

GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET 2024/25



Christ's College Guildford

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THE OPTIONS PROCESS

Welcome to your Year 9 Curriculum Options Booklet. You are about to make some very important decisions about your future as you choose the subjects you wish to study in Years 10 and 11. Achieving the highest grades you can on these courses is vital so that you have as much choice as possible at the end of Year 11. Your job now is to work with us to make sure you achieve your best possible suite of qualifications.

This booklet is intended to give you all the information you need to help you make an informed choice. Read and think carefully about each subject, and what it has to offer you. Talk to your teachers, parents/guardians, tutors and older students in Years 10 and 11 who have experienced GCSEs. Make your choices wisely as they may affect your post-16 choices.

Wednesday 26 th February 2025	“Introduction to the Options Process” presentation for parents/carers and a chance to speak to Subject Leaders 5.45pm – 7.30pm
February to March 2025	Students will attend year group assemblies which will be taken by different Subject Leaders who will discuss their subjects in more detail with them
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	Year 9 Parent Consultation Day
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Deadline for the online Google Options Form to be completed

QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

GCSEs in recent years have undergone a significant reform, resulting in curriculum changes across all subjects. This includes a new grading structure, using grades from 9 (the highest) to 1 (the lowest). All courses will have exams which the students will sit at the end of the two-year course.

BTEC Level 2 (Vocational), OCR and BTEC qualification at Level One or Two. (Equivalent to GCSEs). All BTEC Level 2 qualifications are graded Distinction*, Distinction, Merit or Pass. BTEC Level 2 qualifications have a significant element of coursework to complete throughout the course. You will need to complete a portfolio of evidence to show you have met the assessment criteria, in addition to the external assessment.

When choosing your options, you should always identify how it is assessed. Many courses are assessed only by examinations at the end of Year 11. Some courses have elements of controlled conditions tasks (coursework), which are written throughout the course.

CORE SUBJECTS & OPTIONS

The curriculum is designed to provide you with a breadth of study that enables you to pursue every option in the future and builds on your skills and strengths. In Year 10 and Year 11 all students study the following examination subjects:

Combined Science – Trilogy (2 GCSES)	Mathematics
English Language	English Literature

In addition to the compulsory core subjects, you will choose from 4 additional subjects. One of these options will be either History or Geography, and the others can be made from the following choices:

Art	Drama	Religious Education
Art 3D (previously DT)	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Photography
Business Studies	French	Physical Education
Citizenship	Geography	Separate Science
Computer Science	History	Travel & Tourism
Dance	Music	

We make every effort to accommodate a student's first choice of subjects, but sometimes this may not always be possible. You will be asked to make a reserve choice when completing the options form. In the event that a student is unable to take their combination of subjects, a member of the senior leadership team will discuss with them the alternative options available.

Students will also study three non-examined subjects in Years 10 & 11.

PSHE	RE	Core PE
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Throughout Year 10 & 11 a range of other core and cross curricular subjects are covered, through assemblies, tutor time and school visits such as:

- Our Future Choices Programme (Careers and Sex and Relationships Education)
- Citizenships Issues

ADVICE ON CHOOSING YOUR COURSES

Do:

- ✓ Geography or History - known as Humanities subjects - these are considered to be facilitating subjects e.g. subjects that are most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses if that is your intention.
- ✓ Choose subjects that you enjoy. If you enjoy the subject, you will put more time and effort into it and the more time and effort you put in, the more successful you will become.
- ✓ If you have a definite career in mind, choose subjects that will best support your career route. However, remember that however keen you are on any particular career or job now, you may possibly change your mind before you leave school. Many people also change their career during their working life. Your choice of subjects must not limit you to just one type of career. If you have no definite career in mind, choose what you are good at, what you like doing and what will give you a good spread of subjects. Many subjects can be picked up at A-Level or beyond without earlier study.
- ✓ Choose subjects that you are good at. You need to gain as many high grades/points as possible.
- ✓ Do find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it for the full two years.
- ✓ Listen to advice given to you in subject talks in assemblies.
- ✓ Talk to your parents, subject teachers and Year 10/11 students.

Don't:

- ✗ Try to get into the same groups as your friends; it probably won't happen.
- ✗ Choose a subject because of the teacher; teachers change.
- ✗ Just go on your experience of Years 7 to 9; look at what each subject has to offer in Year 10 and 11; it may be different.
- ✗ Narrow down your options too much; you may change your mind about what you like and what you want to do in the future.



COMBINED SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8468	Core
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Combined Science - Trilogy This course provides students with two GCSE qualifications in Science.		

Why Study Science?

This course provides a very good grounding for students considering A Level Sciences. All employers and universities recognise this as a desirable qualification. Science develops a number of key transferable skills.

