

WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing



Spring 2017



Maths &
Computing



Prince Bishops
Teaching School Alliance
Growing together



National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

OPTIMISING
KNOWLEDGE
FOR
TELLING

Options Timeline - Key Dates

DECEMBER 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Monday 12th December

Assembly to launch options process

Monday 9th January onwards

Mr Moore, Careers Advisor, tutor groups talks about Option choices

Wednesday 1st February

Year 9 Options Assembly

Tuesday 7th February

Options Booklet on Website

Thursday 9th February

**'Drop in' Parents/Options Evening
3.20pm - 6.45pm**

Thursday 16th February

Final submission date for forms

End of summer term

Option allocations complete

You are approaching a significant time in your education at Whitburn Church of England Academy; by the February half term you will have considered and chosen the courses you will take for your GCSEs.

During the next few weeks you should discuss your ideas with your parents / carers to help clarify your thoughts about which options to choose. We hope that you will seek help and advice about your GCSEs. Your Head of Learning and Form Tutor will be very pleased to discuss any issues with you. Your subject teachers will be happy to give you information about their subject areas.

HOW SHOULD YOU CHOOSE?

As pupils in Year 9, it is quite natural that you may be undecided about your future plans and many of you will, without doubt, change your minds over the next two years.

You should therefore consider the following points:

- Keep your career options open by choosing **AS BROAD A RANGE OF SUBJECTS AS POSSIBLE**.
- Within the bounds of the option choices available, choose subjects that you **ENJOY** or in which you are **SUCCESSFUL** (preferably both).
- **LISTEN** to the advice of subject teachers, especially where new subjects are involved.
- If you do have definite career/job plans at this stage find out if there are certain subjects that would be **HELPFUL** to you to study.
- Don't take or drop subjects for the wrong reasons, and don't pay too much attention to the 'advice' given by friends: **WHAT SUITS THEM MAY WELL NOT SUIT YOU**. You also may not end up in the same class.
- Do **TALK** to pupils who are in Year 10 or 11 about a specific subject you might wish to study.
- Do get all the information you can from this booklet and by **ASKING QUESTIONS** before deciding on your subjects.
- Try not to choose a subject just because you **LIKE** (or dislike) the teacher. You may have different teachers next year.
- Do think about your **SKILLS** and how you work and try to match these with the different demands of the different subjects.
- Subjects have different amounts of marks awarded for examinations and for controlled assessments. Do think carefully about **HOW YOU BEST WORK** when making your selection of subjects.
- If you have any doubts or need any help, **ASK A TEACHER**.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT WHEN CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS

Making a Balanced Choice

It is important that you continue to study a variety of courses. Not only will this contribute to your general education, it will also mean that doors to a wide number of careers and further study will remain open to you.

A limited number of universities have indicated that continuing with a language subject at GCSE is of benefit for application for a wide range of courses. Pupils should take this into account when making their selection of subjects.

English Baccalaureate

The Government believes that all schools should offer pupils a broad range of academic subjects and the ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBacc) promotes this aspiration. The ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE is a progress measure to recognise pupils **achieving at least 5 good passes (Grade 5 and above)** across a core of selected academic subjects, which **MUST** include English, Mathematics, two Sciences, one Humanities subject and one Modern Foreign Language. The EBacc is not, at present, a requirement for University application. There is no additional exam and no certificate is awarded.

You will be able to study the following subjects in order to achieve the ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE:

- GCSE English Language and Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSEs in 2 Sciences - either GCSE Combined Science, Computer Science or Separate Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- GCSE in Geography or GCSE History
- GCSE in Spanish or GCSE French

Any choice of options should be made on the basis of taking a balanced range of GCSE courses, considering possible future study, career options and, of course, subjects that you enjoy and have an aptitude for.

We offer the EBacc combination to all pupils but this is NOT compulsory.

For a **BALANCED** range of subjects, we ask that you opt for at least **one** of the following; Computer Science (if eligible), French, Spanish, History or Geography.



Opting for at least one of the above will provide you with a wide range of opportunities for future studies and career decisions.

Every effort is made to enable pupils to study the subjects that they choose, but it should be noted that if any option is undersubscribed, it will not run.

We build our Key Stage 4 timetable around the pupils' choices made by February half term. Changes to choices after this date **cannot be accommodated** so it is important that pupils are confident about their choices by this deadline.

