Problem Solving, Analytical Skills, Digital Presentation Planning and Creative Thinking.

“I really enjoy the work and our teachers are very supportive and help us understand exactly what we need to do in our work.”



Where this course can lead

OCR Level 2 Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing provides a broad introduction to the sector and enables students to acquire, develop and apply the skills and knowledge required for further academic and/or vocational study.

E-SPORTS

PEARSON BTEC LEVEL 2 AWARD

Topics covered

(year 1 and 2)

Unit 1: E-sports Games, Teams and Tournaments

Unit 2: Establishing an Esports Organisation

Assessment

Paper 1: 2h 15m, 50%

Paper 2: 2h 15m, 50%

Why should I study this subject?

Esports involves organised competitive video gaming, with players competing head-to-head or in teams, and is one of fastest-growing global industries with more than 30 million viewers worldwide and thousands of players. This qualification will give students a greater understanding of this exciting industry as they learn about genres, teams and tournaments. It is a practical course which will also improve students' research, analysis and communication, and build their business skills of customer engagement, branding and promotion.

"I chose Esports because I saw the school had invested in good equipment to help us achieve highly. I like learning about parts of Esports that I didn't know much about beforehand, and learning more about the parts that interest me. I want to move into the Esports industry and this course is really helping getting me prepared to do that."

"I like the different parts of the course and being involved in really modern things - we learn about the different genres of games but also the way that teams are run,

how different organisations are run, and learning about how much there is to the industry is really interesting."



Where this course can lead

Learners taking this qualification may also want to progress to further study such as Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Esports, Information Technology, Creative Media, Sport, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship or Business. The qualification is endorsed by The British Esports Association as being suitable for learners wanting to work in this industry. This means that it will be recognised by employers in a range of roles. Successful completion of this qualification could also lead to being fully prepared to progress to an apprenticeship in the related sector, for example, in events, digital marketing or creative media.

““

People and Places

“I like it because it is more engaging than other subjects as there is always something to think about”

‘Psychology is the most useful subject I take due to its applications in real life. The subject is filled with riveting experiments and I find myself thinking about research questions and variations of these studies in my free time.

As an international student, this subject helps me understand western cultural values as well as my own culture’

“Learning French is considered hard by many people, by knowing it, you can set yourself apart from many monolingual people whether it’s for work or university. I like learning the grammar, I personally find it fun to conjugate verbs.”

””

CAMBRIDGE B2 FIRST ESOL - CAMBRIDGE

Topics covered

Health, Media, Relationships, Global Issues, Entertainment, Identity, The Arts, Science and Technology

Assessment

Paper 1 Reading 1 hr

Paper 2 Writing- 1hr

Paper 3 Use of English-45 mins

Paper 4 Speaking – 40 mins

Paper 5 Speaking – 14 Mins

Why should I study this subject?

Cambridge B2 First is a very thorough and enjoyable course which tests all language skills -reading, listening, writing, grammar and speaking. The course is designed for students with English as a second language who are aiming to improve their English skills and competence. It helps to build a wide vocabulary and develops knowledge of verbs, idioms and grammatical structures. By the end of the course students will be able to express ideas fluently and clearly using every day English as well as more academic language on a variety of themes. Overall the course will support students in their language development to help them thrive in English speaking countries in a wide variety of situations.



Where this course can lead

One of the best things about the the Cambridge qualification is that the certificate is valid forever, unlike IELTS which is only valid for two years. This makes it the best choice for a students' CV. When applying for a job, it's very useful to have this certificate to show competence in English in a working environment.

FRENCH

GCSE - AQA 8658

Topics covered

Over the 2-year course through 8 Modules:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Assessment

Paper 1 Listening: 35min Foundation, 45min Higher, 25%

Paper 2 Speaking: 7-9min Foundation, 10-12min Higher, 25%

Paper 3 Reading: 45min Foundation, 1hr Higher, 25%

Paper 4 Writing: 1hr Foundation, 1h15 Higher, 25%

Why should I study this subject?

Many exchange opportunities! It is easy for students to make contact with French speakers of their own age, as pen pals or via the Internet. There are many different exchange programmes in France that offer rewarding experiences. Thousands of French schools are twinned with counterparts around the world, creating links with the world's largest educational network.

A creative language! French is often heard on the stage. Teachers like to put on plays in French and involve their students in French-language theatre festivals. Learning French helps children to express themselves and gain self-confidence in front of others. Students also learn French through songs, thanks to the vast repertoire of singers past and present.

A language of reasoning and debate! French is an analytical language that structures thought and develops

critical thinking. It is the language of great philosophers (Descartes, Sartre and Derrida, among others) and eminent scientists (Pierre and Marie Curie, Pasteur, Georges Charpak, etc.). In learning French, children also learn how to argue a case and present different points of view, valuable skills for discussions and negotiations.

"I think that French should be studied as it provides you with a view into another culture as well as developing a new appreciation for another language."