ASSESSMENT			
	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
PAPER 1	Biology 1 covers topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.	Chemistry 1 covers topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.	Physics 1 covers topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
PAPER 2	Biology 2 covers topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.	Chemistry 2 covers topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.	Physics 2 covers topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

How to do well in Science	Useful Resources
Students will need to have a keen interest in the science-related world about them. The best way to do this is to watch news programmes, look at the science section on the BBC News website, read local and national newspapers, and watch TV documentaries relating to science in the real world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize • https://senecalearning.com/en-GB • https://www.kerboodle.com/app

Other information

There are 21 required practicals for Combined Science and form 15% of the available examination marks.

The full specification can be accessed online at

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464>

Assessment time is 7 hours for the Combined Science GCSE. In addition, practical skills are assessed in the written papers, and this is worth 15% of the marks. There is also a set percentage of mathematics (20%) in the examination papers in Combined Science.

ENGLISH

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	Language - 8700 Literature - 8702	Core
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature		

Why Study English?

The study of English is vital in the modern world; reading and writing skills are fundamental requirements of any job. These are practised along with the analysis of literature, which will enable your child to explore their expressive, as well as academic side. English Language and English Literature are excellent subjects to support study at a higher level, as they enable students to develop and hone their skills of interpretation and essay writing; essential for many university courses.

ASSESSMENT

	Language	Literature
PAPER 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (examination) 50% 1 hour 45 minutes	Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel (examination) 40% 1 hour 45 minutes
PAPER 2	Writers viewpoints and perspectives (examination) 50% 1 hour 45 minutes	Modern Texts and Poetry (examination) 60% 2 hours 15 minutes

How to do well in English	Useful Resources
Practice the ability to think carefully about what you read and to be prepared to question why and how it has been put together by the writer, looking at language, structure and form; Practice the ability to think carefully about what you write before you write it, making sure that each word, and their order, is appropriate and effective; Independently revise texts and consolidate learning outside of the classroom	

Other information

GCSE English Language is a compulsory course that will require students to draw upon a range of texts as a reading stimulus and engage with creative, as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into various topics and themes. The GCSE specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and grammar, both in deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

All students will also sit the GCSE in English Literature. This GCSE will require students to study Shakespeare, 19th Century Literature, Poetry, and Modern Prose or Drama.

MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	1MA1	Core
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Mathematics		

Why Study Mathematics?

We want all students to leave Christ's College with confidence in Mathematics and the ability to carry out the key skills that they will need in later life. Mathematics teaches students to think logically and find ways to solve difficult problems. Where possible, students will look at real-life contexts for their work.

ASSESSMENT		
PAPER 1	Non-Calculator (33%)	All of the papers contain questions on Number, Algebra, Shape, Space and Measure and Data Handling.
PAPER 2	Calculator (33%)	
PAPER 3	Calculator (33%)	

How to do well in Mathematics	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring equipment Know your times tables Use of websites to help you improve your understanding of various topics Use of individual learning packages Complete all classwork and homework to the highest possible standard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.hegartymaths.com www.bbc/bitesize.co.uk

Other information

GCSE Mathematics is a compulsory course. There is no coursework requirement and it is assessed through three written papers at the end of the course in Year 11. One paper will examine students' skills in working without a calculator and the other two will test their ability in topics where a calculator is essential. The course extends the work covered in Key Stage 3.

Mathematics specifications at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

ART

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8208	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Fine Art		

Why Study Art?

Choosing Fine Art will enable you to develop your creative ability which is widely valued by universities and work places, giving you a broad spectrum for the future. There is a vast range of careers which Art will be ideal for, including Illustration, Media, Set Design, Fashion, Interior Design, Games Design, Photography, Hairdressing, Product Manufacture, Architecture, Film and Television.

ASSESSMENT		
Unit 1	Portfolio of Work - 60% The majority of coursework is completed in Years 10 and 11 both in lessons and at home. Every piece of work is entered as part of your GCSE. You will be given a range of projects which will fulfil the marking criteria and develop your artistic ability.	Students will be required to purchase art materials to complete their work at home or alternatively attend art club and use our facilities and resources.
Unit 2	Externally Set Task - 40% In January of Year 11 you will be given an examination paper from which you will choose 1 question. You will have a period of time to prepare and research your question and then complete a final piece in a 10-hour controlled exam.	

How to do well in Art	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet all deadlines and complete homework (approximately 2 hours every week) Be prepared to experiment with ideas, media and techniques Try hard and work to the best of your ability at all times Have your own equipment and media Challenge yourself and be creative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full specifications of the course are online at www.aqa.org.uk. Search for GCSE Fine Art.

Other information

This option cannot be chosen in conjunction with 3D Design.

GCSE Fine Art provides you with a wide range of creative and stimulating opportunities to explore your interest in Art. The course is developed to encourage your creative potential, by using a variety of different endorsements including drawing, painting, graphics, computer aided Design, photography and art history.

All work completed in lessons and for homework will be accounted for. The portfolio is built up from several smaller projects where you practise your drawing and research skills, are inspired by other artists, experiment with media and develop your own personal response. In order to succeed in Art, you must be prepared to work hard, do your homework, enjoy being creative and have a love for the subject.

BUSINESS

EXAM BOARD	QUALIFICATION NUMBER	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson	603/7063/4	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise		

Why Study Business?