Due to curriculum changes, all pupils in Year 9 have already started to follow the **SEPARATE SCIENCE** course. However, the decision to enter your child for either Separate Sciences or for GCSE Combined Science will be taken **following your child's performance in Years 9, 10 and 11**. As the Separate Science course is very challenging, pupils will need to demonstrate that they are coping with the higher academic demands of this throughout Years 9, 10 and 11.

Pupils wishing to opt for **COMPUTER SCIENCE** need to demonstrate that they have attained at least a **Grade 5** in Maths by their February 2017 report due to the very challenging nature of this qualification.

LOOKING AHEAD

In two years time you will be making another vital decision about your future. Listed below are the types of courses which at present can be taken after GCSE:

A Level

To be able to study 'A Levels', you would usually be expected to achieve 5 GCSEs or more at grade 6 or above. Due to the changes to the qualifications, with the exception of those studying Further Maths, pupils will choose 3 subjects to study at 'A' Level. These normally require two years study and will be assessed during the summer of Year 13. Some may also choose to study Core Maths or an EPQ (Extended Project Qualification). Sixth Forms and post 16 providers have specific requirements for each particular course they offer; our current prospectus provides further details on the Academy website www.whitburncofeacademy.org.

A levels are the traditional route to Higher Education and pupils wishing to go to University should study 3 'A' Levels. Choices made at GCSE can affect what you go on to study later on, so you need to give it careful thought. Usually, if you think you might like to take a subject at 'A' level, you should also choose to study that subject at GCSE. There are also several 'new' subjects available at 'A' Level that can be taken without any previous study; these include Psychology, Sociology, and Philosophy and Ethics. Those pupils targeting a future place at one of the 'Russell Group' Universities (the 24 leading Universities in the UK) should check specific courses for entry requirements as a minority can require a language and/or humanities subject at GCSE.

Vocational Courses

These can be studied over one or two years and are more practical based; these are delivered by Colleges and school Sixth Forms.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships give you the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and develop professional skills, while earning a salary. Mr Moore, our Careers Co-ordinator, provides impartial careers guidance advice and has further information about apprenticeships available at Level 2 and Level 3.

WHO CAN HELP YOU CHOOSE?

Help is available in a variety of ways. We hope that the talks you have already had in school have been helpful. In addition, several people are able and willing to help:

- Subject teachers, who know your strengths and weaknesses in their subjects.
- Your Form Tutor and Head of Learning, who have an overall picture of your progress.
- Our Careers Co-ordinator, Mr Moore, who can provide specialist information and links to websites such as Kudos.
- Mr Craggs, the Head of Sixth Form.
- Any teacher you regard as an 'adviser'; they may know you well enough to be sympathetic and to help you sort out any problems.
- Parents/carers and other relatives.

It's not easy to make decisions about your future - this is why help is available and important. Don't feel that you have to 'get on with it' by yourself - you don't!

GCSE Courses

In Year 9 you have already started your GCSE courses in Separate Sciences, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies. For your GCSEs all assessment continues to be **linear** in structure, so that examinations are taken at the **end** of the course. Additional marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) for GCSEs in English Literature, Geography, History and Religious Studies. You will take the new GCSEs in all subjects which will be graded from 9 (highest) to 1.

Where subjects have non-exam assessment, these are usually worth between 20% (Computer Science) and 60% (Music).

Non-exam assessment

The term 'non-exam assessment' covers a range of different forms of assessment. Non-exam assessments are not necessarily 'internally' or teacher-marked nor undertaken over an extended period of time. A performance may, for example, be undertaken under timed conditions and marked by a visiting exam board assessor, but because not all pupils will be assessed simultaneously it does not fall within the definition of 'assessment by exam'.

Will all GCSEs have non-exam assessment?

No. The percentage depends on the range of skills to be assessed and the most effective way of assessing them. The breakdown for 2019 is shown below:

- English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Combined Science, Business Studies, Geography, History and Religious Studies have no non-exam assessment.
- Computer Science has 20% non-exam assessment.
- French and Spanish have 25% non-exam assessment.
- Media Studies has 30% non-exam assessment.
- GCSE Physical Education has 40% non-exam assessment.
- Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE and Design and Technology GCSE have 50% non-exam assessment.
- ICT Technical Award and Music GCSE have 60% non-exam assessment.
- Art and Design has 100% non-exam assessment.

Full details of the new GCSE specifications can be found on the exam board websites. Most subjects follow AQA specifications except Computer Science, ICT, Business Studies and Music.

