

2020-2023

# Key Stage Four Courses



Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY

**Teamworkers**

**Resilient**

**Ambitious**

**Inquisitive**

**Together**

**Successful**

TRAITS



# Introduction

As you know, you are about to make one of the most important decisions of your life so far - the selection of subjects for study to GCSE level. Increasingly, you need to see this as a step taking you to your destination at the age of 18 or even 21. There are some things you should remember:

- a) Your working life will go far beyond the jobs available today – so think long term!
- b) Be realistic and ambitious - do not settle for being less than you are capable of.
- c) You will be studying these courses for 3 years so make sure you choose subjects you are interested in and/or have a passion for.
- d) Your friends won't sit exams or attend interviews for you so choose what is right for you.

Mildenhall College Academy has always aimed to offer a wide range of subjects to students. Please choose carefully. Once begun, it is not usually possible to change courses.

Students with special educational needs will have the same choice as all other students and will enjoy continuing support. Where we feel that the full range of GCSEs would not be appropriate for a student, we shall discuss alternative routes. Further advice for individual students will be an integral part of the process of setting up next year's curriculum.

With such a wide degree of opportunity a great deal of careful and informed thought is needed before making final choices and we are here to give you as much help, information and support as we can.

If you have a question related to a particular subject, please ask your teachers. A list of subject and faculty leaders is given below. If the question is regarding the range of choices available to you please see Mr Oxley.

English & English Literature	Ms Percy
Mathematics / Statistics	Mr F Hughes
Science	Mrs Ackland
DT & Art	Mr Daniels
Business Studies / Health & Social Care	Mrs Willingham
Drama / Performance Arts	Miss Finbow
History / Geography	Mrs Powling
IT / Computer Science	Mrs Willingham
Music	Mrs Sayer
PE	Mr O Hughes
Modern Foreign Languages (French / Spanish)	Mr Hodgson
Youth Award	Miss Woods
Citizenship	Mr Goodenough

# What You Need to Think About

We aim to offer the widest degree of choice to meet individuals' needs and interests. We must meet other important needs, too, of course. These are just as important to your education as the degree of choice you have, and include:

1. The need to satisfy the legal requirements of the National Curriculum.
2. The importance of all students keeping future options open by following, at this stage, a broad and balanced curriculum.
3. The practicalities of ensuring all courses can be adequately staffed and equipped.

## **EBACC - The English Baccalaureate**

The aim is for students to study GCSE Mathematics, English, Science, a Humanities subject (History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). The government now expects all children to follow the EBacc. Those who achieve the EBacc will find it much easier to apply for Sixth Form, college, and university places in the future. The information in this booklet is correct for courses currently available. If exam boards publish updates we will inform students exactly how their courses will be affected.

You need to remember, too, that the following points apply to all of the courses followed in Key Stage Four:

1. Our expectations of you are very high - we expect all students to work hard from the very beginning of the course until its end.
2. Homework will be an important and normal requirement - you cannot cover all the necessary work without it.
3. Your personal organisation must be of the highest standard - attendance and punctuality; completing work fully and on time; ensuring all necessary equipment is with you when needed will all influence your final results.

Nearly all courses lead to public examinations, usually GCSE. Your results will greatly affect your future educational, training and career opportunities. You should choose COMBINATIONS of subjects which keep your future options as wide as possible.

Each subject will be deeper, more specialised and more demanding than in Years 7 and 8.

You have an opportunity now to select subjects in which you are strongest and which you enjoy most as well as new ones you have not yet studied. Can you say which will be most suitable for you?