Enterprise is an important part of the business sector and plays a major role in the UK's global economic status. The role of entrepreneurs is to help create wealth for the nation and its citizens through the creation of enterprises that innovate and grow the economy. There are nearly 6 million such businesses in the UK, employing around 16.6 million people. In 2019, Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 99.9% of the business population in the UK and account for three fifths of the employment and around half of the turnover in the UK private sector, around £2.2 trillion.

ASSESSMENT	
Component 1	Exploring Enterprises - 30% It includes three tasks, which will be completed in 6 hours of monitored preparation and 5 hours of supervised sessions, worth 60 marks. Completed in Year 10.
Component 2	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data - 30% It is assessed through a controlled assessment task set by Pearson, which includes four tasks that will be completed in 6 hours of monitored preparation, and 7 hours of supervised sessions, worth 60 marks. Completed in Year 10/11.
Component 3	Marketing & Finance for Enterprise - 40% This is assessed through a written exam, 2 hours, worth 60 marks. Completed in Year 11

How to do well in Business	Useful Resources
Business is a coursework intensive subject. You will need to be organised and stay on top of all your deadlines. Responding quickly to feedback is key. The teacher will give you lots of pointers for improvement. It is best if you act on them quickly. Always look at the distinction level tasks first and attempt them as soon as you can.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBC Bitesize • tutor2u.com • Bized.co.uk • Revisionworld.com • Revision Guide

Other information

This course provides a practical learning environment to develop knowledge and technical skills, along with key competencies like problem-solving, research, decision-making, innovation, project management, planning, and communication. Learners will study different enterprises, exploring their characteristics and the skills needed for entrepreneurial success. They will examine market research, customer needs, competitor behavior, and internal and external business influences. Students will generate and plan a micro-enterprise idea within budget, present their business plan, and review their presentation for improvements. They will also explore marketing strategies, analyze financial documents, and use them to monitor and enhance enterprise performance, making informed decisions for success.

CITIZENSHIP

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	1CS0	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Citizenship		

Why Study Citizenship?

To understand how we live within society and how we can deliver a benefit or change for a particular community or wider society.

You will develop a good understanding of: democracy and government; citizenship participation in democracy and society; rights, the law and the legal system in England and Wales; and the UK and its relations with the wider world.

ASSESSMENT		
Paper 1	50% of the GCSE, 1hr 45 minutes. Content: Living together in the UK, Democracy at work in the UK, Law and justice.	GCSE Citizenship is a linear GCSE: you will be examined in two papers, taken at the end of Year 11. One of these papers will specifically ask you about the citizenship action project, which you will complete in Year 11.
Paper 2	50% of the GCSE, 1hr 45 minutes. Content: Power and influence and taking citizenship in action	

How to do well in Citizenship	Useful Resources
Being aware of the world around you is essential to success in Citizenship. Listen to the news, take an interest in school, local, national and/or global issues and politics and be ready to form a point of view (hopefully backed up by some relevant evidence). You will need to transfer the writing skills you have learnt in years 7-9 to form secure, persuasive answers. Be ready to have an opinion!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global, national and local issues today: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news

Other information

GCSE Citizenship is directly relevant to your lives: it will broaden your understanding of how our society works, bringing together aspects of sociology, politics, geography, RE and law.

Throughout the course you will learn by exploring key questions such as:

How have communities developed in the UK?
 What are democratic values and where do they come from?
 Who runs the country and how does Parliament work?
 What is the law for and how does it affect us?
 How does our justice system work?
 What role and influence should the media have?
 Does the UK have power and influence in the wider world?

Pearson/Edexcel Exam Specification and details:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/citizenship-studies-2016.html>

COMPUTER SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8525	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Computer Science		

Why Study Computer Science?

The vast majority of us use computers in our day-to-day lives for everything from gaming and communicating by email or on social media to finding information, paying our bills and shopping. In 2015, nearly eight in 10 adults in the UK accessed the internet every day or nearly every day, and over seven in 10 used a computer every day (eight in 10 16-24 year olds).

Computer Science is a dynamic and rapidly growing area that has become an integral part of the world that we live in today. Computer Science will give you the skills to access one of the fastest growing industries worldwide. It will encourage you to think creatively, analytically and logically about ways to solve problems using computer programs

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1	Computational thinking and programming skills Includes computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code. Written exam: 2 hours, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE
Paper 2	Computing concepts Includes data representation, computer systems, computer networks, cyber security, databases & SQL, computing & ethics. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 90 marks 50% of GCSE

How to do well in Computer Science	Useful Resources
It is best if you have a keen interest in computers and how computers and programming works. If you are aware of and have practiced at home a programming language this will really help. Practice your programming skills at home whenever you can and stay on top of the theory work by using web revision resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> codecombat.com teach-ict.com projects.raspberrypi.org/en/codeclub odecademy.com

Other information

AQA Computer Science has a broad curriculum encouraging students to think creatively, analytically and logically, and solve problems by creating solutions. The course provides an excellent foundation to move into A Level Computer Science or any IT related field.