"Learning French is considered hard by many people, by knowing it, you can set yourself apart from many monolingual people whether it's for work or university. I like learning the grammar, I personally find it fun to conjugate verbs."

"I enjoy GCSE French because I like how it differentiates itself from other languages, with its tenses, accents and rules of how you speak correctly. It is quite difficult but that is what makes it great because it is very satisfying when you understand it."

"Personally, I enjoy the role plays that take place in the French GCSE course as they provide a sense of immersion as if you are actually given the opportunity to use the language in real life."

Where this course can lead

"Communicating with people in French, this not just means for friends. It could be in a job, where the job is in your ideal country which happens to speak French. The language barrier being removed would make it easier to you desired career."

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1GA0

Topics covered

Paper 1

Topic 1: Hazardous Earth

Topic 2: Development dynamics

Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

Paper 2

Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.

Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a Case Study - Dynamic UK cities.

Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation linked to Topics 4 and 5.

Topic 7: People and the biosphere

Topic 8: Forests under threat

Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

Assessment

Paper 1 – 1 hour and 30 minutes 37.5%

Paper 2 – 1 hour and 30 minutes 37.5%

Paper 3 - 1 hour and 30 minutes 25%

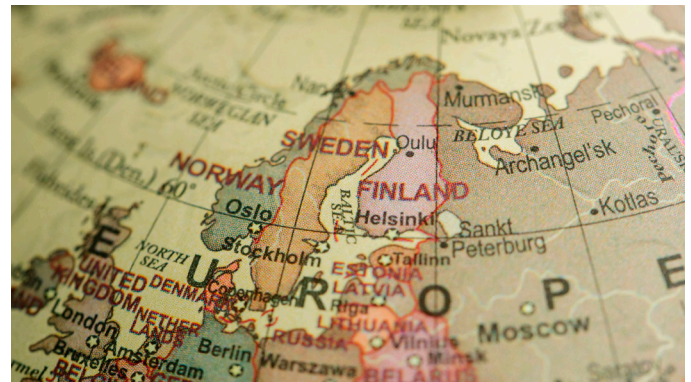
Why should I study this subject?

The course will give students the chance to address the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change it.

“I enjoyed studying GCSE Geography because the curriculum was varied and interesting covering local, national and international Geography. I also found it useful that there were many links to my other subjects.”

Geography is a good subject because it has allowed me to have a new perspective of the world while understanding how the world works.

I chose Geography as in my home country I saw people living very different lives and I wanted to learn why this was and compare this to other places in the world.”



Where this course can lead

Geography develops many skills of English and maths but a variety of transferrable life skills including critical thinking, problem solving, leadership and an understanding of global events and different viewpoints.

GERMAN

GCSE - AQA 8668

Topics covered

Over the 2-year course through 8 Modules:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Assessment

Paper 1 Listening: 35min Foundation, 45min Higher, 25%

Paper 2 Speaking: 7-9min Foundation, 10-12min Higher, 25%

Paper 3 Reading: 45min Foundation, 1hr Higher, 25%

Paper 4 Writing: 1hr Foundation, 1h15 Higher, 25%

Why should I study this subject?

Knowledge of German increases your job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad. Proficiency in German helps you to function productively for an employer with global business connections. German is also the 2nd most important language in the world of science and engineering and is the language of music and philosophy.

Man lebt ein neues Leben für jede neue Sprache, die man spricht. Wenn Sie nur eine Sprache kennen, lebt man nur einmal.

You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once. (Anon)

"I chose German because I realise how many doors learning a foreign language opens up for me for the future"



Where this course can lead

Business, science, mechanical and chemical engineering, research and development. Not to mention international banking and law and obviously translation services.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

IGCSE - CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS 0457

Topics covered

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives provides opportunities for enquiry into, and reflection on, key global issues from different perspectives: personal, local/national and global. This course explores topics that have global significance and emphasises the development and application of skills rather than the acquisition of knowledge.

Skills learnt include

- collaboration with others from another culture, community or country
- ability to assess information critically and explore lines of reasoning
- independent learning and thinking

Knowledge of content is not assessed but topics studied are chosen from:

Component 1 Written Examination

- Demographic change
- Education for all
- Employment
- Fuel and energy
- Globalisation
- Law and criminality
- Migration
- Transport systems

Component 2 Individual Report

- Belief systems
- Biodiversity and ecosystem loss

- Changing communities
- Digital world
- Family
- Humans and other species
- Sustainable living
- Trade and aid

Component 3 Team Project

- Conflict and peace
- Disease and health
- Human rights
- Language and communication
- Poverty and inequality
- Sport and recreation
- Tradition, culture and identity
- Water, food and agriculture

Assessment

Component 1: Written Examination, 1h 15m, 35%

Component 2: Individual Report, 30%

Component 3: Team Project, 35%

Why should I study this subject?