### After Year 11

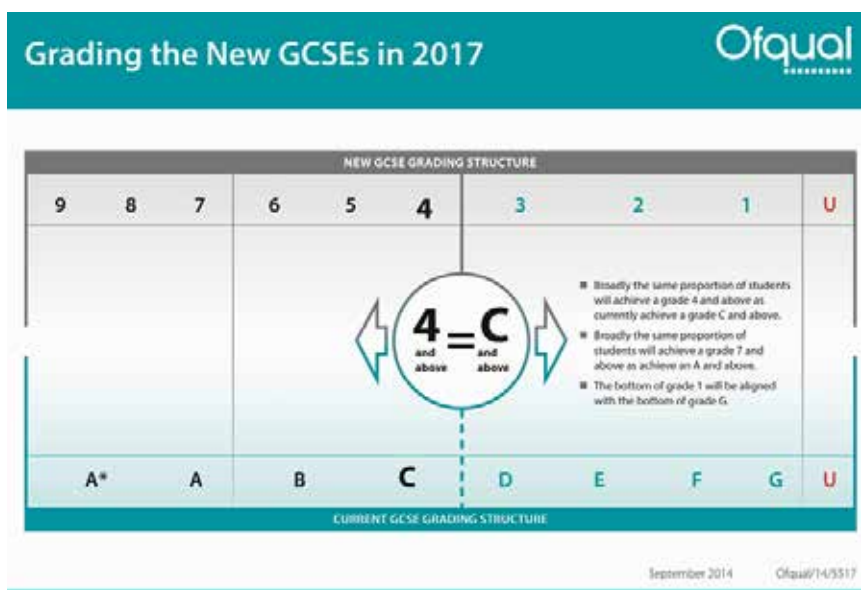
Throughout Years 9,10 and 11 you will receive advice and guidance about careers options for courses at the MCA Sixth Form and other local colleges to help you achieve success during the next three years. Consider post-16 courses when choosing options at KS4 and discuss any queries with members of staff. For more information on MCA6 ask Mrs Sanders-Pope or a member of the Sixth Form team.

MCA has strong links with local industries, businesses, colleges and universities and we use these links to enrich the curriculum, providing work placements and enterprise events for all students where appropriate.



# The GCSE Grades

In 2017 the government changed GCSE grading. The chart on the right shows how the new grades link with the old ones.



### **New Assessment for GCSE subjects**

All reformed GCSE courses are assessed at the end of the course of study. That means students take their exams at the end of Year 11. Most GCSEs have three papers per subject.

Some subjects have controlled assessment units. You can read about the content of these units in this booklet. Controlled assessments may be completed in exam conditions in the academy, or might be closer to traditional coursework. Each subject is different. We rigorously follow the guidance issued by each exam board for each subject when conducting controlled assessments with students.

### **Differentiation**

The GCSE examination is intended for all young people in Years 9 to 11 which means the examinations are designed to differentiate between stronger and weaker candidates. In a minority of subjects candidates will be entered for a “tier” of GCSE paper which gives them access to a particular range of grades. These arrangements are explained in the subject descriptions in the following sections. Most new GCSEs are now untiered. Therefore all students can achieve grades 1-9.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

It is important you select your courses carefully. Avoid thinking that any particular subject is for girls or for boys - that idea is now thoroughly out-dated and the academy is committed to enabling all students, regardless of their gender, ability or cultural heritage, to achieve the highest levels of attainment and excellence of which they are capable. Keep all your future options as open as possible. Be mindful that the country is desperately short of scientists, mathematicians, linguists and engineers, male or female.

### **Subject Information**

All students in KS4 must study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities (either History or Geography)
- A language (French or Spanish) however some may not sit a full GCSE examination.

In addition, all students are required to follow non-examination courses in:

- Physical Education
- Skills for Life
- RE

To meet the needs of the National Curriculum all students will have four hours a week studying English and mathematics. Most students will then take English, English Literature and Maths during KS4. Students will take two GCSEs in Science. Some students will be invited to study three Science GCSEs; they will typically be working towards grade 7 (\*A grade) and be in the top sets.

There is a preference form to be completed. It clearly shows which sort of course is on offer. Further to that there is lots of information on each subject in this booklet.

# Art & Design



You will need to be enthusiastic, imaginative and committed as well as show some ability in Art & Design.