Homework

Tasks will be both paper and computer based depending on the topic at the time. For many programming tasks, we use Python and students can either download Python IDLE or use Trinket.io in their web browser.

3D DESIGN

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8205	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Art & Design - 3D Design		

Why Study 3D Design?

The GCSE course covers a range of skills from design to the making of products. This can lead directly into the current A Level structure where Design and Technology can be studied in the form of Product Design or Resistant Materials. From this point you could be looking at a career in the design industry serving, for example, car or furniture manufacturers.

ASSESSMENT

Unit 1	Portfolio of Work - 60% The coursework is completed in Years 10 and 11 both in lessons and at home. Every piece of work is entered as part of your GCSE. You will be given a range of projects which will fulfil the marking criteria and develop your creative and technical ability.
unit 2	Externally Set Task - 40% In January of Year 11 you will be given an examination paper from which you will choose 1 question. You will have a period of time to prepare and research your question and then complete a final piece in a 10-hour controlled exam.

How to do well in 3D Design	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet all deadlines and complete homework (approximately 2 hours every week) Be prepared to experiment with ideas, media and techniques Try hard and work to the best of your ability at all times Have your own equipment and media Challenge yourself and be creative Make regular visits to inspirational places 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full specifications of the course are online at www.aqa.org.uk. Search for GCSE Fine Art - 3D Design

Other information

This option cannot be chosen in conjunction with Art.

GCSE Design and Technology (Product Design) enables students to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials, techniques and processes.

All work completed in lessons and for homework will be accounted for. The Portfolio is built up from several smaller projects where you practise your research and building skills, you are inspired by other designers, you experiment with materials and you develop your own personal response.

In order to succeed in 3D Design, you must be prepared to work hard, do your homework, enjoy being creative and have a love for design!

Students will be required to purchase art materials to complete their work at home or alternatively attend DT club and use our facilities.

DANCE

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8236	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Dance		

Why Study Dance?

GCSE Dance is a mainly practical course that aims to increase your skills as a dancer, choreographer and dance analyst.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1	<p>Performance - 30% of GCSE Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration) Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration). 40 marks (15 marks for set phrases and 25 marks for duet/trio performance)</p> <p>Choreography - 30% of GCSE Solo or group choreography - a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and half minutes). 40 marks Non-exam assessment marked by the centre</p>
Component 2	<p>Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of GCSE Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills Critical appreciation of own work Critical appreciation of six professional Dance works Questions based on students' own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance anthology. 80 marks</p>

How to do well in Dance	Useful Resources
<p>It is an essential part of the course that the students are willing and able to perform in front of others. The more practice that you do in Dance and the more genre's you try will all help you to develop a broad understanding. Research and look into all forms of dance and watch performances whenever you can. Especially live performances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a look at the full specification on www.aqa.org.uk, and search for GCSE Dance.

Other information

As with all practical subjects, a desire to work hard in class time as well as out of hours learning will be the key to your success. You will perform in groups but also on your own and will develop the necessary confidence and expertise.

DRAMA

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	1DR0	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Drama		

Why Study Drama?

Drama challenges students to look at the world in new ways. It demands taking risks, being creative and expressing yourself in an active and exciting way. It will require you to work in a group, contributing your ideas and taking on board those of others. You will be a performer, a director and a critic all in one lesson.

ASSESSMENT	
Component 1	<p>Devising <i>Coursework- 40% of the qualification – 60 marks</i> There are two parts to the assessment: 1) A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this process (45 marks). The portfolio submission evidence between 1500–2000 words 2) A devised performance (15 marks, assessing AO2)</p>
Component 2	<p>Performance from Text <i>Coursework- 20% of the qualification – 48 marks</i> Performance/design realisation covering both key extracts of a play is worth 48 marks. Each performance/design realisation is worth 24 marks.</p>
Component 3	<p>Theatre Makers in Practice <i>Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of the qualification – 60 marks</i> <i>Section A: Bringing Texts to Life</i> - 45 marks, assessing AO3 - This section consists of one question broken into six parts (short and extended responses) based on one extract from the chosen performance text. Performance texts are not allowed in the examination as extracts will be provided. <i>Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation</i> - 15 marks, assessing AO4 - This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen. Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.</p>

How to do well in Drama	Useful Resources
<p>Be prepared to take risks in your performances. Always think about the impact you are having on the audience.</p> <p>Be willing to take part in the whole college production. Although not strictly necessary, it really helps you to understand more about the nature of putting on large group performances.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a look at the full specification on https://qualification.s.pearson.com/ and search for GCSE Drama.

Other information

Students will learn how to explore new ideas by putting themselves in other people's shoes. They will also have the opportunity to play many different parts in different imaginary situations. The course offers students the chance to be inspired by looking at plays and seeing top quality performances. Students will then be challenged to perform in a public performance and ultimately sit a written exam.

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Educas	C560P1	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition		

Why Study Food Preparation & Nutrition?

In this GCSE course you will have the opportunity to develop skills in the following areas;

- Food preparation skills: preparing, cooking and presenting high quality meals.
- Food science: investigating and applying the scientific principles involved in the preparation of foods as well as understanding the functions of ingredients.
- Nutrition and food choices: understanding detailed principles of nutrition and healthy eating to make informed decisions for a range of different needs.
- Food safety: understanding food hygiene and safety techniques when preparing food.
- Food provenance: learning about where our food comes from and about the huge challenges that we face globally to supply the world with nutritious and safe food.

This course offers a full GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition and is a good foundation for further study towards a career in the food industry.-

ASSESSMENT	
Component 1	Principles of food preparation and nutrition (50% of qualification). Written examination to be taken at the end of Year 11, comprising short and extended answers.
Component 2	Food preparation and nutrition in action – controlled assessment (50% of qualification). Two parts to be undertaken in Year 11: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An investigation into the working characteristics of ingredients which is written up in a report of 1500 -2000 words. This is worth 15% of the final grade and must be completed within eight hours. Examples of the investigation might be, find the most suitable ingredients to produce a crisp pastry or investigate the different methods used to thicken sauces. • A food preparation assessment worth 35% (12 hours). Plan, prepare, cook and evaluate three dishes to suit a specific dietary need such as the cuisine of another country or a special diet such as vegetarianism. A report will be produced of 15 sides.

How to do well in Food Preparation & Nutrition	Useful Resources
This course has a lot of theoretical information that will need a lot of constant revision. You will also need to employ your skills in English and science in order to carry out investigations, understand key elements of food science and be able to write clear reports and answers to exam questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a look at the full subject specification on www.educas.co.uk.

Other information

All students are expected to:

- Contribute for the cost of ingredients every term (£20 per term)
- Purchase a text book and for further support with revision and study at home.
- Provide ingredients for exam work.

FRENCH

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	8658	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE French		

Why Study French?

Speaking another language is not just a skill—it's an opportunity! French is spoken by over 300 million people worldwide, across five continents. It is an official language in 29 countries and one of the key languages of international communication, business, and diplomacy.

French is a core subject of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), making it a valuable qualification. This exciting course helps you develop your language skills in a variety of real-life contexts, while also deepening your understanding of French-speaking cultures.

ASSESSMENT		
Listening	Understanding spoken French	Exams take place at the end of Year 11, with both Foundation and Higher Tier options. Each skill is equally weighted (25%) and includes an element of translation.
Reading	Exploring texts, signs & short stories	
Writing	Expressing ideas & opinions	
Speaking	Conversations & presentations	

How to do well in French	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise vocabulary regularly – Little and often is key! • Watch French TV & films – Try Netflix with subtitles! • Listen to French music & podcasts – Make it part of your routine. • Read comics, magazines & short stories – Pick what interests you. • Practise speaking French – The more you use it, the easier it gets! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memrise • BBC Bitesize • Active Learn • Languages Online

Other information

You'll build on your Key Stage 3 knowledge and learn to communicate more independently and confidently. Topics include:

- Technology in Everyday Life
- Global Issues & Climate Change
- Social Issues Affecting Young People
- We'll be going on outings to Francophone places/activities (Theatre, cinemas, restaurants...)
- You will have an opportunity to go on a trip to France!

GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	1GB0 (Spec B)	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Geography		

Why Study Geography?

Geography is the key to the past, present and future, and is all about contemporary world issues and the world we live in. Students who study Geography gain a wide knowledge and understanding of the built and natural environment, and study some of the issues and challenges faced in key areas going forward through case studies and in-person visits. Geography connects intimately with science, looking more deeply into geology, biomes and earth sciences including tectonic hazards through a unique combined physical and human lens.

Students also have the opportunity to complete fieldwork in the local area and Nationally, and obtain their own primary evidence, which allows them to make connections between lesson study and the real world. They also develop empathy and understanding of many relevant news issues through the study of how humans interact with their environment. Geography is part of the Baccalaureate suite of subjects.

ASSESSMENT	
Paper 1	1 hour and 30 minutes Development, Hazards, Urban Issues
Paper 2	1 hour and 30 minutes, Fieldwork, UK physical Landscapes including rivers and coasts, and UK Human Landscapes
Paper 3	1 hour and 30 minutes, uses a resource booklet and focuses on Biomes, Forests and Energy

How to do well in Geography	Useful Resources
<p>Attend every lesson and catch up on missed lessons right away. Ask lots of questions about the topics we study and follow BBC news to keep abreast of recent developments. Be interested in the world around us. Enjoy making connections whilst doing fieldwork, and try and attend every fieldwork opportunity (there are three compulsory and at least two non compulsory.)</p> <p>Geography runs revision sessions year round on a Monday after school, where groups and individuals from all year groups can spend time catching up on lessons, revisiting topics and teaching one another. You can attend as much or as little as you like and with friends or without. Come along for biscuits and to unpack what you find difficult to understand.</p>	<p><u>Cultural Capital</u> The school subscribes to "Wide World" magazine, and students are encouraged to access geography in the news daily. Students cover relevant case studies and exam techniques using exam and skills practice booklets in lessons and are provided with a revision resource to use at home. There is an enormous and diverse range of jobs that taking GCSE Geography can give you access to.</p>

Other information

Through KS4, students will continue to build on knowledge gained through KS3. The GCSE course includes fieldwork in both an urban and natural environment, and there are two compulsory field trips to Guildford town centre and the South Coast. Additionally, we run a range of other trips to help bring the GCSE course to life and practice fieldwork skills which are examined in paper 2. A wide range of case studies and examples are covered from all across the world, and personal experiences are also very relevant.

HISTORY

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	1HIB	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE History		

Why Study History?

History develops skills, knowledge and understanding that will serve young people well in many walks of life, including Archaeology, Anthropology, Researching, Law, Teaching, Intelligence Services, Journalism and many more.

ASSESSMENT	
Paper 1	Thematic Study and Historic Environment – students will study Crime and Punishment in Britain, 1000 – present. This will include a focus on Whitechapel 1870-1900, the focus being: Crime, policing and the inner city. 30% of total GCSE. The examination will be 1 hour and 20 minutes
Paper 2	This will include two topics. Students will be studying Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588 and will also do a period study looking into the American West 1835-1895. 40% of total GCSE. The examination will be 1 hour and 50 minutes.
Paper 3	This will be a modern depth study. Students will study Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939. 30% of total GCSE. The examination will be 1 hour and 30 minutes.

How to do well in History	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you keep your exercise book up to date with all work presentable and detailed • Participate in class and ask questions • Do homework, very carefully read the suggestions made and act on them • Practise exam style questions and revise appropriately 	<p>Full specifications of the course are online at: https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html</p>

Other information

GCSE History enables students to engage in the process of historical enquiry, to develop as effective and independent critical thinkers, and develop their knowledge and coherent understanding of selected aspects of the subject. It enables an awareness of how the past has been represented and interpreted differently. It also develops the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context, and to recognise that their historical knowledge, understanding and skills help them understand the present.

MUSIC

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson Edexcel	1MU0	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Music		

Why Study Music?

Every single student comes to GCSE music with their own unique musical experiences and interests, which makes the music classroom a really exciting place where we can all learn from one another, collaborate, share and support each other to develop new knowledge and skills.

Music is suitable for singers and instrumentalists. You just need to be genuinely interested in music and excited to perform and create. You must be prepared to perform in class and in front of your peers!

ASSESSMENT	
Component 1	Performing Solo (15%) - Ensemble (15%) Coursework (internally assessed, externally moderated)
Component 2	Composing Free choice (15%) - Exam brief (15%) Coursework (internally assessed, externally moderated)
Component 3	40% Exam (1hr 45m)

How to do well in Music	Useful Resources
<p>You need to be a confident performer of a musical instrument. Take every opportunity to practice and listen to a wide variety of musical styles.</p> <p>You will need to create your own music and will need to have an active interest in exploring this area.</p>	<p>Useful revision information can be found here:-</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z6chkmn</p>

Other information

Set Works

GCSE Music ensures that students appreciate and engage with a wide range of styles. Students will need to be open-minded in order to explore unfamiliar genres and music from different times and cultures. There are eight set works across four Areas of Study (AoS), ranging from JS Bach to John Williams and Queen.

Skills and Future Success

No matter what your next steps are for 6th form and beyond, music helps you prepare for a successful future and in particular fosters the following skills:

PHOTOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8206	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Photography		

Why Study Photography?

Choosing Photography will enable you to develop your creative ability which is widely valued by universities and work places, giving you a broad spectrum for the future. There is a vast range of careers within the photography world including Advertising, Fashion, Product, Travel, Television and Film.

ASSESSMENT	
Unit 1	Portfolio of Work - 60% The majority of coursework is completed in Years 10 and 11 both in lessons and at home. Every piece of work is entered as part of your GCSE. You will be given a range of projects which will fulfil the marking criteria and develop your photographic ability.
Unit 2	Externally Set Task - 40% In January of Year 11 you will be given an examination paper from which you will choose one question. You will have a period of time to prepare and research your question and then complete a final piece in a 10 hour controlled exam. The main element of this exam will be manipulating your photographs using Photoshop.

How to do well in Photography	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet all deadlines and complete homework (approximately two hours every week) Be prepared to experiment with ideas, media and techniques Try hard and work to the best of your ability at all times Have your own equipment and SD card Challenge yourself and be self-critical 	Full specifications of the course are online at www.aqa.org.uk . Search for GCSE Art and Design: Photography.

Other information

Learning Photography will enable you to develop your artistic and creative skills. It is not essential to be able to draw, you just need an artistic eye, as the camera will be your paintbrush! You will learn how to manipulate photographs using Photoshop, use professional studio equipment, and learn about composition, lighting and image meaning.

All work completed in lessons and for homework will be accounted for. The Portfolio is built up from several smaller projects where you practise your photographic skills, learn about the History of Photography, be inspired by other photographers and develop your own personal response. In Year 9 you will learn the skills required to ensure you are successful at GCSE Photography. In the Summer Term, you will start your GCSE coursework and continue in Years 10 and 11.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson	1PE0	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Physical Education		

Why Study P.E.?

This course is an excellent starting point for a career in the Sports and Leisure industry. Many ex-students have become sports coaches or personal trainers, as well as gym instructors. It has led students onto A Level study in Sport and further degree courses in Sports Science, Sports Medicine, Physiotherapy, Sports Psychology, Biomechanical Analysis and even PE teaching.

ASSESSMENT	
Unit 1	Theory of PE – 60% The two examination papers cover different topics. Paper 1 covers Fitness and Body Systems which relate to Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis and Physical Training. Paper 2 covers Health and Performance which relate to Health, Fitness and Well-being, Sport Psychology and Socio-cultural influences.
Unit 2	Practical PE – 40% Students can do up to three sports, each worth 10% of the final mark. A Personal Exercise Plan (PEP) is worth 10% of the final grade. Students will be assessed in an individual activity as well as a team activity and then have a choice about which other sport they do

How to do well in P.E.	Useful Resources
Practice is the key to any performance. If a student is willing to try new things, experiment and shows no fear of failure, they will find that by trial and error their performances will improve. The more they practise their skills in lessons, the more they rehearse their techniques, and the more they revise their theory, the better they will become.	Full specifications of the course are online at www.edexcel.com .

Other information

GCSE Physical Education is a demanding yet fun course to participate in, as it combines both practical and theory elements.

The practical element is 40% of the overall grade and can be delivered through the student undertaking three different sports and a Personal Exercise Plan. The other 60% is based on the theory that underpins sport, such as Anatomy, Physiology and Psychology.

There are 2 terminal examinations that are sat at the end of Year 11. Students will need to revise for these examinations; this is ongoing throughout, as there are a series of tests and mock papers to ensure progress is on track.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	8062	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Religious Studies		

Why Study R.S.?

Religious Studies is dynamic, engaging and relevant. You will consider real life issues affecting you and the people around you from a range of religious and non-religious viewpoints. You will get to have your say, and learn about what really matters in the world. In the future, it could take you towards a variety of careers including the police, counselling, social work, nursing, youth work, teaching or philosophy – in fact, Religious Studies is a vital qualification for any career that requires an understanding of people.

ASSESSMENT	
Component 1	The study of religions – 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs and practices in Christianity • Beliefs and practices in Islam
Component 2	Religious Studies – 50% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime and Punishment • Peace and Conflict • Religion and Life • Relationships and Families

How to do well in R.S.	Useful Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved! Take an active part in the learning and have your say • Be open to other points of view and ready to listen to everyone's views • Develop your writing skills so that you can explain accurately and argue convincingly • Work hard to achieve your full potential • Listen to advice and feedback given on how to improve your grade 	<p>Revision resources can be found at BBC Bitesize and these can help students with their understanding of the course.</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspe/cs/zigx47h</p>

Other information

It is a study of real life and real issues, in which we try to answer the big questions about God and the world around us. The course covers topics within the study of religious teaching and practice, and key philosophical and ethical themes. A range of viewpoints are considered throughout the course, however students will focus primarily on understanding Christian and Muslim approaches to the issues covered.

To be successful in Religious Studies students will need to gain knowledge and understanding of religious concepts, as well as developing an ability to analyse and evaluate opposing points of view. Students will need to have an open mind and be able to clearly explain not just what different people think and do, but why.

SEPARATE SCIENCES

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
AQA	Biology - 8461 Chemistry - 8462 Physics - 8463	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics		

Why Study Separate Sciences?

GCSE Separate Sciences offers students a chance to gain a more in-depth knowledge of Chemistry, Biology and Physics and to build on areas covered in Combined Science in more detail as well as covering extra content. This course is great preparation for studying Science at A level, undergraduate and postgraduate degree level. The aim is to enhance understanding of key scientific concepts, build on topics covered in Combined Science and prepare students to study Science at the next level. Students studying Separate Sciences will have an additional four lessons, and in this time will cover additional content in the following areas;

ASSESSMENT	
Biology	2 Papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each.
Chemistry	2 Papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each.
Physics	2 Papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each.

How to do well in Separate Sciences	Useful Resources
Separate Science enhances the understanding of the effects of Science on society and knowledge of the material, physical and living worlds. Additionally, students will further develop how to use hypotheses and evidence to understand Science. During the course, students will deepen their observational, enquiry and problem-solving skills and become adept at communication, mathematics and technology involved in science.	

Other information

There will also be 24 required practical experiments that students have to complete through-out the course. Aspects of required practical work, including correct use of equipment and analysis of outcome are also assessed in the examinations.

SPORT & COACHING PRINCIPLES

EXAM BOARD	PAPER SPECIFICATION	SUBJECT TYPE
WJEC	5259QA	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Principles		

Why Study P.E.?

This vocational qualification in Sport and Coaching Principles has been designed to encourage students to pursue a qualification that provides an insight into sports performance and coaching. This qualification is the start to a career in the sport and leisure industry with opportunities with coaching, fitness instructing and further education settings.

ASSESSMENT	
Unit 1	Fitness for Sport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure, functions and adaptations to the body's systems in relation to sport, exercise and physical activity. • The importance of the components of fitness for different physical activities • The role of training in achieving improvements in fitness
Unit 2	Improving Sporting Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factors affecting sporting performance (physiological and psychological) • Analysis of your own sporting performance
Unit 3	Coaching Principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the skills and responsibilities of a sports coach • Understanding the coaching process • How to coach • Reviewing the coaching performance

How to do well in Sport & Coaching	Useful Resources
Practice is the key to any performance. If a student is willing to try new things, experiment and shows no fear of failure, they will find that by trial and error their performances will improve. The more they practise their skills in lessons, the more they rehearse their techniques, and the more they revise their theory, the better they will become.	https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/gypklrru/wjec-l1-2-vocaward-ta-sport-coaching-principles-spec-e-04-09-2023.pdf

Other information

The qualification is made up of three units and contains several different aspects of sport and coaching. These include improving the performance of you and other athletes, how to assess the needs of an athlete, how to produce training programmes that will develop physical fitness, and how to lead coaching sessions for groups with different needs. Unit 2 and 3 are internally assessed coursework units and Unit 1 is an examination unit. Students will complete units 2 and 3 before they are able to sit the exam as a terminal rule. Information learnt in Units 2 and 3 will aid students in completing the exam unit.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

EXAM BOARD	QUALIFICATION NUMBER	SUBJECT TYPE
Pearson/Edexcel	603/7048/8	Option
QUALIFICATION AWARDED		
BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism		

Why Study Travel & Tourism?

The Travel and Tourism sector is fast-paced and dynamic, offering diverse job opportunities worldwide. Various factors impact the industry and its organisations. Technology and innovation keep it at the forefront of trends, inspiring exploration and learning. This course helps you develop knowledge and technical skills in a hands-on environment. You'll explore travel organisations, tourist destinations, customer needs, and global influences. Two thirds of the course are classroom based component tasks and one third is an exam.

ASSESSMENT	
Component 1	Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations - 30% Students will explore UK travel and tourism organisations, their ownership, aims, key services, and collaboration. They will examine consumer technologies, tourism types, visitor categories, and popular destinations. Assessment includes a Pearson-set controlled task with five parts, completed in Year 10 over 10 supervised hours, worth 60 marks.
Component 2	Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism - 30% Students will explore how organisations use market research to identify trends and customer needs. They will examine how travel planning meets these needs. Assessment includes a Pearson-set controlled task with four parts, completed over Years 10 and 11 in 11 supervised hours, worth 60 marks.
Component 3	Influences on Global Travel and Tourism - 40% Students will examine factors influencing global travel and tourism, how organisations respond, and the impacts on destinations. They will explore sustainable tourism management. Assessment is a 2-hour final exam at the end of Year 11, worth 60 marks.

How to do well in Travel and Tourism	Useful Resources
Attend every lesson and catch up with anything you miss right away. Share personal experiences which are great for learning about the industry and this knowledge can be used in your component tasks. Do your own research on destinations and trends which are helpful when it comes to completing component tasks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitbritain.com • BBC Bitesize • Revision Guide • t&tpublishing.co.uk • mondrago.co.uk

Other information

Travel and Tourism jobs are growing at the fastest pace of any industry. This subject is great for students who struggle with exams as two components are completed before exams start. Many students use personal experiences in their work.

Religious Studies & PSHE

Non-Examined

Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a dynamic, engaging and highly relevant subject. During core RE lessons in KS4, you will consider real life issues affecting you and the people around you from a range of religious and non-religious viewpoints. You will get to have your say, and learn about what really matters in the world. In the future, it could take you towards a variety of careers including the police, counselling, social work, nursing, youth work, teaching or philosophy – in fact, Religious Studies is a vital foundation for any career that requires an understanding of people.

These are some of the questions we will explore:

- Where does life come from?
- Does it matter how we treat our planet?
- Should we have the right to test new medicines on animals?
- What happens after we die?
- How important is family?
- When is it okay to have sex?
- Are genders equal in today's society?
- Why is there so much poverty in the world?
- What does religious freedom look like?

And many more.

PSHE

PSHE allows students to be educated in areas outside of the national curriculum. The course is designed to allow students to debate issues and build their understanding through asking questions. Students are encouraged to listen to the opinion of others and question what they already know. The course has a variety of topics in Year 10 and 11 including:

- Human rights
- The prison system
- Marriage
- Equalities Act
- Social Media
- First Aid
- Stress Management
- Financial Management
- Personal banking
- Refugees and current affairs
- CV writing
- Abortion and miscarriage
- Euthanasia

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CAREERS ADVICE

Mr Annan our careers lead is available every Friday in the Hub, both before college, at break and lunchtime to answer any questions you may have about careers.