Tiers of Entry

Please note that for the new GCSE specifications, there will no longer be tiers of entry except in Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and the Sciences.

YEAR 10 and 11 CURRICULUM

Everyone will study these **COMPULSORY** subjects:

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science

Religious Studies

Physical Education

Personal, Social and Health Education

In the core subjects, pupils are ranked in order of the *GCSE* grade achieved in their Year 9 examinations. This data is used to create new sets and four parallel top sets continue. Most pupils will remain in the same set throughout Years 10 and 11, although a small number may be moved when progress is reviewed.



We also shuffle pupils from P band to Q band and vice versa. This happens every year and, as sets are changed at the start of Year 10 too, pupils quickly settle into their new classes.

OPTION CHOICES

You need to select to study **THREE OPTION SUBJECTS** and a **RESERVE CHOICE** from the following list:

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science (*grade 5 needed in Maths to be eligible*)
- Design and Technology
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French (*if studied this in Year 9*)
- Geography
- History
- ICT (Tech Award)
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE GCSE
- Spanish (*if studied this in Year 9*)

Remember, although we offer the EBacc combination this is not compulsory. For a **BALANCED** range of subjects, we ask that you opt for **at least one** of the following; *Computer Science (if eligible), French, Spanish, History or Geography.*

KEY STAGE 4 SUBJECTS

ART

Fine Art GCSE is a demanding yet rewarding course aimed at pupils who have an interest in being creative, especially by painting and drawing. There is very little written work required and pupils have the opportunity to develop knowledge of double exposure photography, textiles, printing and a huge range of other materials and techniques. Good organisational skills and independent learning are needed to excel at this course.



By studying this course, you will:

- learn how to **research** a theme and how to improve your artistic skills.
- study historical and modern **artists, crafts people and designers**.
- learn how to **develop ideas** through experimenting with a variety of materials such as painting, drawing, mixed media, digital photography, creative textiles and possibly 3D.
- learn how to **create** a large piece of work based on your research and ideas.

This course has two components:

- **Portfolio (60%)** is made up of your artwork taken from 4 projects you do in Year 10 and Year 11: Experiments; Portraits; Random; Mock Examination.
- **Controlled Test (40%)** is set by AQA and issued to you in January of Year 11. You will have 9 weeks to create a project then 10 hours to make a 'Final Piece'. The 10 hours is spread across two full days and you will be off timetable. This project is the Controlled Test.



Post 16 Progression can include A Level Art and Photography or BTEC Diplomas in Art & Design, Graphic Design and Photography. Career opportunities are many and varied such as art therapy, fashion and textiles, computer game and web design, set design, theatrical make-up, animation, architecture and advertising to name a few.



CONTACT: MRS DEMBRY

BUSINESS STUDIES

The Business Studies GCSE course is covered in two units:

- Theme 1: Investigating a small business
- Theme 2: Building a business



By studying this subject you will:

- Learn about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy.
- Learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them.
- Develop your ability to link business theory to real life situations.

Assessment

Theme 1: Written examination paper consisting of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. (50% of final grade).

Theme 2: Written examination paper consisting of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. (50% of final grade).

Post 16 Progression This can include studying A-levels in Business or Economics. Apprenticeships are often available in accountancy firms, retail businesses, insurance, banking and other financial areas. Business Studies and Economics can be studied to degree level, allowing you to specialise in areas such as international business, marketing, human resources management, global finance or economic development.

CONTACT: *MISS THIRLWELL*



COMPUTER SCIENCE

This demanding AQA course is aimed at pupils who have an interest in a career in computing, engineering or science. **Pupils need to have a keen interest in problem solving and programming** and have attained a **grade 5** in Mathematics in their report in order to be considered for this course.



By studying this course, you will:

- develop an understanding of current and emerging technologies;
- acquire a knowledge of algorithms in programming and programming skills;
- make informed decisions about the use of ICT;
- develop computer programmes to solve problems.

Assessment

This course has three components:

- 'Principles of Computer Science' assessed through a written paper accounting for 40% of the GCSE grade.
- 'Computational Thinking' assessed through a written paper accounting for 40% of the GCSE grade.
- A non-examination assessment, assessed through a piece of practical work set by the exam board accounting for 20% of the GCSE grade.

CONTACT: *MR MULFORD*

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

In this new GCSE, pupils will use their creativity to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. The course will prepare pupils to participate confidently in an increasingly technological world, gaining awareness of historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on Design and Technology.

All pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of the following specialist technical principles:

- selection of materials or components
- forces and stresses
- ecological and social footprint
- sources and origins
- using and working with materials
- stock forms, types and sizes
- scales of production
- specialist techniques and processes
- surface treatments and finishes.

Pupils will also learn about papers and boards, timber based materials, metal based materials, polymers, textile based materials and electronic and mechanical systems. **Pupils may be expected to provide some of their own materials for lessons, though financial assistance may be available.**

Assessment

A two hour written exam (50% of the final grade). This will involve a mixture of multiple choice, short-answer and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment: A 35 hour substantial design and make task (50% of the final grade) where pupils need to produce a working prototype and a 20-page portfolio of evidence.

CONTACT: *MISS MACK*

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure pupils develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food sources and the working characteristics of food materials. This qualification focuses on nurturing practical cookery skills to give pupils a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

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



How GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is assessed

Pupils will be assessed through non examined practical tasks (50%) and a written examination (50%). The practical tasks include (i) a food investigation to develop understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients and (ii) a food preparation assessment. This will involve the preparation, cooking and presentation of food, along with the application of nutrition; pupils will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Pupils will be expected to provide their own ingredients for Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE lessons, though financial assistance may be available.

Post 16 Progression: Food Technology career possibilities include those in food marketing management, food product design, nutrition, catering, public health and hospitality business management.

CONTACT: *MISS MACK*

ICT TECHNICAL AWARD

This new high quality vocational qualification is aimed at pupils who would like the opportunity to develop ICT knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. It can complement GCSE courses such as Business Studies. It requires pupils to apply their knowledge and skills in practical ways, through engaging projects that will enable them to develop their ideas.

By studying this course, you will:

- develop key skills and aptitude in using IT tools and techniques
- gather and combine digital assets to create an interactive product
- understand the process that underpins effective ways of developing IT products and solutions
- understand how different IT systems and technologies have changed attitudes and ways of working
- consider ethical and security issues around ICT.



Assessment

The course has 3 components:

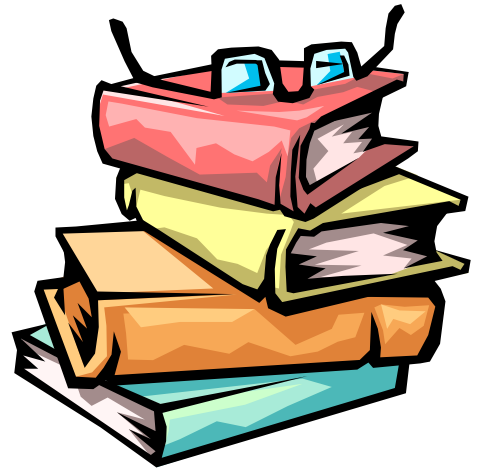
- **Exploring uses of IT.** (40%) An externally-assessed short answer exam which considers the use of Information Technology (IT) systems by both organisations and individuals.
- **Developing a spreadsheet solution to model data** (30%). This internally assessed assignment gives pupils the opportunity to explore how to produce a functional spreadsheet solution to model data
- **Creating an interactive product.** (30%) Pupils will apply knowledge, understanding and skills to design and develop an interactive digital product for a given brief. This is internally assessed.

Post-16 progression could include Level 3 Technical Awards or A Levels, as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects. This award can support most career choices as employers value digital skills in a world where digital technology is transforming all aspects of the economy and society.

CONTACT: MRS THOMPSON

ENGLISH LANGUAGE and ENGLISH LITERATURE - COMPULSORY

You will study an integrated course - AQA GCSE English Language / English Literature. This will generate two separate GCSE qualifications. The syllabus contains reading and writing elements as well as a spoken language assessment. All pupils will be entered for both Language and Literature examinations. Both English Language and English Literature are linear, non-tiered courses culminating in examinations worth 100% of the overall grade.



There will be two written examination papers for Language and two for Literature. Additional marks will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) throughout.

Post 16 Progression English is a requirement for the vast majority of Post-16 courses and employers look for it too. Having a GCSE in English will help you in all career paths in the future. These subjects can also help you towards a career in the legal profession, broadcasting, publishing, journalism, marketing, editorial work, copywriting, library work, acting, translating and teaching, to name a few.

If you fail to secure a grade 5 or above at GCSE, you now have to continue with this subject at Sixth Form or College. This also applies even if you are completing an apprenticeship or other work related training.

