



**CULCHETH**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

> THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

# Options Booklet 2020



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# Introduction

## Dear Student

Reaching the end of Key Stage 3 marks a very important stage in your life and you need to start thinking about your long-term plans. You should start researching the kind of careers that appeal to you most and take an honest look at your strengths, skills and personal qualities. You may not know exactly what you want to do in the future, so it is important to keep a broad and balanced combination of subjects.

This booklet gives you details of the Key Stage 4 opportunities available for Year 8 to study over the next three years.

If you follow the orange pathway, this means that you are completing trilogy Science, which gives you a double award in Science. You will all continue to study the following Core/Statutory Curriculum:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core Physical Education
- Personal Development

Along with your Core GCSE curriculum, you will select a further three optional GCSE subjects of your choice. The first choice you make must be one of the following options; History, Geography, French or Spanish. You can then make a further two subject choices. You will receive a great deal of help to make these important decisions. Your subject teachers will talk to you about the courses. Your form tutors will talk to you about your future plans and your strengths as a student. You can ask for some careers

advice if you feel it is required in order to find out more information about different careers. I am also confident that you can rely on your family to support you as well.

Many of you will be aware of the English Baccalaureate (EBACC), which is based on students who achieve GCSEs in English, Maths, Science (either combined or separate), History or Geography and a Modern Foreign Language. We do not make this compulsory but we strongly recommend those of you looking to take A Levels and go on to Higher Education select a Humanities and MFL subject in your option choices.

We always seek to meet the needs of all students but if we have insufficient interest in a course, we will guide you to make another suitable choice.

### Your commitment:

All courses at Key Stage 4 require a serious commitment to study. It is very important that you keep up to date with all deadlines and it is essential that your attendance is very good, so that you avoid missing important work.

I have every confidence that, if you work hard at Culcheth High School, you will fulfil your potential and achieve success.



**Mr M Lamble**  
**Deputy Headteacher**

# The Options Process

## What Happens and When?

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>03/02/2020</b>         | Options evening 4:30 - 6:30pm; registration with parents from 4:15pm. This will provide an excellent opportunity to talk to teachers and students about courses in Key Stage 4. Details about the evening are included in a separate letter.   |
| <b>27/03/2020</b>         | Deadline for the Options Form to be returned to your Form Tutor. Please state your three options and reserve choice clearly.   |
| <b>30/03/2020 onwards</b> | Organisation and timetabling of Key Stage 4 courses from September 2020. Be aware that we may not be able to timetable some selections of subjects, nor can we establish courses where demand is too small. We also reserve the right to move students from courses, which are not appropriate to their ability or aptitude. |
| <b>By July 2020</b>       | All students have option choices for the next academic year confirmed by letter.   |

# Glossary

<b>Core Curriculum</b>	The compulsory parts of the Key Stage 4 curriculum which all students follow.
<b>Statutory Subject</b>	A subject which students have no choice in studying, it is compulsory.
<b>GCSE</b>	The General Certificate of Secondary Education. The courses and examinations have to follow nationally agreed guidelines.
<b>Controlled Assessment/ Non-Examined Assessments (NEA)</b>	Some GCSEs include controlled assessments/NEA which may count towards the final grade in that subject. Failure to produce this work may result in a student not being entered for the exams in that subject. Many subjects no longer have controlled assessment; please speak to subject staff regarding this at Options Evening.
<b>Exam Boards</b>	Most examinations taken at Culcheth High School are conducted through the following exam consortia: AQA, Edexcel, OCR, and Eduqas.
<b>Science Grades Explained</b>	GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be assessed and graded like all the other new GCSE courses. Grades 9 – 1 will be used with 5 being the benchmark and a 7 equivalent to an A. In GCSE Trilogy Science the students will receive two GCSE qualifications. They will be graded using a double grade system. 5/5 will be the benchmark. The grades will then increase up to 9/9. Students can achieve two different number grades on a sliding scale. For example, 5/6, 6/6, 6/7, 7/7 etc. This produces a 17 grade grading system for Trilogy Science.

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Do I have completely free choice over my Options?**  
NO. We will look carefully at your choices and talk with you and your parents if we believe you have selected subjects that are not appropriate for you. This is why we call them 'Guided' Options.
- **Will I get all my choices?**  
PROBABLY. The majority of students will, but some subjects may not run if there are insufficient numbers and some combinations of subjects may be impossible to timetable.
- **Are there any combinations of subjects that are not allowed?**  
YES. You can not select Art & Design and Textile Design.
- **Will I have the same teachers as this year?**  
PROBABLY NOT. The timetable is very different in Key Stage 4. Do not pick a subject just because you like your current teacher.
- **Will I be in the same classes as my best friends next year?**  
NOT NECESSARILY - for example, some classes may have students from Side A and Side B of the year. Do not pick a subject just because your friend has.
- **I enjoy a particular subject but I'm not actually very good at it. Should I select this subject?**  
NO. Some courses demand a degree of 'natural talent' and you will struggle if you don't have it!
- **Are the new subjects (e.g. Media, Business Studies) easier?**  
NO. They are assessed at exactly the same standard as other GCSEs such as English and Mathematics. Do not pick these subjects just because they 'sound different' - use the Curriculum Booklet and Options Evening to really find out what these subjects demand.
- **Will I have subjects chosen for me if I miss the deadline for handing back the option form?**  
NO - but be aware that students who do hand their forms back in time will get priority, and you may miss out on any subjects that may already be 'full'.
- **Will I be able to change my mind after my form has been sent in?**  
POSSIBLY - we will be patient - but be aware that it may be difficult to reorganise your options later in the year once the timetable has been created.
- **When will I find out my option choices?**  
In July 2020, a letter will be sent out to parents detailing the subjects you will be studying at GCSE.

# English Language

Contact: Miss J Giblin, Head of English

Why study English Language?	Language is all around us and it is something we use everyday. English not only teaches you about the subject but also how to use it effectively. Literacy skills are developed in English lessons that will help you in other subject areas in school, in everyday life and in your future career. You will sit the externally assessed GCSE exams at the end of Year 11.
What will I learn about in English Language?	<p>In English you will read a range of fiction and non-fiction. You will also be given the opportunity to express yourself in a variety of speaking and writing tasks.</p> <p>The course includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study fiction and non-fiction extracts</li> <li>• The study of non-fiction and media</li> <li>• Practise in different forms of writing</li> <li>• Participation in a range of spoken language activities.</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	You will be able to read and respond, with insight, to a range of texts. You will develop the ability to write accurately in a variety of styles for different purposes and audiences. Finally, you will improve your skills as a speaker in different situations.
How will I learn about this subject?	Your lessons will include a range of reading, writing, speaking and listening activities. You will read a range of texts, including twentieth century fiction extracts and a variety of nineteenth, twentieth and twenty first century non-fiction material.
Extra-Curricular opportunities	When possible, theatre and lecture trips are organised to support work studied in school. In addition there is the opportunity for students to take part in the Youth Speakers competition.