This course focuses on building skills rather than acquiring knowledge. By studying this subject you will learn about a range of global issues and gain a real sense of your own place in the world as it undergoes huge challenges. It will equip you to be a valuable world citizen in the future and allow you to develop skills in researching, communicating and collaborating with others – all essential for future success!

“There are so many issues affecting the world today that it is our duty to not only learn about them, but to consider how we can help. This course will help you understand these problems but also give you the skills to be part of the solution”.

Mr Oldershaw, Academic Director and Geographer



Where this course can lead

By building the skills that all employers say they are looking for, you will be well equipped for not only future sixth form study in a range of subjects but also well prepared for when you enter employment.

HISTORY

GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1H10

Topics covered

Paper 1

Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18

Paper 2

Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509-40 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Paper 3

The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad

Assessment

Paper 1 1h15 30%

Paper 2 1h45 40%

Paper 3 1h 20 30%

Why should I study this subject?

This course provides a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world. It will help students to develop the important skills of extended writing and critical thinking. Through evaluating sources of evidence about the past, students learn to identify what is reliable and what is questionable in provenance, written to persuade or mislead. These skills and all those learnt on the history course are extremely valuable for future employment and success.

"I enjoy learning about what happened in the past and it's interesting to learn how people dealt with events as well as learning more and different stories about the past."

Anastasiia "What I enjoyed about the History GCSE course was studying the Cold War as it felt like watching a really cool movie. It was fascinating. It was important to make timelines and mind maps too."

"It's cool to know about how History still relates to us today."

"I think I have benefitted from taking History as it has helped me learn to write at a faster pace and improved my English writing skills."

"I like it because it is more engaging than other subjects as there is always something to think about"

"I like History because it gives me a good perspective on things"

Where this course can lead

GCSE History provides the contextual knowledge and experience of depth studies, thematic overviews and source work to successful study A Level History.

PSYCHOLOGY

GCSE - AQA 8182

Topics covered

Cognition and behaviour
memory, perception, development and research methods
Social context and behaviour
Social influence, brain and neuropsychology,
psychological problems and language, thought and communication.

Assessment

Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes) – 50% of GCSE qualification
Paper 2 (1 hour 45 minutes) – 50% of GCSE qualification

Why should I study this subject?

GCSE Psychology introduces students to the fundamentals of the subject and covers a wide range of interesting topics. Students will investigate the ways in which different biological, cognitive and social factors contribute to shape human behaviour. Psychologists want to explain why people behave the way they do and this course offers an introduction that teaches students to go beyond common sense and opinion, to form reasoned arguments based on credible scientific evidence. Students will develop an understanding of psychological theories relating to a range of everyday experiences and with their study of research methods, will be able to critically appraise the evidence supporting those theories. Studying GCSE Psychology helps students develop their skills of problem solving, application, critical thinking, data handling and evaluation.

'Psychology is much more than reading people's minds, it provides an interesting angle to look at everything in life. GCSE Psychology can help you develop critical academic skills such as application and evaluation'

'Psychology is the most useful subject I take due to its applications in real life. The subject is filled with riveting experiments and I find myself thinking about research questions and variations of these studies in my free time. As an international student, this subject helps me understand western cultural values as well as my own culture'



Where this course can lead

This course is a great grounding for the A Level Psychology course and any related course at university. It also supports progression to a wide range of other subjects from the sciences, social sciences and arts. A good knowledge of psychological concepts will be invaluable in any possible future career, plus the skills of investigation, research and debating will help build valuable skills for their future lives.

SPANISH

GCSE - AQA 8698

Topics covered

Over the 2-year course through 8 Modules:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Assessment

Paper 1 Listening: 35min Foundation, 45min Higher, 25%

Paper 2 Speaking: 7-9min Foundation, 10-12min Higher, 25%

Paper 3 Reading: 45min Foundation, 1hr Higher, 25%

Paper 4 Writing: 1hr Foundation, 1h15 Higher, 25%

Why should I study this subject? “

Speaking a foreign language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike. In addition to this, learning a foreign language has many other proven benefits; it enhances your problem-solving skills, boosts your creative thinking, and improves your memory – to name but a few.

Choosing to study GCSE Spanish has the added benefit of opening the door to communication with 400 million native speakers across the world, which is ideal whether you're preparing for further study, your next travel venture, or looking to boost your international job prospects.”

‘I chose Spanish because it is a useful subject, it's really fun and it's different to most of my lessons.’

‘I decided to study Spanish this year because I believe that it allows you to not only learn a new language, but to learn about the cultures too. I also find it very interesting and it helps a lot with boosting confidence.’ ‘I chose Spanish because it has helped me explore different cultures and I find that learning Spanish makes me more confident to speak to more people. I also chose Spanish because as I go through QE it will help me apply to Universities and jobs in the future giving me more option in the future.’

‘I chose to study Spanish as I enjoyed learning something new each lesson and broadening my knowledge of the different cultures there are around the world. Learning to speak a new language is very fascinating, making me want to continue further and it has also helped encourage me to try more new things.’