CONTACT: *MRS MAUGHAN*



FRENCH

You will follow the **AQA Specification GCSE in French**. This will build upon the language learnt in KS3.

This course is entirely assessed by final examinations. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing examinations will be taken at the end of year 11. In the French GCSE course, you will study three themes, divided into topics.

- **Identity and culture:**
 - *Me, my family and my friends*
 - *Technology in everyday life*
 - *Free time activities*

- **Local, national, international and global areas of interest**
 - *Home, town, neighbourhood and region*
 - *Social issues*
 - *Global issues*
 - *Travel and tourism*

- **Current and future study and employment**
 - *My studies*
 - *Life at school/ college*
 - *Education post-16*
 - *Jobs, career choices and ambitions*

The final examination tests four skill areas:

- Paper 1: Listening (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam
 - Section A: questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
 - Section B: questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

- Paper 2: Speaking (25% of the overall GCSE): non-exam assessment
 - Role-play
 - Conversation around a photocard
 - General conversation

- Paper 3: Reading (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam
 - Section A: questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally
 - Section B: questions in French to be answered in French or non-verbally
 - Section C: translation from French into English

- Paper 4: Writing (25% of the overall GCSE)
 - Foundation Tier
 - Question 1: message (response to a photo)
 - Question 2: short passage (4 bullet points)
 - Question 3: translation from English into French
 - Question 4: structured writing task

 - Higher Tier
 - Question 1: structured writing task
 - Question 2: open ended writing task
 - Question 3: translation from English into French

Post 16 Progression Languages can be studied to A-level and to degree level. Careers include interpreting, translating or teaching. However, as many jobs now require people to speak more than one language, being able to do so will increase your employability.

CONTACT: *MONSIEUR LE GOFF*

GEOGRAPHY

This GCSE course is divided into three units:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment - you will study topics such as 'The challenge of natural hazards', 'The living world' and 'Physical landscapes in the UK'.

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment - you will study topics such as 'Urban issues and challenges', 'The changing economic world' and 'The challenge of resource management'.

Unit 3: Geographical applications - this involves issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills

Assessment

You will sit three examination papers (one each for Units 1, 2 & 3). Paper 1 and 2 are each worth 35%, so comprise 70% of the total marks. The other 30% of the marks are gained from Paper 3.

Post 16 Progression The skills you develop in your geographical studies make you of potential interest to a wide range of employers as it is a much respected academic subject. Associated future careers include environmental and transport consultancy, surveying, cartography and architecture. In addition many geographers move into finance, law, accountancy and marketing.

CONTACT: *MRS HUSBAND*



HISTORY

Component 1: Understanding the Modern World

Section A: Period Studies

America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality

Section B: Wider World Depth Studies

Conflict and tension, 1918-1939



Component 2: Shaping the Nation

Section A: Thematic Study

Britain: Power and the people: c1170 to the present day

Section B: British depth studies including the historical environment

Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

Assessment

Component 1: Written exam worth 50% of the total marks.

Component 2: Written exam worth 50% of the total marks.

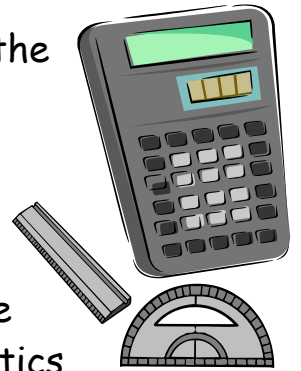
Post 16 Progression History can be studied at A level, but also prepares pupils for studying other subjects such as Sociology. History is a much respected academic subject that can lead to any job that requires good research skills, good verbal and written communication skills and an understanding of people.

CONTACT: *MR LIDDLE*

MATHEMATICS - COMPULSORY

Mathematics is an essential skill in daily life as it is required to manage personal finances and assist in problem solving.

Pupils will be following a linear course which will be examined at the end of two years. The advantage of following a linear course is that the content can be taught in any order to help pupils make connections across the different topic areas of mathematics and also there is a much lower burden of assessment throughout the course. This means that pupils are generally more focused and mature by the time they come to sit their Mathematics exam.



Maths is for everyone. It will develop your problem-solving and reasoning skills, as well as your ability to use and apply standard techniques. The course also encourages you to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in your own life and to society.