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE English Language	Eduqas	One Tier Grades 9 - 1	100%

# English Literature

Contact: Miss J Giblin, Head of English

Why study English Literature?	As well as a GCSE in English Language you will also take a separate GCSE in English Literature. You will sit the externally examined GCSE in the summer term of Year 11. English Literature will not only help develop your reading and analytical skills but will also provide you with the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate a range of texts.
What will I learn about in English Literature?	In English Literature you will read a range of texts including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Shakespeare play</li> <li>• A post-1914 play</li> <li>• A selection of poetry</li> <li>• A 19th Century Novel</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	You will develop the ability to write analytically, read and respond to a range of texts with understanding and insight.
How will I learn about this subject?	Your lessons will include a range of reading, writing, speaking and listening activities. You will read a range of texts, including poems, a novel, a Shakespeare play and a modern play.
Extra-Curricular opportunities	When possible, theatre trips and other relevant lecture trips are organised to support work being studied in school. In addition, we work with visiting theatre companies in school. We also try to arrange a visit from a writer.
What do employers think about English Literature?	Skills you learn in GCSE English Literature such as analysis, empathy and the ability to develop personal response are useful in many jobs. Most further education establishments and many employers look for a GCSE qualification in English Literature.

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Literature	Eduqas	One Tier Grades 9 - 1	100%

# Mathematics

Contact: Mrs A Crookes, Head of Mathematics

Why study Mathematics?	Mathematics transcends cultural boundaries and its importance is universally recognised. It contributes to the school curriculum by developing students' ability to solve problems and handle data. Many of the skills learnt in Mathematics, transfer to other subjects e.g. in Geography you need to interpret statistical diagrams; in Science you need to use formulae and solve equations.
What will I learn about in Mathematics?	All GCSE courses in Mathematics follow the National Curriculum, building on from the work completed at Key Stage 3. The topics are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number: Including percentages, fractions and decimals and the foundations of problem-solving</li> <li>• Algebra: You will learn how to write and solve linear equations, quadratic and simultaneous equations as well as using formulae</li> <li>• Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change: This is more work with numbers, relationships and reasoning</li> <li>• Geometry and Measure: Including geometrical properties of two and three dimensional shapes and aspects of trigonometry and pythagoras</li> <li>• Probability and Statistics: You will learn to collect, process, represent and interpret data and look at both basic and advanced probability</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	By studying GCSE Mathematics you will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reason clearly and logically and to set out a rational argument</li> <li>• Find solutions to problems in real life</li> <li>• Understand the Mathematics likely to be encountered in daily adult life</li> <li>• Develop your ability to solve problems systematically and select the correct technique for the solution</li> </ul>
How will I learn about this subject?	You probably will not see a great deal of change in terms of how you learn, however the work will become much more challenging and will require consistently high levels of effort.
Extra-Curricular opportunities	Maths staff are always available to support students and additional lessons will be provided at key times to support students. For some there may be an opportunity to complete an additional mathematical qualification alongside GCSE Maths in Year 11.
What do employers think about Mathematics?	Employers often require at least a grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics. Indeed, they may require you to sit a Maths Skills Test to check your knowledge before offering you a job. The reason Mathematics is held in such high regard is because of the transferable skills you learn in the subject and its relevance to real life. Good mathematical skills are essential in a wide range of jobs including, for example; building, engineering, economics, medicine, ICT, accountancy, teaching and countless professions.
How will I be assessed?	You will sit three papers (two calculator and one non-calculator) at the end of the course. However, your progress will be assessed by your teacher by a series of short exams at regular intervals.

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Mathematics	Edexcel	Foundation Grades 5 - 1 Higher Grades 9 - 4	3 x 1hr 30 min papers of equal weighting

Why study Science?	Science affects your life in many ways. The clothes you wear may include man-made fibres, the food you eat may contain chemical colourings, household appliances contain electric circuits. This course encourages you to consider ways in which Science is applied to technological developments and will help you formulate opinions about these issues.		
What will I learn about in Science?	<p>The Combined Science course leads to two GCSE grades in Science. Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and be awarded two grades at the end of Year 11. The course is broken down into the three subject areas:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Chemistry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</li> <li>• Bonding, structure and the properties of matter</li> <li>• Quantitative chemistry</li> <li>• Chemical changes</li> <li>• Energy changes</li> <li>• The rate and extent of chemical change</li> <li>• Organic chemistry</li> <li>• Chemical analysis</li> <li>• Chemistry of the atmosphere</li> <li>• Using resources</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p><b>Biology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell Biology</li> <li>• Organisation</li> <li>• Infection and response</li> <li>• Bioenergetics</li> <li>• Homeostasis and response</li> <li>• Inheritance, variation and evolution</li> <li>• Ecology</li> </ul> <p><b>Physics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forces</li> <li>• Waves</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Magnetism and electromagnetism</li> <li>• Particle model of matter</li> <li>• Atomic structure</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Chemistry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</li> <li>• Bonding, structure and the properties of matter</li> <li>• Quantitative chemistry</li> <li>• Chemical changes</li> <li>• Energy changes</li> <li>• The rate and extent of chemical change</li> <li>• Organic chemistry</li> <li>• Chemical analysis</li> <li>• Chemistry of the atmosphere</li> <li>• Using resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>Biology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell Biology</li> <li>• Organisation</li> <li>• Infection and response</li> <li>• Bioenergetics</li> <li>• Homeostasis and response</li> <li>• Inheritance, variation and evolution</li> <li>• Ecology</li> </ul> <p><b>Physics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forces</li> <li>• Waves</li> <li>• Energy</li> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Magnetism and electromagnetism</li> <li>• Particle model of matter</li> <li>• Atomic structure</li> </ul>
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How will I learn about this subject?	You can expect to carry out a range of different types of experimental work, use video material to generate debate and discussion, use newspaper articles relating to topical issues in the media, undertake presentations and poster work and use ICT.		
What are some of the skills I will gain?	In Science, you will develop your ability to plan strategies to develop and test ideas; select, organise and present information clearly and logically; critically analyse data using knowledge and understanding and evaluate data and methods.		
What do employers think about Science?	Science is important for many jobs and Higher Education courses. Skills you develop are planning, observation, recording, analysis, evaluation and research; these skills are useful in many jobs. Science is particularly useful if you are thinking of a career as: Nurse, Pilot, Researcher, Electrician, Beauty Therapist, Dietician, Doctor, Dentist, Vet, Armed Forces or careers in education, sport or animal care.		
How will I be assessed?	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six exam papers - 1hr 15 minute duration each</li> <li>• Two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics</li> </ul> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each paper is out of 70 marks</li> <li>• Question types – multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open responses.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six exam papers - 1hr 15 minute duration each</li> <li>• Two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each paper is out of 70 marks</li> <li>• Question types – multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open responses.</li> </ul>
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Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Science	AQA	Two Tiers Double Grading	100%