‘I chose Spanish as a fun and interesting way to take a break from more academic subjects, taking on the language is rewarding and special, especially when learning with friends.’

Where this course can lead

Being able to speak, write and understand Spanish is an important skill for many workplaces, especially as businesses expand internationally. Getting a degree in Spanish can make you eligible for job opportunities in government, social services, education, business and international relations among many other exciting fields.

“

“Drama at QE is amazing. There is so much support from all the teachers, they give you time and space to grow and develop in what you want to do. The facilities are outstanding and made my time at QE so much more magical. I took part in the plays and musicals each year and was able to see my skills and abilities grow. The drama team at QE is made up of industry professionals who were able to give me advice on how to audition for drama school and help me with my audition speeches. Performing and learning about drama at QE is something I will never forget.

“Good guidance from your teachers and challenging lessons means you can push yourself further. It also helped with my time management skills ensuring I always had time for my art projects”

Creative and Physical

“Photography GCSE enables me to establish a love for media and photography, the course allowed me the freedom to develop my own ideas and work”

”

3D DESIGN

GCSE - AQA 8205

Topics covered

Topics will include work in - architectural design, sculpture, ceramics, product design, jewellery and body adornment, interior design, environmental/landscape/ garden design, exhibition design, 3D digital design, designs for theatre, film and television.

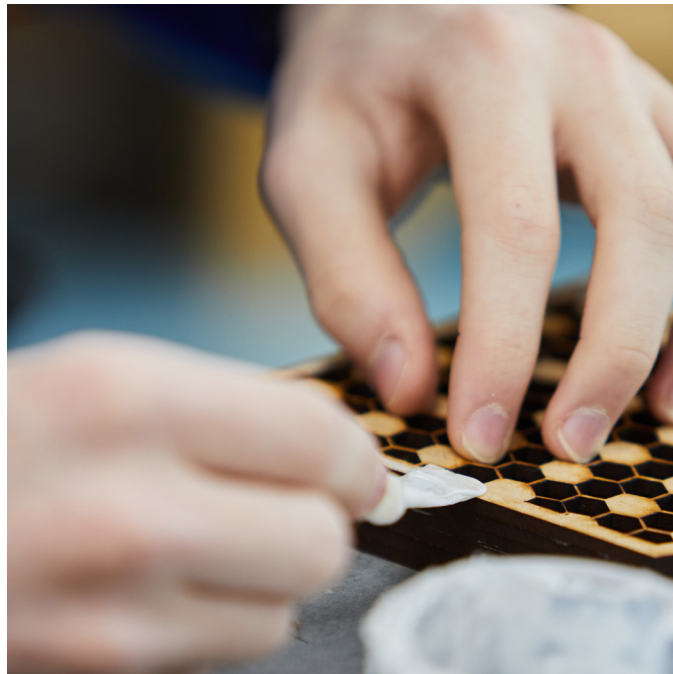
Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio 60% Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% - completed as coursework and in 10 hours supervised conditions

Why should I study this subject?

3D Design is the creative approach to design and technology, where students can focus on developing their design and production skills in a wide variety of areas, from product design, jewellery, architecture, interior design to sculpture and modelmaking. Students develop ideas and will be able to demonstrate a good analytical and critical understanding through sustained investigation into the use and purpose of ideas, as well as the work of other designers. Experimentation is key to developing both 3D and 2D idea using both traditional and new media, techniques and processes, reviewing work as it develops. Students have access to well-resourced workshops containing both traditional and contemporary machinery from drills and sanders to 3D digital printer and laser cutters. We also have a wide range of industry standard digital design programmes for students to use and develop their ideas.

"I liked the practicality of the subject learning through hands on experience with different materials and developing new techniques. It helped me decide to study the BTEC 540 Diploma and choose architecture to study as a degree."



Where this course can lead

GCSE 3D Art & Design develops creative problem solvers with the ability to develop visual language skills. Combined with building a broad range of artistic skills, students will become confident communicators with the ability to present their ideas in a comprehensive portfolio of work. They can progress towards further study in the Creative Arts such as A Level Fine Art/3D Design/ Photography or a Vocational Level 3 qualification in Art and Design/ Fashion/Photography

ART CRAFT AND DESIGN

GCSE - AQA 8201

Topics covered

Topics will include - drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, lens-/light-based media, photography and the moving image, printmaking, mixed media

Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio 60%

Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% - completed as coursework and in 10 hours supervised conditions

Why should I study this subject?

Highly practical and individualised, the GCSE in Art, Craft and Design is designed to develop and nurture creative and artistic talent. Students will experiment with a wide range of media, materials and processes, exploring both traditional and contemporary techniques, reviewing and refining work as it develops. From fine art painting, printmaking, craft, and illustration, to digital drawing and design, students can find their own passion and direction in our bright, airy and well-resourced art rooms and studios supported by our dedicated team of teachers and technicians. Work is presented in a wide variety of formats from practical pieces and sketchbooks to digital presentations, students produce personal, meaningful and informed responses to a wide variety of ideas, contexts and the work of other artists and designers. Art education in the UK is highly prized due to its creativity and individuality, providing students with a broad range of artistic skills to become creative thinkers with a ability

to develop visual language skills and become confident communicators.

“Good guidance from your teachers and challenging lessons means you can push yourself further. It also helped with my time management skills ensuring I always had time for my art projects”

“GCSE gave me the foundational knowledge to develop my ideas in an independent way study an art based subject in 6th form and follow my arts education.”



Where this course can lead

GCSE Art, Craft & Design develops creative thinkers with the ability to develop visual language skills. Combined with building a broad range of artistic skills, students will become confident communicators with the ability to present their ideas in a comprehensive portfolio of work. They can progress towards further study in the Creative Arts such as A Level Fine Art/3D Design/ Photography or a Vocational Level 3 qualification in Art and Design/ Fashion/Photography.

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

PEARSON BTEC LEVEL 2

Topics covered

Students will study media products such as film, magazines, newspapers, websites and games from both pre-2000 and post-2000 selections. After learning about genre, narrative, and representation, students will have the chance to develop design skills and use Adobe Creative Cloud to create their own magazines, adverts and graphic design products.

Assessment

The three components in the qualification give students the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the media sector, and relevant skills such as research, planning, problem solving and communication at Levels 1 and 2

Why should I study this subject?

BTEC Creative Digital Media Production is for students who want to acquire technical knowledge and skills through vocational contexts. Students can develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment using a our brand new suite of digital media computers. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance-

- creative media production such as developing ideas
- effective ways of working such as responding to briefs

- attitudes to working such as communication skills
- knowledge and skills such as production processes

Many of these skills are transferable to other areas such as photography, 3D design and Computer Science as they provide an opportunity to understand and engage different audiences through making compelling media products.

“KS 4 media introduced me to an entirely new skill set for perceiving multiple aspects of the world within certain industries, everything is done in a certain way which was hand-picked to communicate a message which honestly just made me fall in love with the subject”



Where this course can lead

This course will prepare learners for future study in Key Stage within Creative Arts but will also build skills for success in a range of other subjects. It will also provide a foundation for employment in jobs such as digital marketer, film producer, broadcast journalist, event manager, game designer, media researcher.

DANCE

GCSE - AQA J316

Topics covered

Component 1: Performance and choreography

Component 2: Dance appreciation

Assessment

Component 1: Solo and duet/trio performance (30%),
sole and group choreographed dances (40%)

Component 2: Written exam - 1.5 hours (40%)

Why should I study this subject?

Creative powerful and expressive – GCSE Dance will allow you to develop your passion, talent and interest in dance no matter what your previous experience. A unique combination of dance appreciation, performance and choreography, GCSE Dance is designed to allow you to develop and respond to a wide range of dance styles and fusions. Underpinned by the study of different dance styles choreographed and performed in the UK today, students will develop performance and choreography skills as a soloist and, in a group. You will not only develop your passion for the Arts- but you will also improve your fitness, technical and creative dance skills, challenging and stretching your confidence, as well as, analytical skills, the ability to work in a team and independently. GCSE Dance is offered outside the curriculum for those students who have an interest in this area. Please speak to a member of the Creative Arts Department for more details.

“GCSE Dance really developed my choreography skills as there are so many different aspects to think about, from rhythm to facial expression. I thought it was an interesting subject as there were no wrong answers if you could justify your points.”



Where this course can lead

This course will prepare students to study Dance and Performing Arts at A Level or BTEC Level 3. It will also challenge and stretch their confidence, analytical skills, ability to work in a team and independently, improve their fitness, technical and creative dance skills and develop a passion for the Arts. Students who study GCSE Dance may want to have a career in dance, choreography, fitness or live performance. They may also want to gain a qualification in a subject that they have a passion for and a firm interest in.

DRAMA

GCSE - OCR

Topics covered

Students interested in drama, the theatre and performance will find this course extremely rewarding. Through each of the three units students will learn about:

- Character, Context and Plot
- Structure
- Audience and Defining Performance Space
- Improvisation
- Genre, Performance Style and Convention
- The Semiotics of Drama and Theatre

Assessment

Assessment is over two years and students are assessed through practical performances, workshop presentations and creative, written, working records of their practical work. Assessment is as follows:

- Devising drama - non examination- 30% of final grade
- Presenting and performing texts - non examination - 30% of final grade
- Performance and response - 1 hour 20 minutes examination - 40% of final grade

Why should I study this subject?

This exciting and highly practical course allows students to develop their love for drama, the theatre and performance. This first step on a pathway to a career in the arts can also be highly beneficial to students who would like to develop vital skills for a career a wide range of sectors from business and law to medicine and teaching. The study of drama will develop effective and independent critical thinkers, allowing students to work collaboratively with creativity and imagination. Students

will develop and demonstrate in a range of practical, creative performance and communication skills. They will be reflecting and evaluating their own work and the work of others.

“Drama at QE is amazing. There is so much support from all the teachers, they give you time and space to grow and develop in what you want to do. The facilities are outstanding and made my time at QE so much more magical. I took part in the plays and musicals each year and was able to see my skills and abilities grow. The drama team at QE is made up of industry professionals who were able to give me advice on how to audition for drama school and help me with my audition speeches. Performing and learning about drama at QE is something I will never forget.”

Where this course can lead

This course will prepare students to study Drama and Performing Arts at A Level. It will also challenge and stretch their confidence, analytical skills, ability to work in a team and independently, improve their public speaking skills and develop a passion for the Arts. Students who study GCSE Drama may want to have a career in acting, theatre management, production management or theatre technology. They may also want to improve on skills vital for a career in Business, Medicine, Law, Teaching, Hospitality or in the Arts etc

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

GCSE - AQA 8585

Topics covered

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

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

Assessment

Paper 1. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 100 marks
50% of GCSE

Questions

Multiple choice questions (20 marks)

Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

Non-exam Assessment

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

Why should I study this subject?

This is an exciting opportunity to learn practical cooking skills and to develop an understanding of the relationship between diet, nutrition and health. The knowledge

acquired will provide valuable life skills and possibly lead to further study and interesting career pathways.

In studying food preparation and nutrition, you will learn to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking using a variety of foods, cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Appreciate the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices.
- Show knowledge of food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Where this course can lead

There are a variety of benefits for studying this at GCSE. It will provide you with valuable skills for life and if you want to further your career in hospitality, sport and nutrition, product development and diet related industries.

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

GCSE - AQA 8203

Topics covered

Graphic communication is defined as the process of designing primarily visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief. Graphic communication is an exciting and relevant GCSE to gain skills across the fast paced world of graphic communication – student will study elements of following areas both digitally and using more traditional methods - communication graphics, design for print, advertising and branding, illustration, package design, typography, interactive design (including web, app and game), multi-media, motion graphics, signage, exhibition graphics.

Assessment

Component 1 course work 60%

Component 2 examination project 40% - which contains 10 hours supervised

Why should I study this subject?

Student will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to realise personal intentions relevant to graphic communication learning not only practical techniques and ideas but also developing knowledge and the opportunities available in the graphics industry. The course allows students to grow in confidence in a creative environment enjoying and engaging in research into past and present fashion and textile designers and



looking at iconic designs, styles and movements that inspire the ever-changing world of fashion.

Where this course can lead

GCSE Graphic communication develops creative thinkers with the relevant skills to pursue a career in communication or graphic design. They can progress towards further study in the Creative Arts such as A Level Art and Design/3D Design/ Photography or a BTEC Level 3 qualification in Art and Design Practice or Creative Media Practice.

The creative industries are the one of the fastest growing industries both in the UK and globally. Studying it at GCSE and beyond could lead you to jobs in: advertising, branding, and marketing, digital illustration, editorial, web, games and app design, typography, and packaging design.

MUSIC

GCSE - EDUQAS C660QS

Topics covered

- Performing music is a key element of the course worth 30% of the final grade - including solo and ensemble performances.
- Composing (30%) using music software
- Appraising (40%) - students study set works from popular music, music for film and instrumental music.

Assessment

Performances are recorded within the classroom and internally marked. The two compositions are internally marked. Appraising is assessed via a formal listening/written examination at the end of the course where students will answer questions on the set works as well as from additional pieces.

Why should I study this subject?

Music GCSE offers all students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of and develop in a wide range of musical styles, tastes and genres, independent of their musical experience and ability. Students will actively engage in the process of music study developing individual and group performance skills, creatively through the study of the key elements of performance, composition, appraisal. Students will develop an awareness of a verity of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing using music technologies in the creation and presentation of their music.



Where this course can lead

GCSE Music is a great foundation to progress on to BTEC or A Level Music. The course helps to develop strong performing, listening and composing skills. The skills learnt are also transferrable to other subjects and careers, such as developing confidence in public performance, teamwork, time-management, research and analysis.

MUSIC

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Topics covered

The Tech Award gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The focus is on 4 main areas:

- development of music skills
- effective ways of working such as rehearsals
- attitudes towards music
- musical knowledge

Assessment

Students will be assessed practically through a range of performances, workshops, discussions, activities and an external examination. Much of their work will be proactive. Active critical evaluation and the ability to work independently are vital in order to develop and extend students' learning.

- There are 3 components
Exploring Music Products and Styles
- Music Skills Development both internally assessed.
competent
- Responding to a Music Brief Externally assessed
synoptic unit.

Why should I study this subject?

This hands-on practical course gives students an insight into what it's like to work in the vibrant, exciting and competitive music industry. Whether this is in performing,

composing or producing music the BTEC allows students to develop and try out new skills, techniques and styles, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career. You will explore a variety of musical styles and the musical theory and techniques that underpin them and develop technical and practical skills, so this is open to all abilities. In addition, students will develop transferable and employability skills such as responding to a brief, self-development, planning, time management and communication. As a creative subject with a focus on music practice, there is no written exam. All components, including the externally assessed component, are assessed through engaging, open, and flexible set tasks, designed to give students as much freedom as possible in how they respond, allowing them to work to their own strengths and interests.



Where this course can lead

Students might consider progression to: Music A Level studies or a Pearson BTEC Level 3 qualification in Music. These prepare students to enter employment within the music industry or to take on apprenticeships, as well as leading to a degree in music at university.

PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE - AQA 8206

Topics covered

Topics will include portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, moving image: film, video and animation, fashion photography.

Assessment

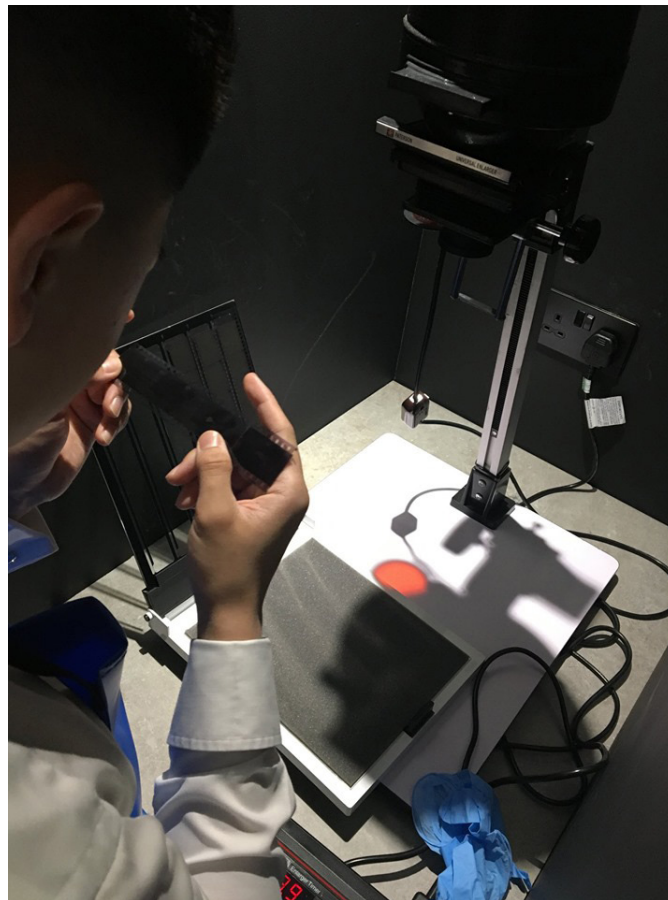
Component 1: Portfolio 60%

Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% - completed as coursework and in 10 hours supervised conditions

Why should I study this subject?

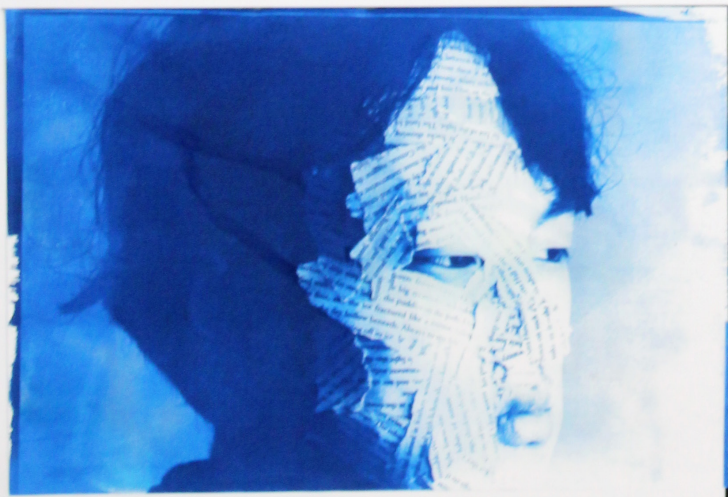
Photography covers a broad area of work and ideas from fine art photography to commercial, landscape, street photography and portraiture. Using a creative approach that goes beyond the classroom, students observe and record ideas that are then selected and manipulated using a wide range of techniques and processes to make the most of modern and traditional methods- also including film, video and installation. We have a studio photography space, a brand-new suite of bespoke computers to develop digital techniques as well as a dark room to explore traditional methods. Students who do well on the photography GCSE go on to develop a passion for developing their visual recording of ideas both in photography and Creative Media.