Assessment is by three written examination papers at the end of the course; two calculator papers and one non-calculator. The topic areas are Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measures, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Statistics and Probability. There are two tiers of entry.

Post 16 Progression It has been proven that studying mathematics helps to increase your chances of future employment as most jobs require a basic level of mathematical competency. Furthermore *GCSE Mathematics* is an essential entry requirement for many Post-16 courses. **If you fail to secure a grade 5 or above at GCSE, you now have to continue with this subject at Sixth Form or College. This also applies even if you are completing an apprenticeship or other work related training.** It prepares you for A-level Mathematics and Science courses, as well as other subjects which involve statistics and numeracy, i.e. Economics, PE and Geography. Mathematics can also be studied to degree level, either as a stand-alone subject or as part of a course such as electronics, engineering and computer science.

CONTACT: *MRS BARTCH*

MEDIA STUDIES

In this GCSE course you will learn to:

- Demonstrate skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making, and analysis
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of media issues
- Develop understanding of the media and its role in society
- Analyse and compare media products
- Develop practical skills by providing opportunities for production



There are three components:

Component 1: Exploring Media Language and Representation

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Component 3: Creating Media Products



Assessment

Component 1 is assessed via a written examination worth 30% of the qualification. This paper covers newspapers, radio, advertising, video games, magazines and music videos. You will be assessed on three of these media forms.

Component 2 is assessed via another written examination worth 40% of the qualification, this time covering television crime drama or sitcom, and a film franchise such as Star Wars or James Bond.

An individual media production based on a choice of briefs makes up the final 30%.

There are links with English and English Literature as you critically evaluate texts. There are also strong links with ICT through the involvement of technology in media production and the careful consideration of audience.

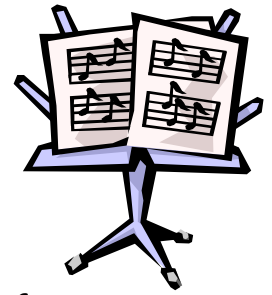


Post 16 Progression

Some go on to study A-level Media or Film Studies. However this course gives you a valuable insight into media related work such as advertising, digital manipulation, and web design, as well as the film and video game industries.

CONTACT: *MR SMAILES*

MUSIC



You will learn how to improve your performing skills and, through work in composing, gain an insight into how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product. You will also be expected to analyse music in a variety of styles through generic listening questions and detailed study of eight set works; two works for each of the following areas of study: Instrumental Music 1700 - 1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

There are 3 units:

Unit 1: Performing Music (30%) - You will produce both a solo and an ensemble performance which will be recorded and assessed in the academic year in which you will be awarded the qualification. The performances must last a minimum of four minutes in total and may be on any instrument and in any style. The standard level of performance is around ABRSM (or equivalent examination board) grade 2 to 3 and continual practice throughout the course is required. Controlled assessment conditions will apply to this unit.

Unit 2: Composing Music (30%) - You will produce two compositions; one to a set brief from the examination board and one of your own choice. The combined length of the two pieces will be a minimum of three minutes. Controlled assessment conditions will apply to this unit.

Unit 3: Music - Listening and Appraising (40%) - This is an externally marked examination covering; the four areas of study, aural and theory skills.

Post 16 Progression: Music is a good preparation and solid foundation for further study in Music and Music Technology, as well as being recognised by 'Russell Group' Universities. It can lead to careers in the music industry, publishing, teaching and entertainment, or any job that involves communication and expressive skills. Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience; useful if you intend to pursue a career in Performing Arts, Business or Law.

CONTACT: *MR ROSE*

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION - COMPULSORY

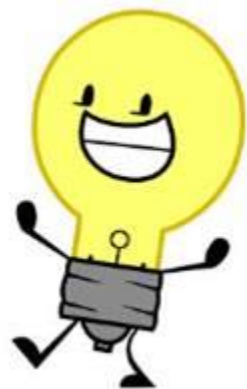


This is not a GCSE course. Throughout the programme you are taught by your Form Tutors and specialist speakers where appropriate. Elements in this course will include Health Education, Careers Education, Personal Development, SRE and Citizenship.

You will be encouraged to develop your confidence, independent learning skills and to take on responsibility. You will also be encouraged to engage in group and class discussions, developing good relationships and to respect diversity between people. You will also be taught how to develop a healthy, safe lifestyle and economic and financial awareness.

Careers Education is an important part of this course and you will develop your own Independent Learning Plan (ILP). Preparation for Work Experience will take place and time will also be given so that you can negotiate GCSE and learning targets.