# Personal Development

Contact: Mrs J Shaw, Head of Personal Development

What will I learn about?	The three modules are incorporated into the Personal Development schemes of work and are delivered via fortnightly seven and eight lesson blocks throughout Years 9, 10 and 11.	
Personal Development (PD) Lessons		
<b>PSHE</b> (Personal, Social, Health Education)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRE - Relationships &amp; Consent</li> <li>• SRE - Pornography</li> <li>• SRE - Risky Behaviour</li> <li>• LGBT/Tackling HBT</li> <li>• Positive Mental Health - Lifestyle balance</li> <li>• Mixing Fluids (School Nurse)</li> <li>• Sharing Sexual Images</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive Mental Health - Self-esteem/Media Influences</li> <li>• Drug Effects &amp; Withdrawal</li> <li>• Forced Marriage/Female Genital Mutilation</li> <li>• Relationship Challenges &amp; Myths (parenting)</li> <li>• Domestic Abuse/Extremism</li> <li>• Online Exploitation</li> <li>• Cancer &amp; Self Checking</li> </ul>
<b>CEIAG</b> (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What influences my decisions? Explore a variety of factors that influence decisions, including the economy</li> <li>• Why do my decisions matter? Consider the consequences of any decisions students might make - for themselves, others and the economy</li> <li>• STEM Careers and Next Steps</li> <li>• CV Writing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the causes and effects of debt</li> <li>• Understanding the risks of gambling</li> <li>• Budgeting for the future</li> <li>• STEM Careers and Next Steps</li> <li>• What Next For Me</li> </ul>
<b>Citizenship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the different forms of mass media?</li> <li>• How can the media fuel negative images and bias?</li> <li>• Why is it good to re-use things?</li> <li>• How can we be environmentally friendly citizens?</li> <li>• What is a sustainable school?</li> <li>• Why should young people try to look after the environment?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human rights</li> <li>• My responsibilities as a citizen in the UK</li> <li>• Child exploitation and laws about work</li> <li>• The role of an MP</li> <li>• Pressure groups</li> <li>• Local and National Government</li> </ul>

# Art & Design

Contact: Ms V Cookson, Head of Art

Why study Art, Craft & Design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have creative and artistic abilities you will develop them in much greater depth, while extending your skills to a higher level</li> <li>It is an exciting practical skills-based course, working with a variety of media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will be working with people who share your interest and enthusiasm for the subject</li> </ul>
	<p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve your observation and objective drawing</li> <li>Explore your own personal ideas imaginatively in visual and tactile study</li> <li>Use a variety of materials and techniques to express your ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve all your creative practical skills and learn new ones</li> <li>Learn how to modify and improve work as it progresses</li> <li>Gain more confidence in your knowledge about art in our society and around the world</li> <li>Learn to work independently and creatively</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Painting</li> <li>Printmaking</li> <li>Photography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mixed media</li> <li>Digital media</li> <li>Sculpture</li> </ul>
How will I learn about this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Year 9, you will be guided through a set of skill-based projects. You will gain a more in-depth knowledge of how to draw, research, develop and plan a finished art piece.</li> <li>In Year 10, you will be guided through two more themed projects. A 'project' will include: observation drawing, collecting other visual resources, development of your own imaginative ideas, research into relevant artists and designers, planning and modifying your ideas and producing a successful piece of art work.</li> <li>In Year 11, you will be expected to work more independently to develop your own ideas working through a major sustained project before your final examination project. Towards the end of the course you will be able to revisit previous work to improve it, select the best work and prepare it for final assessment.</li> </ul>	
What do employers think about Art, Craft & Design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An essential qualification if you are looking for a career in any art, design or craft-related field or wish to study Art or Design in further and higher education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It provides you with a creative way of 'thinking' and problem-solving</li> <li>There is a huge array of career opportunities available, from architecture to teaching</li> </ul>
How will I be assessed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular end-of-project assessments, tutorials to set individual targets and triad tutorials with parents/carers</li> <li>A PPE exam project in Year 11 that provides deeper knowledge and understanding of a quality examination outcome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of one major controlled assessment by the end of December in Year 11</li> <li>A 10-hour practical exam, final exam component completed in Year 11</li> <li>Exhibitions of work and external moderation in May</li> </ul>
What will I need?	<p>A sturdy folder, minimum size A2, to keep all your work safely from the start of the course. Basic art equipment to allow you to work creatively at home. Sketchbooks. Enthusiasm and a willingness to work hard.</p>	

Qualification	Awarding Body	Component 1	Component 2
GCSE Art & Design	AQA	60%	40%

# Business Studies

Contact: Mrs V Chrimes, Head of Business Studies

Why study Business Studies?	Business impacts on every person both economically, culturally and socially. Business Studies will allow you to understand how and why important decisions are made. You will apply theories to real business problems and devise appropriate solutions. You will develop/improve many skills including verbal and written, time management, data collection/manipulation, numeracy, business finance, report writing, presentation and the higher order skills of analysis and evaluation. You will get an overview of the different areas of business.		
What will I learn about in Business Studies?	<p>You will study theories, concepts and ideas. You will learn how businesses start and develop into multinational organisations. The units of study are:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td> <p>Theme 1: Investigating small business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise and entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Spotting a business opportunity</li> <li>• Putting a business idea into practice</li> <li>• Making the business effective</li> <li>• Understanding external influences on business</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p>Theme 2: Building a business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing the business</li> <li>• Making marketing decisions</li> <li>• Making operational decisions</li> <li>• Making financial decisions</li> <li>• Making human resource decisions</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Theme 1: Investigating small business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise and entrepreneurship</li> <li>• Spotting a business opportunity</li> <li>• Putting a business idea into practice</li> <li>• Making the business effective</li> <li>• Understanding external influences on business</li> </ul>	<p>Theme 2: Building a business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growing the business</li> <li>• Making marketing decisions</li> <li>• Making operational decisions</li> <li>• Making financial decisions</li> <li>• Making human resource decisions</li> </ul>
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How will I learn about this subject?	Role play/simulations, presentations, research, ICT, group work and visits.		
What do employers think about Business Studies?	They think it is meaningful, relevant and useful. The wider skills of application, organisation, interpretation and evaluation and the ability to make reasoned judgements are widely valued, not just by employers but also by higher education. There are many occupations which are directly related to your chosen studies: Marketing Manager, Sales Clerk, Finance Manager, Chartered Accountant, Receptionist, Human Resources Manager, PR Assistant, Banker, Business Analyst, Political Researcher, Retailer, Production Manager, Corporate Lawyer, Economist, Journalist, Actuary.		
Extra-curricular opportunities	<p>London Visit - encourages students to consider their future A level choices and gives them the opportunity to sample a number of career paths including banking, law, journalism, manufacturing, marketing, commodity trading and politics. Students visit a number of key legal, financial and political institutions including the Houses of Parliament, Bank of England, Coca Cola, Royal Courts of Justice, Supreme Court and the Old Bailey.</p> <p>Revision classes - at lunch and after school to develop examination technique particularly the higher order skills of analysis and evaluation.</p> <p>New York Visit - an exciting cultural experience that will also develop subject knowledge and skills.</p>		
How will I be assessed?	<p>There will be regular assessments to check knowledge and understanding. Both formative and summative assessment will be used throughout the course.</p> <p>Paper 1 Written examination (50%)</p> <p>Paper 2 Written examination (50%)</p>		

**Entry requirement: To begin GCSE Business Studies, you will need to demonstrate competency in Maths and English.**

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Business Studies	Edexcel	Grades 9 - 1	Paper 1: 50% Paper 2: 50%

# Computer Science

Contact: Mr N Bolton, Head of Computer Science

Why study Computer Science?	The qualification will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study. The subject has been designed not only to allow for a solid basis of understanding but to engage students and get them thinking about real world application, and the part that Computing has to play in the developments of society.
What will I learn about in Computer Science?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation</li> <li>Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs</li> <li>Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically</li> <li>Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems</li> <li>Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society</li> <li>Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	You will develop a knowledge of the internal workings of a computer, including how the CPU functions and how memory and storage are utilised. You will also learn how to set up and share information within a LAN as well as how other Network Topologies are set up and run. You will develop an understanding about encryption and how security systems work within these networks. You will develop a robust knowledge about creating and using algorithms to design programs to solve complex problems, as well as exploring programming techniques, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages. You will also learn about how data is represented and created through GUI.
How will I learn about this subject?	Computer Science is a very practical subject even though there are two exams at the end which make up 100% of the qualification. Most of the theoretical aspects of the curriculum will be covered with hands-on engaging activities relating to the use of programming to solve complex problems. This includes providing solutions to problems using command line programs such as Python and Codio.
What do employers think about Computer Science?	Computer Scientists are few and far between in the UK which is why the Government made the massive switch from ICT to Computing. Careers in computing are increasing on a weekly basis and, more often than not, pay very good wages. There are fantastic opportunities available for all types of computer programmers in the UK and abroad and this is a skill and qualification that will benefit you throughout life.
How will I be assessed?	There are three assessment processes involved in this qualification. There are two exams that are taken at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 is one hour thirty minutes in length and focuses on Computer Systems and is worth 50% of the final grade. Paper 2 is also one hour thirty minutes in length, focuses on 'Computational Thinking', 'Algorithms' and 'Programming' and is worth 50% of the final grade. The programming Non-Examined Assessment is set annually by the exam board.

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Computer Science	OCR	Grades 9 - 1	Paper 1 Principles of Computer Science: 50% Paper 2 Application of Computation of Thinking: 50% Non-Examined Assessment: Problem Solving

# Design and Technology

Contact: Mr C Uttley, Head of Design & Technology

Why study Design & Technology?	The new specification will enable you to design and make products, which can be evaluated for their commercial viability, with creativity and originality using a range of materials and techniques. It will prepare you for a fast-changing technological world and allow you to experience how industry works. A qualification in this subject could set you off on a career in engineering, design and manufacturing. It will also allow you to choose a path of either apprenticeship or A levels.	
What will I learn about in Design & Technology?	You will be enthused and challenged by a range of practical activities, preparing you for your Non-Examined Assessment Project in Year 11. You will:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn more about designing and making</li> <li>Look at a range of traditional, modern and smart materials</li> <li>Use ICT to enhance basic skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use CAD/CAM technology</li> <li>Link Maths and Science to an industrial context</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theoretical knowledge</li> <li>Design issues such as sustainability, packaging, human factors etc.</li> <li>Manufacturing both school-based and commercial methods</li> <li>Designing and making skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drawing and modelling skills</li> <li>Analytical skills</li> <li>ICT skills</li> <li>Hand, machine and CAM production methods</li> </ul>
How will I learn about this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will learn how to draw using a computer and traditional engineering drawing materials</li> <li>You will spend a lot of time using different material and equipment to produce a working product</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will compile folder work as evidence of the work attempted</li> </ul>
What do employers think about Design & Technology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All employers value a flexible thinking and skilled workforce</li> <li>You will have industrial based experience of hand, machine and CAD/CAM manufacture</li> <li>You will be able to fit into an apprenticeship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will have developed a number of functional skills</li> <li>You will have developed your problem-solving skills</li> </ul>
Extra-curricular opportunities	Workshops are open every lunchtime and GCSE students get priority over lower years. Students are provided with the opportunity to think about career progression via a number of prearranged events and activities. We also open two evenings after school for one-to-one tuition, or just to allow students extra time if required.	
How will I be assessed?	<p><b>Unit 1</b> - 2-hour written paper, externally assessed by the examination board.</p> <p><b>Unit 2</b> - 35-hour, 20-page piece of coursework, which involves design and making. This is assessed by the school and moderated by the examination board.</p>	

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Controlled Assessment	Final Exam
GCSE Design and Technology	AQA	Grades 9 - 1	50%	50%

# Drama

Contact: Miss V Longden, Head of Drama

Why study Drama?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you eager to develop your social skills and confidence? If you are, Drama is a great opportunity to do that; it enables you to express yourself as an individual</li> <li>• It is an exciting way of being experimental, exploring a variety of genres and topics relevant to today's society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You will gain skills imperative to all aspects of life and it can prepare you for any career path you choose</li> <li>• You will be able to study different performance styles and genres through practical work</li> </ul>
What will I learn about in Drama?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop creativity and imaginative approaches to work</li> <li>• Practise new skills and techniques</li> <li>• Create your own performances through devising</li> <li>• Create plot and characters, to convey your ideas to an audience</li> <li>• Work with different people and develop work together</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret and analyse ideas, texts and performances, how plays and ideas relate to their social, historical and cultural context in both practical and written work</li> <li>• The study of a set text and scripts for performance</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	In Drama you will develop the ability to perform, express yourself, lead and work with others.	
How will I learn about this subject?	Lessons are a mix of theory and practical but you will spend time recording your ideas and work both in lessons and for homework. You will develop the skills needed for your examination and controlled assessment.	
What do employers think about Drama?	Skills you learn in Drama are appreciated as they show an ability to think in a creative way, solve problems and work with others. Drama is particularly useful if you are interested in the varied opportunities in the media and arts, e.g. Performer, Director, Designer, Technician, Arts Officer but is equally useful if you are considering a career which involves working with others.	
Extra-curricular opportunities	Theatre visits are organised to ensure students get first hand experience of professional theatre. These trips cover a range of genre, again to gain experience of all angles of theatre. Annual school productions offer students the opportunity to involve themselves in all aspects of drama and theatre. Workshops in other aspects of theatre are offered, such as theatrical make up and lighting design.	
How will I be assessed?	<p>Three units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding Drama</li> <li>• Devising Drama</li> <li>• Texts in practice</li> </ul> <p>Component 1 - GCSE Written Exam 40% of GCSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre</li> <li>• Study one set play text (Blood Brothers, Willy Russell)</li> <li>• Analysis and evaluation of a live performance</li> </ul>	<p>Component 2 - Practical Performance &amp; 2500 Word Devising Log Coursework 40% of GCSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating an original, devised piece of theatre based on a set stimulus</li> <li>• Performing devised piece (20min in length) to a live audience</li> <li>• Analysis and evaluation of own work through a coursework document</li> </ul> <p>Component 3 - Practical Performance Exam 20% of GCSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance of the two extracts from one scripted play</li> </ul>
Student comments	<p>"The coursework is practical - good fun, good work."</p> <p>"Drama is a very fast-paced lesson and I like it because you get to work with other people."</p>	

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Practical Exam & Coursework	Final Practical Exam	Final Written Exam
GCSE Drama	AQA	Grades 9 - 1	60%	20%	20%

# Food Preparation & Nutrition

Contact: Mrs V Keene, Head of Food & Nutrition

Why study Food Preparation & Nutrition?	This GCSE combines food preparation skills with the science of nutrition. It is suited to students wanting to pursue a career in the food industry, catering, sport and fitness, science or the health service.
What will I learn about in Food Preparation & Nutrition?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food preparation skills by planning, preparing and cooking exciting dishes using different cooking techniques and equipment.</li> <li>• The functional and chemical properties of food and a sound knowledge of nutrition.</li> <li>• The relationship between diet, nutrition and health.</li> <li>• A range of ingredients and cooking skills from different countries to inspire new ideas.</li> </ul>
What do employers think about Food Preparation & Nutrition?	GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition provides students with a basic understanding of the food, beverage and nutrition industries and the communication and social skills required within it.
Extra-curricular opportunities	There will be opportunities for you to take part in food-related educational visits. There will also be links with local food-related businesses.
How will I be assessed?	<p><b>Component 1</b> Written exam 50%</p> <p><b>Component 2</b> Two practical assessments 50%</p>
Student comments	<p>"I really enjoy Food Preparation &amp; Nutrition, it's a subject I want to pursue as a career."</p> <p>"I learnt so much that applied to everyday life"</p>

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Controlled Assessment	Final Exam
GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition	Eduqas	Grades 9 - 1	50%	50%

Why study French?	French is an official language of the European Union, United Nations and international diplomacy. By continuing with French, you are not limiting your career options. In the enlarged European Union, despite Brexit, speaking French is one of the business languages most in demand in the UK. Having knowledge of a foreign language is widely recognised as an integral part of being a well-educated person and is an entry requirement of some universities to study academic subjects.	
What will I learn about in French?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will study five themes:- Identity and Culture; Local Area, Holidays and Travel; School; Study and Work; International Global Dimensions</li> <li>You will be able to cope with the language needed on a visit to France or a French-speaking country</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your work will cover a number of social issues such as health matters, teenage problems and environmental concerns</li> <li>You will develop your knowledge of French culture</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will learn how to speak, read, write in French and understand spoken French in a variety of situations</li> <li>You will develop your knowledge of French grammar and phonics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will learn to manipulate language for your own purposes</li> </ul>
How will I learn about this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will practise the French language, speaking in pairs and groups</li> <li>You will improve your reading skills using different texts and completing a variety of comprehension tasks (e.g. gap-fill, synonyms)</li> <li>You will improve your listening comprehension by regular exercise with audio material, hearing extracts of French spoken by native speakers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will develop your writing skills by completing a variety of tasks linked to the topic areas</li> <li>You will learn vocabulary regularly by using Quizlet</li> </ul>
What do employers think about French?	Employers are always keen to have someone with knowledge of French working for them. France is one of our most important trading partners in the European Union and many British firms have branches in France, just as there are many French companies investing in Britain.	
How will I be assessed?	There are four examinations at the end of Year 11, one each in listening, speaking, reading and writing, each worth 25%.	
Extra-curricular Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will be able to work with a native speaker</li> <li>Join our French Movie Club</li> </ul>	
Student comments	<p>"It's good to be able to speak more than one language. Once you've learnt one foreign language, it's easier to pick up another."</p> <p>"I realise that having a GCSE in a language sets me apart from those who don't and it makes me more employable."</p>	

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam	
GCSE French	Edexcel	Foundation Grades 5 - 1 Higher Grades 9 - 4	Paper 1: Listening 25% Paper 2: Speaking 25%	Paper 3: Reading 25% Paper 4: Writing 25%