“Photography GCSE enable me to establish a love for media and photography, the course allowed me the freedom to develop my own ideas and work”



Where this course can lead

Photography GCSE is an excellent course for starting out on your creative journey, it can lead directly into A-level photography or BTEC Creative Media courses. It could be the start point for study at university or in a career as a photographer in exciting areas such as fashion, portraiture, photojournalism, forensics or the military. GCSE Photography is also a great subject to choose as part of a wider study programme alongside subjects such as science, business, or humanities.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1PE0

Topics covered

Fitness and Body Systems (Paper 1)

Anatomy and physiology

Movement analysis

Physical training

Use of data

Health and performance (paper 2)

Health, fitness and wellbeing

Sport psychology

Socio-cultural studies

Personal exercise programme

Practical sports performance

Assessment

Paper 1 – 1h45m 36%

Paper 2 – 1h15m 24%

Personal exercise programme – coursework 10%

Practical sports performance – 3 sports – 30%

Why should I study this subject?

This course is ideal for those who play sport to a good level due to the practical element. Students will also learn a great deal of scientific content about how the body works, methods of training or sports psychology which can help their own performance but also prepare them for further study or work. The course will teach you how science underpins sport, and they will grow to become really interested in how we can use science to make performance better. Students will be able to choose

either an A-Level or BTEC pathway depending on their preferences at the end of year 11.



Where this course can lead

Students will usually go on to further study in the field of Physical Education at Level 3, but then progress to the many courses within Sport, such as in Sport Science or in Sports Management.



SPORT

PEARSON BTEC L1/L2 TECH AWARD

Topics covered

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

Assessment

Supervised assessment

Component 1 – 5 hours - 60 marks

Component 2 - 4 hours – 60 marks

External exam

Component 3 – 1h30m – 60 marks

Why should I study this subject?

This course is ideal for learners who have a keen interest in sport and would like to acquire knowledge and skills in a vocational context.

This course will have a number of practical opportunities including planning and delivering sessions, analysis of performance and sports leadership.

It will enable learners to develop skills such as communication, planning, teamwork, and time management.

This course is assessed on an ongoing basis. It may be suitable for those who prefer doing tasks more than exam papers or those who don't not feel like they would want to be assessed practically in 3 sports (as happens on GCSE)

I chose this course due to the differences in its set up

compared to GCSE PE. I preferred that assessments were taken throughout the course rather than waiting right until the end of the 2 years. I also liked the fact that even though you do practical, there was not so much assessment in the role of a player. On this course I can plan and deliver coaching sessions, lead circuits or analyse performance which I feel are good ways to develop skills and qualities needed to work in actual jobs in sport. I am really enjoying the practical element during lessons and that we often learn through doing tasks rather than it always being classroom-based learning.



Where this course can lead

Learners may go onto study a BTEC or A Level in Key Stage 5 within Sport with a view to a career within the industry.

COURSE AVAILABILITY

Not all courses are available in both schools. Please see the table below which indicates which courses can be studied in either the College (C) or Faculty (F).

CORE SUBJECTS	C	F
ENGLISH IGCSE	●	●
LITERATURE IN ENGLISH IGCSE	●	●
ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE IGCSE	●	●
MATHEMATICS GCSE	●	●
DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE IGCSE	●	●
SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE IGCSE	●	●
BIOLOGY IGCSE	●	●
CHEMISTRY IGCSE	●	●
PHYSICS IGCSE	●	●
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE	C	F
FURTHER MATHEMATICS L2 CERTIFICATE	●	
STATISTICS GCSE	●	●
DIGITAL AND COMMERCE	C	F
BUSINESS GCSE	●	●
COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE	●	●
ECONOMICS GCSE	●	
ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE		●
ESPORTS BTEC AWARD		●

PEOPLE AND PLACES	C	F
CAMBRIDGE B2 FIRST		●
FRENCH GCSE	●	●
GEOGRAPHY GCSE	●	●
GERMAN GCSE	●	●
GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES IGCSE	●	
HISTORY GCSE	●	●
PSYCHOLOGY GCSE	●	●
SPANISH GCSE	●	●
CREATIVE AND PHYSICAL	C	F
3D DESIGN GCSE	●	●
ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN GCSE	●	●
CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION BTEC		●
DANCE GCSE		●
DRAMA GCSE	●	●
FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION GCSE		●
GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION GCSE		●
MUSIC GCSE	●	
MUSIC BTEC TECH AWARD		●
PHOTOGRAPHY GCSE	●	●
PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE		●
SPORT BTEC TECH AWARD		●



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FURTHER MATHEMATICS

L2 CERTIFICATE - AQA 8365

Topics covered

- Number
- Algebra
- Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)
- Calculus
- Matrix Transformations
- Geometry

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50%, Calculator

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes, 50%, Calculator

Why should I study this subject?

This qualification fills the gap for high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at Level 3. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to the GCSE Mathematics, rather than as a replacement. The content assumes prior knowledge of the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study and covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.



Where this course can lead

AQA's Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths goes beyond the GCSE curriculum to challenge and engage the highest attaining students. It deepens students' understanding of algebra, geometry and number and extends their knowledge to new topics including calculus and matrices. It boosts students' GCSE attainment, prepares them for A-level, and gives them the opportunity to reach their full potential.