You will produce a Progress File which will provide evidence of your academic and non - academic progress which will support you in your post-16 choices and provide useful evidence to show future employers.



The PSHE programme will run alongside your long registration activities and assembly topics, therefore you will be able to create a greater understanding of the topics covered and develop your learning and self-reflection skills.

You will develop enterprising skills and attitudes to prepare you for work and later life. You will also be empowered to take responsibility towards achieving your goals.

CONTACT: *MRS CRAIG*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - COMPULSORY

All pupils will be involved in a range of activities that develops personal fitness and promotes an active, healthy lifestyle. Some pupils may select a more competitive pathway which will aim to develop their technique and improve performance in competitive sport. GCSE PE pupils will be encouraged to take part in the activities that will best support their controlled (non-exam) assessment.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

The GCSE course is made up of the following areas:



Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

This is a written paper worth 30% of the total marks and lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. Questions are multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer and extended answers on the following topics:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data



Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

This is a second written paper worth 30% of the total marks and lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. Questions are multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer and extended answers on the following topics:

- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Use of data

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity

This is a controlled assessment worth 40% of the total marks. In school you will complete at least four assessments as a performer across a range of sports and physical activities that are found in the National Curriculum. Practical performance will be assessed across three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in a team or individual activity). You will also be assessed in your ability to analyse and evaluate your performance in order to improve in one activity. You may be assessed in practical activities that you complete outside of school that are not delivered on-site. Where an assessed activity has been performed outside of school, an audio-visual recording is required. PE staff will provide guidance on this and a copy of the AQA assessment criteria. Example activities would include activities such as golf, canoeing and skiing.

Post 16 Progression This course provides an excellent foundation for pursuing a range of Post-16 courses such as A level Physical Education and allows for progression to related vocational qualification such as BTEC Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science. With further training, it can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities in sports science, teaching, recreational management, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry and the armed forces.

CONTACT: *MR SCOTT*

RELIGIOUS STUDIES - COMPULSORY

You will follow the **GCSE Full Course - Ethics, Philosophy and Religion in Society**. This GCSE course commenced in Year 9 and lasts for three years.

The GCSE course is designed to allow you to make a thematic study of religion and religious responses to fundamental questions of life, with a particular focus on ethical and philosophical issues. Topics include:

Component 1

Christianity

Buddhism

Component 2

Religion and life

Religion, peace and conflict

Religion, crime and punishment

Relationships and families



There is one written paper for each component and each contributes 50% of the total marks.

Post 16 Progression Religious Studies is a valuable entry qualification to Post-16 education. This course develops your ability to listen, share and express views. It also develops your ability to acknowledge and respect others' opinions on a range of moral and ethical issues and questions of belief. Some go on to study Religious Studies, Ethics or Philosophy at A level.

CONTACT: *MISS ROBERTS*

SCIENCE - COMPULSORY

You will all follow a Separate Science GCSE course.

SEPARATE SCIENCES

Most of you will sit the **AQA Separate Science GCSE's in Year 11** - in order to gain **three GCSEs in Science**: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Everyone has started these GCSEs in Year 9, for entry to the 2019 GCSE exams.

SCIENCE - GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Some of you will sit the **AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy**. This is a double award, so equivalent to two GCSEs in Science. It is taught as three separate sciences, but assessed and awarded as a combined science.

We will carefully track your progress using Key Assessment data from Years 9, 10 and 11. This data will be used to determine whether or not we feel that you will be able to cope with the demands of three separate science GCSEs. If this is not the case then you will follow the AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy.

For both Science GCSE routes, topics covered will include areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics - focusing on 'How Science Works'. These will be assessed by external assessments in Year 11. These papers contribute 100% of the final marks. There is also a 'required' practical element to the GCSE, where you will be assessed on your practical skills.



Post 16 Progression Both courses will give you a firm foundation for a wide range of further qualifications and careers. Some study A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics and others study subjects such as engineering, health care and environmental science. Future careers include medicine, veterinary care and dentistry.

CONTACT: MR OREN

SPANISH

You will follow the **AQA Specification GCSE in Spanish**. This will build upon the language learnt in KS3.

This course is entirely assessed by final examinations. Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing examinations will be taken at the end of year 11.

In the Spanish GCSE course, you will study three themes, divided into topics.