# Geography

Contact: Miss O Tyers, Head of Geography

Why study Geography?	Do you want to study a subject that is modern, stimulating, relevant to your life? If yes, then Geography is the subject for you! It will enable you to find out how the earth works and the challenges we face in the 21st century, giving you a passport to understanding the world in which you live. You will investigate current world issues such as why some countries are poorer than others and how we can work to improve this situation; how people live with the threat of natural hazards; why the number of tropical storms and the intensity of them is increasing; and the causes and effects of climate change.	
What will I learn about in Geography?	<p>You will study both Physical and Human Geography topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Hazards</li> <li>The Living World</li> <li>Physical Landscapes in the UK</li> <li>Urban Issues and Challenges</li> <li>Changing Economic World</li> <li>Challenge of Resource Management</li> </ul>	
What are some of the skills I will gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability to analyse statistics, information graphs and diagrams</li> <li>Think critically and solve problems based on current geographical issues</li> <li>Develop ability to synthesise information and form reasoned conclusions</li> </ul>	
How will I learn about this subject?	In Geography, you will be an active learner who will experience the subject in a variety of different ways. You will be expected to research information using a variety of different sources, conduct geographical enquiries using information in the classroom, sequence and classify information, investigate and analyse information using ICT. You will learn to use visual information including maps and graphs.	
Extra-curricular opportunities	<p>The Geography department gives you many opportunities for learning outside the classroom whatever your interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fieldwork opportunities</li> <li>An international trip</li> <li>Explore the world with our own international links</li> <li>Lots of support with revision</li> <li>A residential field visit in the UK</li> </ul>	
What do employers think about Geography?	Geography is a wonderful subject to take; it is highly regarded by university and employers as it develops skills in analysing information from a variety of sources and develops the ability to form an opinion based on sound evidence. Geography is particularly useful if you are thinking of a career in: retail or business, banking, law, politics, accountancy, marketing, armed forces, media, journalism, relief/aid work, travel and tourism, environmental management, surveying, architecture, police/social work, education, management, land management.	
How will I be assessed?	<p>Paper 1 (35%) You are examined on your Year 9 work on the Physical environment.</p> <p>Paper 2 (35%) You are examined on Year 10 work on the Human environment.</p> <p>Paper 3 (30%) Geographical Applications. Questions based on pre-release material, fieldwork and graphical skills.</p>	

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Geography	AQA	Grades 9 - 1	Paper 1: 35% Paper 2: 35% Paper 3: 30%

Why study History?	The study of History hones key skills which have been identified by employers as vital for the workplace:- the ability to analyse; make informed criticisms; teamwork; fluent oral skills; self reliance; organisation; developing your own opinion; using Information Technology; learning to learn; improving one's own learning and performance; working with others; numeracy.		
What will I learn about in History?	<p><b>Paper 1</b></p> <p>Part 1: Medicine in Britain; 1250-present day</p> <p>Topic 1 Medicine in Medieval England, c.1250-c.1500</p> <p>Topic 2 Medical Renaissance in England, c.1500-c.1700</p> <p>Topic 3 Medicine in Eighteen and Nineteenth Century Britain, c.1700-c.1900</p> <p>Topic 4 Medicine in Modern Britain, c.1900-present</p> <p>Part 2: Historical Environment</p> <p>World War 1 Case Study: injuries, treatments and the trenches</p> <p><b>Paper 2</b></p> <p>Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-1088 period study</p> <p>Topic 1 Anglo-Saxon Society and the Norman Conquest, 1060-1066</p> <p>Topic 2 William I in Power: Securing the Kingdom, 1066-1067</p> <p>Topic 3 Norman England, 1066-1088</p>	<p><b>Paper 2 continued</b></p> <p>The American West, 1835-1895</p> <p>Topic 1 The Early Settlement of West, c.1835-c.1862</p> <p>Topic 2 Development of the Plains, c.1862-1876</p> <p>Topic 3 Conflicts and Conquest, c.1876-1895</p> <p><b>Paper 3</b></p> <p>Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939</p> <p>Topic 1 The Weimar Republic 1918-1929</p> <p>Topic 2 Hitler's Rise to Power, 1919-1933</p> <p>Topic 3 Nazi Control and Dictatorship, 1933-1939</p> <p>Topic 4 Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939</p>	
How will I be assessed?	<p>You will cover four study units and take three exam papers</p> <p><b>Paper 1</b> (30%) Thematic study and historic environment, medicine in Britain c1250 to present day. Case study on the British sector of the western front 1914-18: injuries, treatments and the trenches.</p>	<p><b>Paper 2</b> (40%) Period study and depth study. Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-88 (20%). The American West c1835-1895 (20%).</p> <p><b>Paper 3</b> (30%) Modern depth study - Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39.</p>	
What do employers think about History?	History is one of the most highly thought of subjects by employers. Many of Britain's leading politicians, lawyers, business people and those in the media, studied History.		
Student comments	<p>"History really makes you think and helps you see why the world is the way it is."</p> <p>"The staff always had time to help you. Thanks!"</p> <p>"A lot of content but it's made easier to learn by the teachers"</p>		

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE History	Edexcel	Grades 9 - 1	Paper 1 - 30% Paper 2 - 40% Paper 3 - 30%

# Media Studies

Contact: Mr A Nolan, Head of Media

Why study Media Studies?	Media Studies is an exciting and vibrant subject that allows you to study a range of modern texts from TV, film and the music industry. You will be taught well with a team of enthusiastic teachers who will help you to achieve the highest grade possible. You will have the opportunity to learn a range of practical skills to complement the theory taught.
What will I learn about in Media Studies?	You will study four key areas; Media Language, Representation, Audience and Industry. These areas will be covered across nine media topics to fully understand the breadth of the Media Industries in 21st Century life. A huge part of the course is gaining in depth knowledge of why the media create their products in the way they do. Within a small portion of the course you will have the chance to put all this theory into practice by producing some practical work.
What are some of the skills I will gain?	You will gain skills in two key areas: theory and production. Theoretical skills include research, essay planning, writing skills and analytical skills. These will be useful in a whole range of situations and will even help you in some of your other subjects. The practical skills you will learn will change every year as the industry changes. You will learn how to plan and create your own media projects from magazines to film trailers. You will receive full training on how to use a range of software on the industry standard Apple Macs.
How will I learn about this subject?	You will learn through a combination of theory and practical work; traditional classroom learning as well as practical video, photography, music and web-based work.
Extra-curricular opportunities	The Media Studies department offers a range of activities for you to participate in. We run regular photography animation and film production courses at lunchtimes. As a Media Studies student, you are also able to book out our equipment to develop your own practical projects.
What do employers think about Media Studies?	Media Studies is vital for those students looking into a profession within the media sector. The wide variety of topics studied at GCSE level, ensure all traditional and modern media areas are covered equally.
How will I be assessed?	70% is based on two exams both equally weighted. One is focused on The Media Industry and Audiences; the second is based around Media Language and Representation in modern media texts. The final 30% is awarded through Non-Examined Assessment in a practical task.

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Media Studies	AQA	Grades 9 - 1	Media Industry & Audiences 35% Media Language & Representations 35% Non-Examined Assessment 30%

Why study Music?	GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles - popular music, world music, classical music and film music.
What will I learn about in Music?	<p>You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involves performing</li> <li>• Involves listening to all kinds of music</li> <li>• Involves composing music</li> </ul> <p>You will improve your skills in performing on your specialist instrument or voice and composing different types of music. You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed.</p>
What skills will I gain from this subject?	There are many transferable skills gained in the Music classroom. At GCSE, a crucial element of study is organisational skills; management of work and extra-curricular activities, in particular balancing the skills needed to maintain a practical pursuit (playing an instrument, singing) alongside an intellectual one (listening, analysing and understanding). GCSE Music also offers opportunities to develop the wider key skills in working with others (e.g. taking part in rehearsals, performing).
Extra-curricular opportunities	Most students opting for Music at GCSE will already play an instrument or sing and have individual lessons. It is expected that you will contribute to the musical life of the school, spend time at home practising your instrument and using the Music department facilities at breaks, lunchtimes and after school particularly for composition. We run various ensembles: currently a choir, orchestra, as well as rock and pop ensembles.
What do employers think about Music?	GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study. You may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching, or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.
How will I be assessed?	<p><b>Examination:</b> There is one written exam at the end of Year 11. You will listen to a CD and answer questions on the four areas of study which cover popular music, classical music, music from around the world and film music based on the pieces you have studied in class.</p> <p><b>Controlled Assessment:</b> You will perform two pieces. One of the pieces will be a solo, either on an instrument or sung, in a style from one of the areas of study. The other piece will be an ensemble. You will also compose two pieces of music. One will be set by the exam board and one will be a free choice. This could be anything from pop songs to classical music or may be world music. You could even write a song from a musical. You may also use music technology to record and produce printed scores.</p>

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Controlled Assessment	Final Exam
GCSE Music	Edexcel	Grades 9 - 1	Performance 30% Composition 30%	40%

# Physical Education

Contact: Mr B Welsford, Head of Physical Education

Why study Physical Education?	Physical Education aims to give young people a positive attitude towards physical activity and recognise its contribution to their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. It is a qualification for students who are regularly involved in competitive sport outside of school, and it is important that this involvement is maintained throughout the duration of the course.						
What will I learn about in Physical Education?	You will learn about the theoretical aspects of physical performance, including how to lead a healthy active lifestyle, how to use training to develop your physical performance levels and how the mind affects sports performance.						
What are some of the skills I will gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ability to work with other people</li> <li>The ability to evaluate sporting performance</li> <li>The ability to enhance decision-making skills</li> <li>The ability to develop your own physical skills and fitness levels</li> <li>The knowledge required to lead a healthy lifestyle</li> </ul>						
How will I learn about this subject?	<p>Mostly theory and some practical teaching in order to prepare you for the assessment of your final award, and a lifelong involvement in sport.</p> <p>The practical assessment marking for this course is very stringent and, in order to access the highest grades, students will need to be regular competitive performers in their chosen practical activities. We therefore expect all GCSE PE students to be members of at least one, and preferably two, sports clubs, and to be regularly training and competing in these activities in their own time outside of school. If this is not something you are able or prepared to commit to, you need to consider very carefully whether this is the correct course for you.</p>						
Extra-curricular opportunities	We have school clubs in the major sports of: Football, Basketball, Netball, Rugby, Cricket, Athletics, Trampolining, Badminton. Clubs run throughout the year in all these activities (some of which are seasonal) and selection for school teams is based on attendance at these clubs. As GCSE PE students, you will be expected to get involved in such clubs and school teams in order to further develop your performance levels.						
What do employers think about Physical Education?	Skills learnt in Physical Education, such as working with others, analysis and decision-making are useful in many jobs, which is why this subject is valued by many employers. Physical Education is particularly useful if you are considering a career in: physiotherapy, coaching, education, sports psychology, sports development, sports science, nutrition, emergency services, research, sales, marketing.						
How will I be assessed?	<p>GCSE PE is assessed through three timetabled exams at the end of the course of study. Two of these are written theory-based exams and the other an assessment of students' practical abilities in three different sports.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Controlled Assessment (40%)</b></td> <td><b>Exam (60%)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assessment of practical performance in three activities (30%)</td> <td>Two written exams taken at the end of the three year course (30% &amp; 30%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A written analysis of performance in one of these activities (10%)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<b>Controlled Assessment (40%)</b>	<b>Exam (60%)</b>	Assessment of practical performance in three activities (30%)	Two written exams taken at the end of the three year course (30% & 30%)	A written analysis of performance in one of these activities (10%)	
<b>Controlled Assessment (40%)</b>	<b>Exam (60%)</b>						
Assessment of practical performance in three activities (30%)	Two written exams taken at the end of the three year course (30% & 30%)						
A written analysis of performance in one of these activities (10%)							

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Controlled Assessment	Final Exam
GCSE Physical Education	OCR	Grades 9 - 1	40%	60%

# Religious Studies

Contact: Miss A Johnson, Head of Religious Studies

Why study Religious Studies?	You live in a world of different belief systems and values. This subject looks at the fundamental questions about life, death and our purpose in life: it examines issues facing people in all parts of the world and helps you understand how you might be able to influence events. You will investigate arguments about human rights and whether we should allow euthanasia and abortion; visit religious buildings and centres, question visiting speakers from Christian and Buddhist faith communities and debate issues with each other and specialists.
What will I learn about in Religious Studies?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marriage and the Family</li> <li>• Abortion</li> <li>• Life after Death: Religious and Non-Religious views</li> <li>• Capital Punishment</li> <li>• How people live a Christian and Buddhist Lifestyle</li> <li>• War and Conflict around the World</li> <li>• Forgiveness and Reconciliation</li> </ul> <p>All the above will be studied in relation to Christian and Buddhist beliefs and practice.</p>
How will I learn about this subject?	A wide range of different types of teaching and learning styles are used, including research activities, field-work where you visit different places of worship and group work.
What are some of the skills I will gain?	Religious Studies will help develop your key skills in communication, Information Technology, working with others and problem-solving. It will also give you skills in making decisions about moral problems and help you to become sure about your own beliefs and explain them clearly to others. It is not about making you religious, it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues.
Extra-curricular opportunities	There will be extra sessions for eligible students to enable them to gain the best grade they can. There will be extra sessions for interested students who can gather to debate ethical issues and consider philosophical questions.
What do employers think about Religious Studies?	A GCSE in Religious Studies is a stepping-stone to a wide range of careers and future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further employment. GCSE Religious Studies also prepares you to work and deal with people of different cultures and beliefs, which can be very useful for careers such as the police, medicine, law, government, management, the armed forces, counselling/therapy and nursing.
How will I be assessed?	For the full course, two examinations will be taken and these will be completed at the end of Year 11. Each will be worth 50% of the final result.
Student comments	<p>"Religious Studies lets you get your opinion listened to."</p> <p>"It is all about how we can be better humans."</p>

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam
GCSE Religious Studies	Edexcel	Grades 9 - 1	2 x 50% 1hr 45 mins

Why study Spanish?	It is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and Spain is a popular European holiday destination for Britons. Spanish is a key language of trade, culture, law, science and politics. A GCSE in a modern language is highly desirable if not an essential requirement for entry into the best universities. Having a knowledge of a foreign language is widely recognised as an integral part of being a well-educated person.	
What will I learn about in Spanish?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will learn realistic Spanish in authentic situations</li> <li>You will study five themes:- Identity and Culture; Local Area, Holidays and Travel; School; Study and Work; International Global Dimension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will learn practical communication skills to enable you to cope with shopping, travelling, eating out, getting help if you are ill etc in Spanish-speaking countries</li> <li>You will develop your knowledge of Spanish culture</li> </ul>
What are some of the skills I will gain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will learn how to read, write, speak and understand Spanish in a variety of situations</li> <li>You will develop your knowledge of Spanish grammar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will find out about the Spanish way of life and Spanish culture</li> </ul>
How will I learn about this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will use authentic material in all your skills areas</li> <li>You will improve your reading and listening skills by studying different types of texts and audio material</li> <li>You will improve your listening comprehension with regular practise with audio material, hearing extracts of Spanish spoken by native speakers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You will develop your writing skills by completing a variety of tasks linked to the topic areas</li> <li>You will learn vocabulary regularly by using Quizlet</li> </ul>
What do employers think about Spanish?	Employers are impressed by students who have studied Spanish. More and more companies are trading with Spanish-speaking countries. Knowledge of the language really does make a difference when dealing with your clients. In many areas of employment there is an increasing need for Technicians, Engineers, Businessmen, Secretaries and Managers who have skills in foreign languages.	
How will I be assessed?	There are four examinations at the end of Year 11, one each in listening, speaking, reading and writing each worth 25%.	
Student comments	<p>"Spanish is a good subject to learn because so many people in the world speak it and there are lots of jobs where language skills are desirable."</p> <p>"I enjoy learning Spanish because it's fun and many Spanish words are similar to English words."</p> <p>"I realise that having a GCSE in a language sets me apart from those who don't and it makes me more employable."</p>	

Qualification	Awarding Body	Entry Tiers	Final Exam	
GCSE Spanish	Edexcel	Foundation Grades 5 - 1 Higher Grades 9 - 4	Paper 1 - Listening 25% Paper 2 - Speaking 25 %	Paper 3 - Reading 25% Paper 4 - Writing 25%

# Textile Design

Contact: Ms V Cookson, Head of Art

Why study Textile Design?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This course will allow you to extend your designing and making skills, giving you an insight in to the world of designers</li> <li>Through this challenging and stimulating GCSE you will develop your practical abilities, gaining experience of fabric construction, decoration and embellishment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interested in fashion, this course will allow you to investigate current artists and designers with the opportunity to work alongside them</li> </ul>
Why study Textile Design?	<p>You will explore both practical and design aspects of the subject including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing individual and personal approaches to set research themes</li> <li>Improving your ability to develop ideas through existing and new textile materials and processes</li> <li>Learning how to manipulate, colour, decorate and fashion fabrics to create your own one-off textile pieces</li> </ul>	
How will I learn about this subject?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Year 9, you will be guided through a set of skill-based projects. You will gain a more in-depth knowledge of how to manipulate textile materials to create a finished Art piece.</li> <li>In Year 10, you will be guided through two or more themed design projects, including drawing, photographing and collecting visual imagery, developing your own imaginative ideas, researching existing artists and designers, planning and creating your own fabric pieces.</li> <li>In Year 11, you will be expected to work more independently extending and refining your art textiles portfolio and fabric pieces. You will then be guided through the examination project on a set theme, designing, testing and fashioning a final fabric piece.</li> </ul>	
What do employers think of Textile Design?	<p>It is an essential qualification if you are looking for a career in textiles or any creative field or if you wish to study art and design in further and higher education. Within the course we promote and foster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisational skills</li> <li>Imaginative and creative thinking/designing</li> <li>Planning and preparation</li> <li>Confident and independent approach to tasks</li> <li>Problem-solving and evaluation skills</li> <li>Self-assessment and improvement</li> <li>Time management</li> </ul>	
How will I be assessed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular end-of-project assessments, tutorials to set individual targets and triad tutorials with parents/carers</li> <li>A PPE exam project in Year 11 that provides deeper knowledge and understanding of a quality examination outcome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of one major controlled assessment by the end of February in Year 11</li> <li>A 10-hour practical exam, final exam unit completed in Year 11</li> <li>Exhibitions of work and external moderation in May</li> </ul>

**Art & Design / Textile Design cannot be studied together.**

Qualification	Awarding Body	Component 1	Component 2
GCSE Textile Design	AQA	60%	40%

## Options Process - Orange Pathway September 2020 - July 2023

Orange Pathway – Students following this pathway will select three option choices and will complete additional qualifications that will prepare them for further education and employment. In addition, students on the orange pathway will also receive additional support in English and Maths.

<b>Student Name:</b>	<b>Form:</b>
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Please choose one of the subjects in this block by putting a tick in the box next to the subject.

French	
Geography	
History	
Spanish	

Please select any two subjects from the optional subjects below by placing a tick next to your choices (your choice cannot be the same as the subject selected in the table above)

\* You cannot select both Art & Design and Textile Design.

Art & Design	
Business Studies	
Computer Science	
Design & Technology	
Drama	
Food Preparation & Nutrition	
French	
Geography	
History	
Media Studies	
Music	
Physical Education	
Religious Studies	
Spanish	
Textiles	

We are determined that every Year 9 student is able to start a constructive, challenging and enjoyable curriculum next September. However, with such a high number of possible combinations of subjects, you need to be aware that we may not be able to timetable some groupings of subjects, nor can we establish courses where demand is too small. We also reserve the right to move students from courses that are not appropriate to their aptitudes or abilities. Every year, a small number of students have to pick up their reserve choice in order to create a viable timetable. In the box below, please select one subject you've not already selected above which will be your reserve.

Reserve Subject Choice	
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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Form Tutor)



**CULCHETH**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Culcheth High School**

Warrington Road, Culcheth,  
Warrington, Culcheth, WA3 5HH  
Phone: 01925 767587

Website: [www.culchethhigh.org.uk](http://www.culchethhigh.org.uk)

# Consistently One of Warrington's Highest Performing Schools at GCSE

76% of students achieved a basic pass  
in English and Mathematics GCSE

71% of students achieved  
5 standard GCSE passes  
(including English and Mathematics)

53% of students achieved a strong pass  
in English and Mathematics GCSE

29% of all GCSE  
Qualifications achieved grades 9-7