



Maria Fidelis
Catholic School FCJ

**Year 8 Options
Booklet**

2026



Department
for Education

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- **English language and English literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science**
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- **History or Geography**
- **A language**
Ancient or modern

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies,
August 2017

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities.
(The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017



Further Information

Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly — they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.

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.

ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM

Not every pupil will feel that a curriculum leading to GCSE examinations and qualifications is suitable for their particular strengths or needs. This will often be because the pupil has a special educational need or disability which requires a more individual curriculum approach. It is our intention that every pupil enjoys a curriculum which provides them with success and challenge appropriate to them.

1. WHAT ARE YOU ABLE TO OFFER?

We have a range of entry level courses which can result in a qualification at the end or not depending on the particular needs of your child, and their aspirations for the future. This year we are able to offer:

- Entry level certificates in English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Art
- BTEC Level 1 award in Home Cooking Skills
- BTEC Level 2 award in Digital Information Technology
- ASDAN Level 1 or 2 Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE)
- Cambridge National Level 2 in Health and Social Care
- AQA Unit Award Scheme

2. WHAT WOULD BE SUITABLE FOR MY CHILD?

Ultimately this would be agreed between you, your child and the school. It is possible to combine some of the above qualifications with some of the GCSEs we have on offer, so that your child's curriculum is as unique and tailored to them as possible

3. WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Please contact the SEND team (cdawkins@mariafidelis.camden.sch.uk), and you may also wish to contact the Head of Department appropriate to the course which you are considering (see the guidance pack which accompanies the options form for details.)
- All pupils will receive an Options Choices form to complete and you will be able to indicate your preferences on this. We always do our best to accommodate as many individual's curriculum choices as possible, and we do this by deciding option blocks after pupils have made their option choices, so that no two year groups' curriculum plans look the same.zz

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.

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 Classical Civilisation

OCR (J199)

OPTIONAL

WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

- The study of the Ancient World, its history and culture.
- An incredibly varied course, covering many different disciplines (e.g. history, literature, religious studies etc.).
- The ability to better understand our society and culture as well as that of other people.
- In-depth study of Roman and Greek mythology (such as the Trojan War and the Gods of Olympus), philosophy, theatre and literature.
- Research skills, as well as the ability to write constructively and persuasively.
- Classical Civilisation involves the study of art, sculpture and plays, not just reading.
- Students of Classical Civilisation gain plenty of useful academic skills but also come away with a broader appreciation of culture and human history.
- A unique educational opportunity – not all schools offer this subject!

ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

Component Group 1: Thematic Study (50%)

- Myth and Religion (J199/11)
- Women in the Ancient World (J199/12)

Component Group 2: Literature and Culture (50%)

- The Homeric World (J199/21)
- Roman City Life (J199/22)
- War and Warfare (J199/23)

FUTURE PATHWAYS

- Classics has been taught for many centuries and is very respected by Russell Group universities as a prestigious subject.
- Will support studies in any essay based subject at A Level and university including Classics itself, Law, Politics, Philosophy, History and English Literature.
- Encourages analytical skills that are useful in a huge range of jobs such as law, journalism, politics, civil service, business, marketing, economics, academia, archaeology, social research and curating.
- Famous Classicists: J.K Rowling, Chris Martin from Coldplay, Boris Johnson, Tom Hiddlestone, Karl Marx, Freidrich Nietzsche.

GCSE Computer Science

OCR (J275)

OPTIONAL

Subject	Syllabus Number	Examination Board
Computer Science	J276	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:

- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

C01 - Computer Systems (50% of the total GCSE 1 hour 30 mins Written Paper)

C02 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50% of the total GCSE 1 hour 30 mins Written Paper)

C03- Programming project Non Examined Assessment Coursework (20 hours curriculum time is dedicated to the completion of this work)

- **Component 01** – Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.
- **Component 02** – Students develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.
- **Component 03** – Students will code a solution in a suitable programming language for a given problem, and check its functionality using a suitable and documented test plan. Finally, they will evaluate the success of their solution and reflect on improvement.

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, Cyber Security Analyst and Computer systems engineer.

GCSE Design & Technology

AQA (8552)

OPTIONAL

The GCSE Design & Technology course is for students who are creative, enthusiastic and have demonstrated confidence in the workshop in years 7 & 8.

WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

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

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

GCSE ASSESSMENT AND COURSE CONTENT

Length of Course: 3 Years **Number of Lessons per Week:** 3

Assessment: Portfolio 50% (NEA), Written Exam 50% **Length of Exam:** 2 hours

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

FUTURE PATHWAYS

Pupils could go on to:

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

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

Gain an apprenticeship in one of the fields listed below:

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, , Marketing Manager, Animator, Creative Director and many more.

BTEC Tech. Award in Digital IT

OPTIONAL

Subject	Syllabus Title	Syllabus Number	Examination Board
Information Technology	Digital Information Technology (DIT)		Pearson's

WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

BTEC or other Tech Awards are applied qualifications that provide a more practical real-world approach to learning and skills development. The BTEC Level 2 First Awards are equivalent to one GCSE graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* so it does not prevent students from progressing to Level 3 courses post 16. The qualification prepares students for both the workplace or continued study by giving them a real insight into the modern fundamentals of IT and those who wish to gain a broad taste of digital skills.

The course is split into three components, two of which require the completion of practical coursework projects and one which is externally examined.

In component one, students will explore user interface design and development principles. Then go on to create effective interfaces using web development and photo-editing software tools whilst at the same time, developing their project planning techniques to manage, build and review their work.

In component two, students will learn how data is collected and used to support decision-making and how it can be presented in ways that help make it easier to understand. Students will learn how to manipulate data by developing a dashboard using spreadsheet-modelling tools to analyse data, identify trends and present data in a clear format so recommendations on data intelligence can be made.

In component three, students will study how modern information technology is evolving, consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing and understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

Component 1

Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

- internally assessed assignment(s)
- 30% of the total course

Component 2

Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

- internally assessed assignment(s)
- 30% of the total course

Component 3

Effective Digital Working Practices

- Externally assessed exam
- 40% of the total course

FUTURE PATHWAYS

At the end of the course students may go on to study the level 3 BTEC National or A Level Computing depending on Maths and programming skills.

- A-Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

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 19th 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:

- **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.
- **Food provenance and choice**- Covers environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food choice.
- **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.
- **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

- **NEA -Food investigation task** -Students submit a written report (1500–2000 words) including photographic evidence of their practical investigation -**15 %**
- **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%**
- Food Preparation and Nutrition- **written examination -50%**

FUTURE PATHWAYS

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.

THIS COURSE SUPPORTS ROLES IN THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONS:

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)

OPTIONAL AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
ALONGSIDE GCSE SPANISH

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 and can also join the likes of other famous linguists: Arsène Wenger, JK Rowling, Madonna, Natalie Portman, Bradley Cooper etc.!
- Learning a language can enhance life experiences, develop an awareness of other cultures and help a person be more understanding of the world around them.
- **A GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language is valued by the most competitive universities in the UK. Some of the top universities require it!**

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

- **Listening** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper at the end of Year 11** at either *Foundation* or *Higher* Level.
- **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.
- **Reading** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper 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.

All students are entered for EITHER Foundation (grades 1-5) OR Higher tier (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, international work, marketing executives and researchers.

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

PEARSONS BTEC Level 1 Award (QCF)

OPTIONAL

WHAT THIS COURSE OFFERS YOU

The 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."*

Jamie Oliver's 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 home and into the world and actually use it.

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 in the kitchen
- Preparation and organisation skills
- Reflect on own learning about the value of gaining cooking skills
- Identify ways to pass on information about home cooking

ASSESSMENT / CORE MODULES

- Assessment is based on 100% coursework in the form of a learner record which should show all cooking skills along 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 or video.
- No written examination

FUTURE PATHWAYS

The hospitality and catering industry are 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
- Apprenticeships and Professional scholarships in Hospitality and Culinary Professional Cookery Diplomas NVQ Levels 1/2/3, Patisserie and Confectionery courses and Business Skills
- 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.
- An enhanced understanding of Western culture and civilisation.
- Improved communication skills, both verbal and written.
- A specialised subject with strong cultural capital.

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

- 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 Hiddleston and Chris Martin from Coldplay.
- It is considered a particularly valuable subject by Russell Group universities, especially for those considering medicine or law.
- Other possible pathways include: politics, banking, teaching, journalism, academia, civil service, social work and media.
- Pupils who achieve a Grade 6 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.

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

OCR (J356)

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

AQA (8063)

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

Paper 1: Catholic Christianity

- Creation
- Incarnation
- The Triune God
- Redemption
- Church and the Kingdom of God
- Eschatology

Paper 2: Judaism

- Beliefs & Teachings
- Practices

Paper 2: Themes

- Religion, relationships and families
- Religion, human rights and social justice

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
Written examinations	6 written papers, each 1hr 15 mins (70 marks per paper)	6 written papers, each 1hr 45 mins (100 marks per paper)
Practical Work	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. You will learn to challenge and question your everyday experiences and beliefs about society.
- **Sociology** is the scientific **study** of society, you will study a wide variety of topics and areas of social life such as family, crime and deviance, power and inequality.
- **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 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 gain an insight into the job of the sociologist through learning about their theories and research.
- **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, Poverty.

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, probation service, teaching, working with young children and business including market research and Human Relations.

GCSE Spanish

AQA (8698)

OPTIONAL

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 and can also join the likes of other famous linguists: Tom Daley, Ben Affleck etc.
- Learning a language can enhance life experiences, develop an awareness of other cultures and help a person be more understanding of the world around them.
- **A GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language is valued by the most competitive universities in the UK. Some of the top universities require it!**

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

- **Listening** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper at the end of Year 11** at either *Foundation* or *Higher* Level.
- **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.
- **Reading** (25% of final grade): pupils will sit a **written paper 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.

All students are entered for EITHER Foundation (grades 1-5) OR Higher tier (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, international work, marketing executives and researchers.