- **Identity and culture:**
 - *Me, my family and my friends*
 - *Technology in everyday life*
 - *Free time activities*

- **Local, national, international and global areas of interest**
 - *Home, town, neighbourhood and region*
 - *Social issues*
 - *Global issues*
 - *Travel and tourism*

- **Current and future study and employment**
 - *My studies*
 - *Life at school/ college*
 - *Education post-16*
 - *Jobs, career choices and ambitions*



The final examination tests four skill areas:

- Paper 1: Listening (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam
 - Section A: questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
 - Section B: questions in Spanish, to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally
- Paper 2: Speaking (25% of the overall GCSE): non-exam assessment
 - Role-play
 - Conversation around a photocard
 - General conversation

- Paper 3: Reading (25% of the overall GCSE): written exam
 - Section A: questions in English to be answered in English or non-verbally
 - Section B: questions in Spanish to be answered in Spanish or non-verbally
 - Section C: translation from Spanish into English

- Paper 4: Writing (25% of the overall GCSE)
 - Foundation Tier
 - Question 1: message (response to a photo)
 - Question 2: short passage (4 bullet points)
 - Question 3: translation from English into Spanish
 - Question 4: structured writing task

 - Higher Tier
 - Question 1: structured writing task
 - Question 2: open ended writing task
 - Question 3: translation from English into Spanish

Post 16 Progression Languages can be studied to A-level and to degree level. Careers include interpreting, translating or teaching. However, as many jobs now require people to speak more than one language, being able to do so will increase your employability.

CONTACT: *MONSIEUR LE GOFF*

CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS

Please complete the 'Option Choices' form at the end of this booklet. It should be returned to your Form Tutor by **Thursday 16th February**. **If you fail to return your option form by the final deadline you will have the choices made for you.**

Please note that we **cannot guarantee** that everyone will follow their first choice of option subjects; we must consider pupil suitability, class sizes, staff numbers and the availability of specialist rooms. You must also make your option subjects carefully as you will not be able to change your choices.

To complete the Options Form:

- Please rank your 3 choices (number these 1, 2 and 3).
- Then select **one reserve subject** (number this 4).
- Check you have chosen at least **one** of the following as a choice: **Geography, History, Computer Science (if eligible), French or Spanish.**

Please note that all the information contained in this options booklet is current at the time of issue. However we reserve the right to make specification changes in the best interest of pupils or as a consequence of legislation.

SAMPLE OPTION FORM *to show you how to complete the form*

Name: **Jill Smith**

Form: **9U**

Subject	Rank (1-4)
Art	
Business Studies	3
Computer Science <i>(grade 5 Maths needed on report to be eligible)</i>	
Design and Technology	
Food Preparation and Nutrition	
French	
Geography	1
History	
ICT (Technical Award)	
Media Studies	
Music	2
PE GCSE	4
Spanish	

We are also looking at the following Level 2 AQA Technical Awards that *may* be approved in readiness for teaching from September. These courses are more practical and involve 60% internally assessed work. Please tick if you would be interested in these IF they are approved in time:

Fashion and Textiles
 Food and Catering
 Sport

Please hand this form into your form tutor by **Thursday 16th February 2017**

Pupil signature: <i>Jill Smith</i>	Parent/Carer signature: <i>Mr T Smith</i>
Date form submitted: <i>17th February 2017</i>	Tutor signature: <i>Mr Lloyd</i>

OPTION FORM 2017 - FINAL COPY

Forms should be returned to your Form Tutor by **16th February 2017**

Please look at the option subjects below and rank your 3 choices (number these 1, 2 and 3). Please select **one reserve subject** (number this 4).

Please remember your choices must include at least one of the following subjects - Geography, History, French, Spanish or Computer Science (if eligible).

NAME:

FORM:

Subject	Rank (1-4)
Art	
Business Studies	
Computer Science (<i>grade 5 Maths by February</i>)	
Design and Technology	
Food Preparation and Nutrition	
French	
Geography	
History	
ICT (Technical Award)	
Media Studies	
Music	
PE GCSE	
Spanish	

We are also looking at the following draft Level 2 AQA Technical Awards that *may* be approved in readiness for teaching from September. These courses are more practical and involve 60% internally assessed work. Please tick if you be interested in these IF they are approved in time:

- Fashion and Textiles
 Food and Catering
 Sport

Please hand this form into your form tutor by **Thursday 16th February 2017**

Pupil signature:	Parent/Carer signature:
Date form submitted:	Tutor signature: