



*Maria Fidelis*

CATHOLIC SCHOOL FCJ

Year 8 options  
booklet

2019

# MAKING THE CHOICE

We understand that choosing your GCSE options is an important time for you. As such, the information provided in this booklet aims to give you some of the key information you need to make your decisions. You are of course always welcome to discuss your options with our staff.

## 1. GET INFORMED

- Read the information in the booklet to understand what you will learn as part of the course at GCSE.
- Assemblies will also be used to give you relevant information so do make sure you check what you may have missed if you are absent.
- Speak to your teachers, parents or family members for advice.
- Other sources of good information include older students in the sixth form or Year 11.

## 2. ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

- Find out how much time and commitment is needed to take particular subjects.
- Check what level you need to be working at to access the course.
- Consider what you could be doing to prepare now for success at GCSE.

## 3. SELECT YOUR OPTIONS

- Use the 'Option Choices' form to fill in your final choices, making sure that you choose a back-up option.
- Do not pick options based on your friends' choices or your current teacher.
- Make sure that the options you choose include units that are of interest to you and that you will be happy studying for three years.

# **GCSE Art and Design**

## **AQA (8201)**

**OPTIONAL**

### **WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU**

- GCSE Art and Design encourages a hugely creative and dynamic approach to the vibrant world of art and design. Offering students exciting and stimulating opportunities to develop and explore their personal interests in art and design.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to develop their ability to actively engage in the processes of Art and Design; to build their creative skills through actively learning and doing, in order to develop, challenge and motivate imaginative and intuitive ways of working.
- Successful students will demonstrate a clear understanding of past and contemporary art and design. Developing their knowledge and practice of multimedia, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.
- The unendorsed course now offers the opportunity to produce artwork that embraces a range of media and techniques, in 2D and 3D, specialising in art, craft and design, fine art, graphic communication, textile design, 3D design and photography.
- Throughout the course, pupils will make use of the many museums and galleries London has to offer and will participate in organised trips to galleries such as the Tate Modern, Tate Britain, The Saatchi and The Royal Academy of Art to conduct research, critical studies and participate in workshops.

### **ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES**

- Component 1: Personal Portfolio of Work: Controlled Assessment, 60%.
- Component 2: Externally Set Assignment: preparation and 10-hour practical exam (unaided work), 40%.

### **FUTURE PATHWAYS**

- The UK's creative industries are worth a record £84.1 billion to the UK economy, and rising every year.
- Employment in the creative industries is increasing at more than twice the rate of the wider UK economy, in July 2015 providing 1.8 million jobs.
- The GCSE in Art and Design is a strong foundation for further progression to Art and Design A-Level, a broad range of University degrees and enhanced vocational and career pathways.
- Studying Art and Design can lead to a wide range of careers in the creative industries such as Architecture, Advertising, Fashion and Textiles, Graphic Communications, Digital Media, Animation, Design- Web design, Games design, Video design, Costume design, Theatre, Film and Television design, Product design, Automotive design, Interior design, Landscape design, Painting, Sculpture, Printmaking, Publishing (print and digital), the Media, Illustration, Special Effects and CGI, Make Up and Prosthetics, Stylist, Art Historian/ Academic, Arts Administration, Photography, Merchandising, Display, Events Management, the Art and Antiques market, Galleries and Museums, Education and many more.

# GCSE Business

## AQA (8132)

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- You will apply your knowledge and understanding to different business situations ranging from small enterprises to large multinational businesses operating in local, national and global contexts.
- You will develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity:**  
**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes worth 90 marks (50% of GCSE)**  
This first unit studied in Year 10 focuses on the functional areas of business operations and human resource management (HRM). You will look at the different types of business ownerships together with the risks and rewards of each and why planning and setting aims and objectives are important. There is also a focus on why good customer service, legislation and technology help a business remain competitive in the global market. Businesses must also consider the ethical and environmental impact of all their business processes and the stakeholders they must engage with to succeed.
- **Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity:**  
**Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes worth 90 marks (50% of GCSE)**  
The second unit studied in Year 11 focuses on the interdependent nature of the functional areas: marketing and finance. You will look at the purpose of marketing and its role within business and the importance of market research as well as the elements of the marketing mix. Using financial terms and calculations, you will look at cash flow forecasts and break-even analysis to assess the financial performance of a business.
- **Exam Structure:**
  - **Section A** on both Paper 1 and Paper 2 consist of a mixture of multiple choice questions and short answer questions worth 20 marks.
  - **Section B** on both Paper 1 and Paper 2 have one case study/ data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks.
  - **Section C** on both Paper 1 and Paper 2 have one case study/ data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 36 marks.

This qualification is linear. This means all pupils will sit Paper 1 and Paper 2 at the end of year 11.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Pupils could go on to study the A-Level Business (Level 3) course at sixth form or college.
- Business Education supports careers in Finance, Human Resources, Languages, Law, Marketing, Sales and Management.

# GCSE Computer Science

## OCR (J275)

OPTIONAL

Subject	Syllabus Title	Syllabus Number	Examination Board
Computer Science	Computing	J275	OCR

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

The fun of computing! This course will stimulate interest and engagement with technology and technology-related careers. Looking to the future, information technologies continue to have a growing importance, with a huge demand from employers for people with a computer science skillset. If students want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone.

**This course will help students develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills, including:**

- Creative and technical skills to apply knowledge and understanding of new technology in a range of contexts
- Problem solving through the use of algorithms in computer programs
- How to be an independent and discerning user of ICT
- Collaborative working
- Evaluating the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Computer systems and programming – Written Exams – 80%
- Programming project – Coursework – 20%

<b>Written examinations Unit A451</b>	<b>Component 01 – Computer Systems</b> 40% of the total GCSE 1 hour 30 mins Written Paper (80 marks)
<b>Practical Work Programming Unit A452</b>	30% Controlled assessment Approx 20 hours (45 marks) Practical investigative task. OCR set scenario with choice of research tasks.
<b>Practical Work Programming Unit A453</b>	30% Controlled assessment Approx 20 hours 45 marks Programming tasks that enable candidates to design develop and test a solution to a problem. OCR set tasks.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Pupils could go on to study the following A Level courses in the sixth form:
  - AS and A2 Level Computer Science.
- Computer Science supports careers/degrees in BSc IT, Computing,
- IT and Business, Computer Programmer, Software applications developer, Web developer, and Computer systems engineer.

# GCSE Design & Technology

## OCR

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

The new Design Technology GCSE prepares students to engage with, develop in and design for the increasingly technological future. It enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes that allow them to explore, through thinking, imagination and creativity, a range of outcomes, using a variety of materials, through modelling and prototypes.

The course is divided into two areas.

**Core knowledge and understanding** which covers:

- Design and technology and our world
- Smart materials
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical components and devices
- Materials

And **In-depth knowledge and understanding**, which allows students to **specialize** in one or more of the materials below:

- Papers and boards
- Natural and manufactured timber
- Ferrous and non-ferrous materials
- Plastics
- Fibers and textiles
- Mechanical devices and programmable components

**Please note that 20% of this course is Math and Science based.**

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

The final grade is based on:

**50%** written examination on core & specialist theory '**Principles of Design and Technology**'

**50%** NEA (Non-exam assessment) – A solution based '**Design and Make**' task set by the board

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

**Pupils could go on to study the courses below:**

**AS and A level** A-Level Product design, OCR Cambridge Technical in Engineering – Design & Technology - Design Engineering, Fashion, Textiles, Manufacturing or Construction.

**Degree level-** Visual communication, Packaging Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture, Materials Technology, Visual Communication, Engineering, Construction, Environmental Studies, Systems, Construction and Business.

**And/or gain apprenticeships in the fields listed**

Architecture, Engineering, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Programming, Robotics, Art Worker, Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Jewelry Designer, Automotive Designer, Textiles designer, Film or TV set designer, Web Designer, Packaging designer, Marketing Manager, Animator, Creative Director and many more.

**Students will be asked to contribute £15.00 to help cover the cost of materials**

# GCSE Drama

## OCR (J316-B)

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

As well as gaining a more in depth knowledge of the subject, studying Drama will help pupils to develop a number of transferable skills:

- **Research** – A key aspect of planning any production is to develop research skills;
- **Independence** – When studying Drama, pupils work on their own to complete tasks;
- **Working with others** – pupils will work with others as theatre companies to create both devised and text-based performances;
- **Analysis** – Any performer, director or designer must be able to take and understand information before applying it to create a performance;
- **Communication** – The ability to discuss key issues verbally and in writing is vital to any future success;
- **Time management** – The skill of prioritising work is very important;
- **ICT** – From using simple word processors, to operating the sound and light boards, technology goes hand in hand with Drama;
- **Problem solving** – Drama asks questions about society and the world around us. The skills used to discuss these problems and offer potential answers are the same as those used to solve real-life issues;
- **Planning and organising** – Creating Drama productions teaches pupils how to plan effectively to complete many different tasks

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

For GCSE Drama candidates must take all three units listed below.

- **Devising Drama** – component 01/02
  - Pupils will create their own devised performance based on a chosen stimulus from the exam board stimulus paper
- **Presenting and Performing Texts** - component 03/04
  - Pupils will take part in a showcase, demonstrating their chosen skills in a live performance. Pupils will perform in or design for two performances from one text
- **Drama: Performance and Response** – component 05
  - This component requires pupils to study text and performance with an analysis examination

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Studying Drama at GCSE will support further study in Performing Arts, Media and Communication Studies.
- A qualification in Drama will support careers in the following areas: Entertainment, Acting, Dancing, Theatre and Teaching.
- It also develops skills required in a wide variety of careers where working with people, the delivery of presentations and having strong communication skills are necessary.

# **GCSE English Language, Literature AQA (8700, 8702)**

**COMPULSORY**

## **WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU**

Pupils will gain two GCSEs.

The course enables pupils to:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding;
- read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing;
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately;
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately;
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology.

## **ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES**

### **English Language**

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (fiction); 1 hour 45 minute exam, 50 % of overall grade.
- Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (non-fiction); 1 hour 45 minute exam; 50 % of overall grade.

### **English Literature**

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel; 1 hour 45 minute exam, 40% of overall grade.
- Paper 2: Modern text, Anthology Poetry and Unseen Poetry; 2 hours 15 minute exam, 60 % of overall grade.

## **FUTURE PATHWAYS**

- To study English at A-Level pupils will be required to attain a grade 6 or above in both Language and Literature. This is a requirement at most sixth form colleges and ensures that students are working within their ability range.
- Pupils who achieve at GCSE level can typically also gain entry onto A-Level courses such as Sociology, Psychology, History, Media and Film Studies.
- The core communication skills acquired are something both third level institutions and employers will seek at a later stage.

# GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition OCR (J309B)

OPTIONAL

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

This GCSE enables students to make connections between the theory and practice of food and nutrition. Students demonstrate an understanding through investigations and practical cooking tasks. The course is divided into four sections:

- A. **Nutrition**- Students develop knowledge and understanding of nutritional content, functional properties and chemical processes of food. They learn about the relationship between diet and good health along with food factors that contribute to poor health and disease.
- B. **Food provenance and choice**- Covers environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food choice.
- C. **Cooking and Food preparation**- Students learn how to prepare demonstrate and serve a range of dishes. Exploring the sensory qualities and considering the food safety involved with preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- D. **Skills**- Students demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment.

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

The final grade covers three assessments

1. NEA -Food investigation task –Students submit a written report (1500–2000 words) including photographic evidence of their practical investigation -**15 %**
2. Non-Examined Assessment -Food preparation task show planning, preparation for a 3 course meal which they will cook within 3 hours, analyse and evaluate -**35%**
3. Food Preparation and Nutrition- written examination -**50%**

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

The hospitality and catering industry is one of the largest employers in the UK. Opportunities exist in tourism, manufacture, agriculture and catering to mention a few.

After the GCSE course, pupils could go on to study/pursue the following courses.

- Foundation Degrees in Culinary Arts, Hospitality Management and Tourism Management;
- Professional Cookery Diplomas NVQ Levels 1/2/3, Patisserie and Confectionery courses and Business Skills;
- Apprenticeships and Professional scholarships in Hospitality and Culinary arts programmes
- Careers in commercial restaurants, cafes and leisure centres.

**Food and Nutrition supports careers and roles in the following areas.**

Nutritional Therapy, Quality Management, Food manufacture and service, Agriculture, Product development, Hospitality & Catering, Taste tester, Chef, Dietician, Food Scientist/Technologist, Marketing, Buyer, Food Photography, Food writer, Restaurant owner and many more.

**Students will be cooking on a regular basis and are expected to provide their own ingredients.**

# GCSE French

## AQA (8658)

COMPULSORY

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- This course will suit pupils who like working with people or who may be interested in business/international relations, translation or teaching.
- Pupils will develop their skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking in the target language
- Work experience opportunities will be available at KS5.
- Pupils can also join the likes of other famous linguists: Arsène Wenger, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Madonna etc. etc.!

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

#### Themes covered:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

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

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

- **Speaking** (25% of final grade): a series of recorded tasks to be submitted for **assessment at the end of Year 11** at either *Foundation* or *Higher* Level.
- **Writing** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper at the end of Year 11** at either *Foundation* or *Higher* Level.
- **Listening** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper at the end of Year 11** at either *Foundation* or *Higher* Level.
- **Reading** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper at the end of Year 11** at either *Foundation* or *Higher* Level.

**All students are entered for EITHER foundation (grades 1-5) or higher level (grades 4-9) for all Core Modules.**

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Pupils who achieve a Grade 6 or above would be able to continue their studies at A-Level.
- Achieving well in a language beyond GCSE will considerably enhance employment opportunities in all career areas and significantly boost earning potential for the individual.
- There are many careers that are linked to studying languages such as teaching, journalism, translation and court translation.

# GCSE Geography

## Edexcel (1GA0)

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Geography is a well-respected subject which shows that the pupil is interested in their place in the world and the physical processes that have helped to make the world as it is today.
- Pupils who study Geography are interested in the future of the planet and the challenges that it faces. This is the subject for people that want to make a difference to other people's lives.
- Geography is well known for providing pupils with a variety of skills such as map reading, writing, numeracy and statistics, research and analytical skills.
- Traditional human and physical geography is covered in this course as well as geographical issues and challenges that are becoming more apparent as time goes on. This course focuses on key geographical concepts as well as how to manage them for the future.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Unit 1: The Physical Environment, written exam, 1 hour 30 minutes, 37.5%.
- Unit 2: The Human Environment, written exam, 1 hour 3 minutes, 37.5%.
- Unit 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges, 1 hour 30minutes.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- The careers linked to Geography are endless. In our time of growing concern about a number of environmental issues, Geography pupils may want to put their knowledge and skills into combating climate change or international relations - encouraging reluctant countries to care about our warming planet.
- Some may be interested in the growing population locally and globally, and want to look into way of managing a housing crisis, or providing food for countries afflicted by famine.
- How about the floods that hit the South West of England at the start of 2014; who is responsible and how do we make sure they don't happen again? Are you good with technology? How about using computer skills to help map retreating glaciers or the extent of deforestation?
- There are countless jobs based in offices or in the field that appeal to all types of people.
- Above all, Geography is a subject for people who care and want to make a difference for the future. It provides a wealth of skills that are essential for later in life, not just in the subject field.

**Geography is about YOU and preparing for YOUR future.**

# GCSE History

## Edexcel (1HI0BJ)

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- *"History cannot give us a program for the future, but it can give us a fuller understanding of ourselves, and of our common humanity, so that we can better face the future."* -Robert Penn Warren (poet, novelist, and literary critic 1905-1989)
- Pupils are required to have a personal interest in History and be able to demonstrate strong written, oral and analytical skills.
- History helps develop the skills to look beyond the basics, to ask questions properly, and to express your own opinion.
- History today is not just a matter of reading books. Pupils will look at primary sources such as diaries, letters and eye-witness accounts.
- Pupils will use ICT to research topics and access on-line lessons from History websites.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
- The American West, c1835–c1895
- Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

#### Degrees requiring History

- If you want to study History at university or, in some cases, African or American Studies at university, you will need to take it at A-Level.
- It is not mandatory for other specific courses, but the Russell Group recommends History as an excellent subject for keeping your options open when choosing a degree. In fact, History is one of the most prestigious degrees you can have!

#### Careers

- With your excellent analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you will be primed for a huge range of careers in law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curating (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).
- According to the 'Which' consumer guide, 'Which subject, Which career', *"History is an excellent preparation for very many jobs"*.

#### Famous History students:

- Louis Theroux, Prince Charles, Diane Abbott MP, President John F Kennedy

# BTEC Home cooking skills

BTEC

OPTIONAL

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

Home Cooking Skills (course designed by Jamie Oliver) will "teach you to cook great food that tastes amazing, saves money and, in the long run, will help you lead a happier, healthier life. Whether you are having a party, cooking for friends, feeding your future children or making lunch, you will be feeding for yourself, saving money and using these skills every day for the rest of your life." His dream is to see everyone cooking good food from scratch and learning new ways to get creative in the kitchen.

This course will give students sensible, practical knowledge that they can take into the world and actually use.

Students will be planning and preparing a series of nutritious home-cooked meals for breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner, and it will help them understand how to cook economically.

Students will:

- Select and prepare ingredients for a recipe.
- Use cooking skills when following a recipe.
- Demonstrate food safety and hygiene throughout preparation and cooking.
- Reflect on own learning about value of gaining cooking skills.
- Identify ways to pass on information about home cooking

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

100% coursework only with learner record completed to show all cooking skills, with photographic evidence. Two hour practical exam in February of Year 11.

Design a method to pass on information about home cooking, i.e. leaflet, PowerPoint presentation.

NO WRITTEN EXAMINATION

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

The hospitality and catering industry is one of the largest employers in the UK. Opportunities exist in tourism, manufacture, agriculture and catering to mention a few. Pupils could go on to study/pursue the following courses.

- Foundation Degrees in Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management
- Professional Cookery Diplomas NVQ Levels 1/2/3, Patisserie and Confectionery courses and Business Skills
- Apprenticeships and Professional scholarships in Hospitality and Culinary arts programs
- Careers in commercial restaurants, cafes and leisure Centres.

**Students will be cooking on a regular basis and are expected to provide their own ingredients.**

# GCSE Latin

## OCR (J282E)

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Pupils will study the language, literature and culture of the Roman Empire.
- Pupils will have the opportunity to study Latin authors in the original and to translate stories from thousands of years ago.
- It is a great subject not only for those interested in Languages and linguistics, but those more mathematically and scientifically inclined as it requires students to use logical processes to work out how to translate passages.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- **Language:** (written exam, 1hr30, 50%) pupils study texts and stories in Latin to build knowledge and understanding of Latin vocabulary, accidence and syntax, in order to help them translate.
- **Literature:** (written exam, 1hr, 50%) pupils study Latin set texts and answer questions in English on aspects of content and analyse, evaluate and respond to the ancient literature they have studied.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Pupils who achieve a Grade B or above will be able to continue their studies at A-Level.
- Achieving well in a language beyond GCSE will considerably enhance employment opportunities in all career areas and significantly boost earning potential for the individual.
- Latin specifically can lead on to many interesting jobs, as it is still very popular amongst employers from law firms to MI5. Notable people who studied Latin at university are J.K. Rowling, Tom Hiddlestone and Chris Martin from Coldplay.
- Other possible pathways include: politics, banking, teaching, journalism, academia, civil service, social work and media.

# GCSE Mathematics

## Edexcel (1MA1)

COMPULSORY

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- This mathematics course develops fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.

It allows pupils to

- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems;
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions;
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

Foundation – Grades 1 – 5

- Paper 1 – Non Calculator – 33.3%
- Paper 2 – Calculator – 33.3%
- Paper 3 – Calculator – 33.3%
- All papers are 1 hour 30 minutes and have 80 marks

Higher - Grades 4 – 9

- Paper 1 – Non Calculator – 33.3%
- Paper 2 – Calculator – 33.3%
- Paper 3 – Calculator – 33.3%
- All papers are 1 hour 30 minutes and have 80 marks

The assessments will cover the following content headings:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Mathematics GCSE provides a good foundation for further academic studies as listed below.
  - Level 3 mathematics courses i.e. A-Level Mathematics, A-Level Further Mathematics, Core Mathematics.
  - Level 3 and undergraduate courses in other disciplines such as Biology, Geography and Psychology, where the understanding and application of mathematics is crucial
- **Careers** – Accountancy – Aerospace & Defence – Biosciences – Business support services – Chemicals – Construction – Education – Engineering Environment – Financial Services – Food & Drink – Government Healthcare – Insurance – IT & Computing – Manufacturing – Media – Operational Research – Pharmaceuticals – Recruitment

# GCSE Music

## AQA (8271)

OPTIONAL

**We require that a student should have learnt how to play a musical instrument of ABRSM Grade 4 standard.**

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

As well as having the opportunity to develop a more in-depth knowledge of the subject, studying music at any level has been proven to help improve logic, reasoning and skills associated with increased ability in Mathematics. Studying Music at GCSE will also enable pupils to

- Gain self-confidence through performing;
- Develop team-working skills through performing with others;
- Extend their creative skills through composing music;
- Gain an understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Unit 1: Understanding Music Examination (40% - Examined)
- Unit 2: Performing Music (30% - Practical Exam)
- Unit 3: Composing Music (30% - Practical Exam)

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- **Music is a highly academic subject, which will develop many skills compatible for the world of work.**
- Studying Music at GCSE will support further study in Performing Arts, Media and Communication Studies.
- A qualification in Music will support careers in Entertainment, Acting, Dancing, Theatre, Music and Teaching.
- It also develops skills required in a wide variety of careers where working with people, the delivery of presentations and having strong communication skills are necessary

# **GCSE Physical Education**

## **Edexcel (8582)**

**OPTIONAL**

### **WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU**

- This specification follows on from the Key Stage 3 Physical Education programme of study by providing students with exciting opportunities to lead a healthy, active lifestyle by through further participation in sports.
- The content of this GCSE PE specification is designed to enable pupils to understand the role our body's systems play in sport and exercise and the factors that influence health and performance. In addition, it
  - Develops knowledge and understanding through practical application;
  - Encourages a holistic understanding of PE;
  - Nurtures skills and understanding for progression to further education.
- Pupils will also have the option of going abroad to experience skiing and they will also have opportunities to watch professional matches, which will inspire and aid their learning and performance.
- There are many famous people who all studied PE including Rhianna, Miley Cyrus, Chris Rock, Wayne Rooney, Taylor Swift, Tom Cruise and many more successful people.

### **ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES**

- The course includes a mixture of multiple-choice questions; some structured questions and extended written answer questions set in response to a pre-released scenario. We believe this will be accessible and appealing to all students.
- Pupils can choose from the following ways to participate: player/performer; organiser, leader/coach or official.
- The assessment process is broken down as below.
  - Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems, written examination, 1 hour 45 minutes, 36%.
  - Component 2: Health and Performance, written examination, 1 hour 55 minutes, 24%.
  - Component 3: Practical Performance – three physical activities from a set list, internally marked and externally moderated, 30%.

### **FUTURE PATHWAYS**

- This course can lead to several pathways: A-Level Sciences or PE, Sport Science, Exercise Science, Physiology, Psychology and Sociology.
- Careers that may be linked to the study of this subject are teaching, occupational therapy, coaching and personal training.

# GCSE Religious Education

## Edexcel (1RA0ZS)

COMPULSORY

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Pupils will benefit from an in-depth look at the core beliefs and traditions of Roman Catholic Christianity and Judaism.
- They will become religiously literate through the use of religious scripture for Judaism and Catholicism as well as the Talmud and Catechism.

#### **Skills and areas developed**

- Critical thinking skills;
- Ethical debate;
- Philosophical analysis of God's existence;
- Exploration of how the religious and secular elements of society work together.

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

#### **Catholic Christianity**

- Beliefs & Teachings
- Practices
- Sources of Wisdom
- Forms of expression and Ways of life

#### **Judaism**

- Beliefs & Teachings
- Practices

#### **Philosophy & Ethics**

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Religious teachings on relationships and the family in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- A-Level R.S., Philosophy & Ethics or Theology.
- A-Level Sociology, Psychology, Government & Politics, Philosophy.
- University degrees in Government & Politics, Sociology, Psychology, Philosophy, Theology, Religious Studies and Journalism.
- Can lead to careers in Teaching, Medicine, Law, Social Services, Politics and Journalism.

# GCSE Science

AQA (8464, 8461, 8462, 8463)

COMPULSORY

Subject	Syllabus Title	Syllabus Number	Examination Board
Combined Science	Trilogy	8464	AQA
Separate Sciences	GCSE Biology	8461	AQA
	GCSE Chemistry	8462	
	GCSE Physics	8463	

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- Pupils with 18 points or more can study separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will attain up to 3 GCSEs in Science.
- All pupils who study Combined Science will be expected to complete this by the end of Year 11.
- Pupils who study Separate Sciences will also complete their examinations at the end Year 11

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Combined Science (Trilogy) involves the study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as developing practical and investigative skills. There is less content than in Separate Sciences.
- Separate Sciences pupils study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as well as developing practical and investigative skills.

	Trilogy	Separate Sciences
<b>Written examinations</b>	6 written papers, each 1hr 15 mins (70 marks per paper)	6 written papers, each 1hr 45 mins (100 marks per paper)
<b>Practical Work</b>	Conducted in lessons, but examined in written papers	

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Pupils could go on to study the following A Level courses in the sixth form:
  - AS and A2 Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics or
  - Level 3 Certificate in Applied Science.
- Science supports careers/degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, Horticulture, Biomedical Science, Microbiology, Engineering, Zoology, Veterinary Science and Laboratory work.

# GCSE Sociology

## AQA (8192)

OPTIONAL

### WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- **Knowledge is power** – sociology offers you knowledge that can empower your life.
- **Sociology** is the scientific **study** of human social relationships and structures.
- Pupils will study a wide range of themes and topics about society such as family, crime and deviance, power and inequality, and research methods.
- **Trips:** The Museum of Childhood; Zoo; Research in the Field.
- Famous people linked to the subject: Rev Martin Luther King, Michelle Obama, Rihanna and Rev Jessie Jackson, Jeremy Kyle, and JK Rowling ... there are plenty of others too numerous to mention.
- Students who study sociology say that *it is challenging, you have to be prepared to write full essays (current Y11 student); it is the only lesson I look forward to each week (current Y10 student); you learn about debating (current Y11 student); I can't stop talking about it at home (current Y10 student); I feel informed about things that I didn't understand before (current Y10 pupil).*
- You will learn to analyse and evaluate evidence, arguments and theories.
- You will learn how to design and carryout social research

### ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- The course is examined via 100% exam broken down into two units, examined at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework.
- Unit 1: The Family, Sociology of Education, Studying Society.
- Unit 2: Crime and Deviance, Inequalities, Power, the Mass Media.

### FUTURE PATHWAYS

- A-Level Sociology, Psychology, Politics. The subject also fosters relevant skills for other humanities subjects such as History and Geography.
- University: Sociology provides pupils with strong academic skills which prepare them for university and a professional career. Sociology at university is often combined with Criminology, Psychology, Law, Medicine, Anthropology, Philosophy, History, Geography and Business.
- Sociology is a wide-ranging subject that helps pupils to keep their options open and supports careers such as Law, psychology, journalism, university academia, marketing, medical practitioner, international relations, politics, counselling, social work, Police officer, teaching, working with young children and business including market research and Human Relations.

# Three-dimensional design (Technology)

OPTIONAL

AQA Art & Design (tba)

## WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

This course puts making at the centre of 3D design production. This ensures you develop your practical skills. You will combine these with a critical and investigative approach to objects.

You will have access to a spacious specialist workshop where you can experiment with different materials - wood, metals, polymers and digital technology, working alongside fellow students in a collaborative school environment.

Your workshop practice is integrated with investigative and research studies, so you will explore critical, conceptual, ethical and environmental issues as well as the role of design within social and cultural contexts.

### Areas of study

- architectural design
- product design
- jewellery and body adornment
- interior design
- environmental/landscape/garden design
- 3D digital design

### Skills

- model making
- constructing
- surface treatment
- assembling
- modelling

## ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

The final grade is based on:

**Component 1:** Portfolio of student work (Exploration, material investigation, observations, mood boards, evidence of modelling, sketches/ photographs)

**Component 2:** Externally Set Assignment (10 hour supervised practical) – 12 weeks to prepare for this practical examination.

## FUTURE PATHWAYS

**Pupils could go on to study the courses below:**

**AS and A level** A-Level Product design, OCR Cambridge Technical in Engineering –

Design & Technology - Design Engineering, Fashion, Textiles, Manufacturing or Construction.

**Degree level-** 3D design, Jewelry design, Model making, Art & Design, Visual communication, Packaging Design, Interior Architecture, Architecture, Materials Technology, Visual Communication, Engineering, Construction & Environmental Studies

**And/or gain apprenticeships in the fields listed**

Architecture, Engineering, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Art Worker, Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Jewelry Designer, Landscape designer, Textiles designer, Film or TV set designer, Packaging designer, Construction, Creative Director and many more.

**Students will be asked to contribute £15.00 to help cover the cost of materials**