## What is the course?

The first year of the course aims to broaden your historical and contextual knowledge of art and extend your repertoire of techniques as an artist through two coursework projects. The second year of the course consists of two units. One of these is the final practical exam which is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade and the other unit is presented as a portfolio of work.

For both of these units you will have to specialise in one of the disciplines below.

## Areas covered in Art & Design include:

- Critical & Contextual Studies
- Painting
- Graphics – typography, advertising
- Illustration – digital and traditional
- Printmaking
- 3D Design – ceramics, fabric casting
- Observational Drawing
- Independent Thinking
- Original Work
- Exhibitions and Gallery visits
- Primary research (It is advisable students have access to a camera and drawing equipment for home study)

You will be expected to do work at home each week.

## Where Art and Design Will Take You

Careers you could progress to from this course are: Graphic Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Freelance Illustration, Animation, Web Design & Packaging Design.

This subject leads to level 3 Art and Design or Graphics at MCA6.





# Business Studies

OCR GCSE Business (9-1) – J204

## Why Choose Business?

When you leave school you may be working for a business or other organisation. After studying Business you will have an insight into just how businesses operate, including how to set up a business of your own. So why should you not be the next Richard Branson?

- This is a practical course, using real businesses as examples
- Learn skills to help you in decision making
- Be one step ahead in understanding how businesses operate

## The Course

### Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people

You will be introduced to business concepts and issues concerning the activities of a business. You will explore the purpose and role of a business from spotting an opportunity through to the growth of an established business. You will also look at the role of marketing and human resources.

### Paper 2: Operations, finance and influences on business

You will take a closer look at the role of operations and finance in business activity. Operations include production processes, quality of goods and services, customer service, and working with suppliers. Finance covers its role, its sources, costs, profit and loss, cash and cash flow.

You will also explore how business responds to external influences, such as ethical and environmental considerations, the economic climate and globalisation, and the interdependent nature of business.

## Assessment

This course is assessed by two written examinations worth 50% each.

## Where Business Studies Will Take You

There are many career areas to explore in the world of business which include:-

Accounting, Finance, Management, Human Resources, Retail, Marketing, Product Management, Self-Employment, Market Research, Advertising and Public Relations, Operations Management.

The course also leads onto Level 3 (Equivalent to A Level) Business Studies and in most cases it can lead onto a university degree.

## This subject leads to Level 3 Business Studies at MCA6



# Design & Technology

## GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition



**Please note:** As mentioned, there is a weekly demand to undertake practical work and in choosing this option you will be entering in to an agreement to cover the costs of the cooking

### What You Will Learn?

This is an exciting new course that teaches you an understanding of ingredients, cooking processes, nutrition and healthy lifestyles. You will be able to build up your skills in the food preparation section and extend your knowledge of where food comes from, the science behind cooking and how important different nutrients are for your well-being. Additionally, you need to be aware of matters concerning health and safety.

You are expected to cook every week, with the cost of the ingredients being between £2.00 - £3.00 per week. You will develop high standards regarding taste and appearance of your dishes.

You will also have the chance to take part in events and competitions such as Future Chef and the Big Bake Off.

### Assessment

A food science investigation 15%

Practical exam and coursework element 35%

Formal written exam 50%

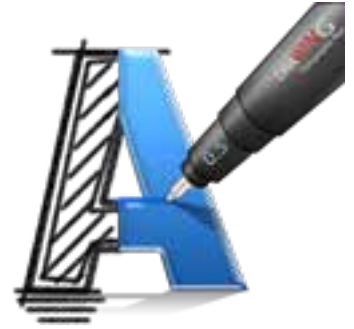
### Where GCSE Catering Will Take You

This course is suitable for anyone who is interested in cooking or considering pursuing a career in the Catering and Hospitality industry. This course will lead onto the A level option 'Food Science and Nutrition' which in turn opens the door to the BSc in Human Nutrition and other BSc options.

You should consider this option if you want to develop further in the direction of Sport (coaching, dietician), Nursing, Child care or working in the catering industry.



# Design & Technology



## Why choose Design and Technology?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows you to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

## Assessment

### Paper 1

What's assessed

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

## Questions

### Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

### Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

### Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

What's assessed

## Practical application of:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment (NEA): 30–35 hours approx
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

## Task(s)

- Substantial design and make task
- Assessment criteria:
  - Identifying and investigating design possibilities
  - Producing a design brief and specification
  - Generating design ideas
  - Developing design ideas
  - Realising design ideas
  - Analysing & evaluating
- In the spirit of the iterative design process, the above should be awarded holistically where they take place and not in a linear manner
- Contextual challenges to be released annually by AQA on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA
- Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence
- Work will be marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

## Where will Design and Technology take you?

This course is ideal for moving onto GCE A-Level Product Design. You would normally need to get 9 - 4 grades at GCSE to take this course.

# Drama



## **This course is in three parts:**

### **Component: 01/02 (Devising Drama)**

You will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create your own devised drama.

### **Component: 03 (Presenting and performing texts)**

You will study a published play as a class. You will then develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from this performance text.

### **Component: 04 (Performance and response)**

You will practically explore a performance text to develop your knowledge and understanding of drama. You will also analyse and evaluate a live theatre production. You will complete a written exam at the end of Year 11.

### **Assessment:**

Devising Drama is assessed by your teacher in school. Presenting and Performing Texts is assessed by a visiting examiner from the exam board. Performance and Response is a written exam assessment.

Devising Drama - 30% of GCSE

Presenting and Performing - 30% of GCSE

Performance and Response - 40 % of GCSE

### **Should I take this course?**

GCSE Drama helps you develop valuable life skills that are of great benefit in the

world of work. Communication, team work, negotiation and presentation are all skills that Drama will help you develop. You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. It is suitable for those who already have done some acting before as well as those who have always wanted to. You must be able to work well as part of a team as Drama involves a great deal of group work. Lunchtime and after school rehearsals are an essential part of the course so commitment is crucial.

### **Progression**

You will have many options available to you at Sixth Form and at College if you complete a GCSE in Drama.

**This course leads to BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts at MCA6.**

# English & English Literature

You will study English Language and English Literature following the Edexcel syllabus. You will read a range of Literature including Shakespeare, pre-1914 and modern texts. In addition you will learn how to interpret and analyse non-fiction texts. You will be trained to develop your analytical and creative writing skills. Everyone is assessed in speaking and listening skills.

1 Tier Exam Grades 1-9

	Attainment Targets	Examination
English Language	External Assessment	Paper 1 - 40 % Paper 2 - 60 %
English Language	Internal Assessment	Spoken Language Endorsement
English Literature	External Assessment	Paper 1 - 50% Paper 2- 50%

## Where English Will Take You

After GCSE, you will be able to continue your study of English Literature at A Level. English at grade 4 or above is usually required if you wish to attend College or University courses

Employers seek high levels of communication and if you pass GCSE English and English Literature you are proving that you have the ability to use the written and spoken word accurately. You are also demonstrating that you can use analytical skills to explore the best that has been thought and said with insight and imagination

English Literature can lead to the following careers: – Journalist, Librarian, Teacher, Author, Editor, Copywriter and many more.

English Literature is also considered to be a sound academic 'A' level by all universities for admission to courses such as Law.

**This subject leads to A level English Literature (and supports all essay-based sixth form subjects) at MCA6**



# AQA GCSE History

*Don't just learn History, learn from History*

## **Why choose History?**

We believe in the importance of learning from history. This course enables you to study different aspects of the past, so that you can engage with key issues such as conflict, understanding what drives change and how the past influences the present.

Studying GCSE History will help you to answer important questions such as: Why do wars happen? Why do we have a welfare system? How have we come to live in a multi-cultural society? Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

## **The Course and Assessment**

The topics you will study are split into two sections:

Understanding the Modern World [paper 1: 50%]

Shaping the Nation [paper 2: 50%]

## **In *Understanding the Modern World* you will study:**

### **America between 1920 – 1973:**

#### **Opportunity and Inequality**

This period study focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent century of change. It was a period of opportunity and inequality – when some Americans lived the ‘American Dream’ whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice. You will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of these two developments and the role ideas played in bringing about change. You will also look at the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and the impact the developments had on them.

### **Conflict & Tension 1894 – 1918**

This wider world depth study enables you to understand the complex and diverse interests of the Great Powers and other states. It focuses on the causes, nature and conclusion of the First World War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred, and why it proved difficult to bring the war to a conclusion. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

A residential battlefields trip to Belgium and France will be planned to enhance the study of this unit.

# AQA GCSE History

*Don't just learn History, learn from History*

## **In *Shaping the Nation* you will study:**

### **Britain: Health and the People**

This thematic study will enable you to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over a long period of time. It considers causes, scale, nature and consequences of short and long-term developments, their impact on British society and how they were related to the key features and characteristics of the periods during which they took place. You will have the opportunity to see how ideas and events in the wider world affected Britain and this will promote the idea that key themes did not develop in isolation.

### **Norman England c1066 – 1100 (incorporating the study of a specific historic environment).**

This option allows you to study in depth the arrival of the Normans, the Norman Conquest and the establishment of their rule. The depth study will focus on major aspects of Norman rule and the economic, religious, political, social and cultural changes that occurred in England after 1066.

## **Where History Will Take You**

Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you will learn a range of important skills that will help you with A-levels and future work. These include: excellent communication and writing skills; how to construct an argument; research, investigation and problem-solving skills; analytical and interpretation skills.

Studying history can lead on to some exciting career options, including:

- Journalism • Law • Business • Politics • Archaeology • Marketing • Teaching.

**This subject leads to A-level History at MCA6 (and supports the study of the Social Sciences)**



# Geography

*“The world is your oyster: explore it and learn how today’s world was shaped and understand the challenges we face in the future.”*



## Why Choose Geography?

This exciting course is based on a balanced framework of physical and human geography. It allows you to investigate the link between the two themes, and approach and examine the battles between the man-made and natural worlds.

You will travel the world from your classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. You are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

## The Course and Assessment

The GCSE is divided into four units:

Living with the physical environment [paper 1: 35%]

Challenges in the human environment [paper 2: 35%]

Geographical applications [paper 3: 30%]

Geographical skills [papers 1, 2 & 3]



## Living With the Physical Environment:

Discover more about the challenge of natural hazards and the living world, physical landscapes of the United Kingdom and human interaction with them. This unit develops an understanding of the different natural processes and features in different environments; for example, plate tectonics leading to earthquakes and erosion in coastal areas. It provides you with the knowledge about the need for management strategies with a focus on sustainability and consideration of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and the atmosphere.

## Challenges in the Human Environment:

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both in different places and over time. You will develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and place; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments.

## Where Geography Will Take You

Choose GCSE Geography and you will learn how today’s world was shaped and understand the challenges we face in the future. You will also examine the Earth’s natural resources and the increasing battles between the man-made and natural world. This knowledge, paired with your essential curiosity, will give you the sought-after transferable skills for success in further education and the workplace.

## Career Paths Include:

• Travel writer • Expedition leader • Cultural arts officer • Aid worker • Diplomat • Lawyer • Retail management • Coastal engineer • Teacher • Military GIS specialist • Aerial surveyor • Pollution analyst • Conservation officer

This subject leads to A-level Geography at MCA6 (and supports the study of the Social Sciences)

# Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)



The Modern Foreign Languages faculty is currently offering GCSEs in French and Spanish which will enable you to prepare for A Level or take a vocational language qualification at Level 3 (KS5) and Level 4 (Degree).

You may choose to take one language. Generally, the language you choose will have been studied in Years 7 and 8. However, if you wish to study a second language which you have not been learning this will be considered on an individual basis taking into account your linguistic skills and previous knowledge.

The qualification consists of 4 skill areas: listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will be entered for one tier only - either foundation tier (1-5) or higher tier (5-9) for all skills.

**Listening:** is assessed by a paper taken in the Summer term of Year 11. Foundation is 35 minutes/ higher is 45 minutes and you will be expected to answer questions in English/French/Spanish and nonverbally (for example by ticking the correct answer).

**Speaking:** is conducted as an internal exam. This involves a role-play, a photo card and then a general conversation based on topics covered during the course. The exam is 7-9 minutes in total for foundation tier and 10-12 minutes for higher tier.

**Reading:** is assessed by a paper taken in the Summer term of Year 11. Foundation is 45 minutes/ higher is 60 minutes and you will be expected to answer questions in English/French/Spanish and nonverbally. In addition to this, you will complete a translation task from French to English.

**Writing:** is assessed by a paper taken in the Summer term of Year 11

**Foundation tier tasks:** writing a short message in

French/Spanish, a short response to 4 bullet points, a translation from English to the target language.

Higher tier is a structured writing task of 90 words in French/Spanish, an open-ended writing task of 150 words in French/Spanish and a translation from English to the target language

## Themes studied:

- 1. Identity and culture (family, friends, technology, free-time activities).
- 2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest (home/town and region, social and global issues, travel and tourism).
- 3. Current and future study and employment (my studies, life at school, education post 16 and job, career choices and ambitions).

## Other Foreign Languages

If you have ability in other languages you may also opt to take either a GCSE or 'A' Level in Year 11 subject to the ability of gaining a Grade C or above. Languages taken in the recent past: Polish, German, Portuguese, Japanese and Mandarin.

## Where A Language GCSE Will Take You

It will leave you in a more advantageous position to gain employment or be accepted on apprenticeships with a wide range of companies. Recent statistics have shown that students with a language are 30% more likely to be offered a job. Furthermore, some universities will not take you unless you have a language qualification at GCSE or above.

## Example courses offered at some universities are:

Marketing and French, Business Studies with Spanish, French and Hispanic Studies, Law with French Combined Honours Degree.

These subjects lead to A level  
French and Spanish at MCA6

# Health & Social Care



## Why Choose Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care is a relevant option for you if you intend to pursue a career in any of the caring professions from nursing to care of the elderly or care of small children.

This qualification introduces students to the biggest employment sector in the UK, which includes elements of the NHS, local authority adult and child care services as well as a range of independent providers which provide care in a variety of settings. It introduces students to this vocational sector and the role it plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals across all age ranges. Students will develop transferable skills, in particular communication and aspects of team working.

## The Course

There is a very practical approach to the teaching and assessment of the course. You will be undertaking independent research, listening to talks by visiting speakers and participating in role plays

## Units

Unit R021: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings

Unit R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings

Unit R026: Planning for employment in health, social care or the children and young people workforce

Unit R028: Understand the development and protection of children in an early years setting

## Assessment

Written work is the main form of assessment for this qualification, however, your practical skills will also be assessed at certain points on the course. The course is assessed through 75% coursework and 25% examination. The examination takes place in Year 11. This course is a good option if you are motivated by having greater control over your output of work and if the thought of an examination-only course is stressful.

## Where Health & Social Care Will Take You

Many students who have completed this course have chosen to study Health and Social Care at a higher level in the Sixth Form; others have used it to gain access to alternative A level courses in the Sixth Form. Some students have gone straight into employment or Further Education.

Health & Social Care can lead to careers such as nurse, care assistant, teacher, nursery nurse, playgroup worker, social worker, midwife and paramedic.

This subject leads to Health and Social Care level 3 at MCA6



# Mathematics



You will follow the grades 9-1 GCSE Mathematics Specification that started in September 2015, with examination board AQA. The course has changed in many ways including the use of problem solving and analysing skills. You will also be expected to be able to show that you can use Mathematics effectively in everyday life.

You must follow the full Mathematics course because it provides you with essential life skills. As well as helping you to expand your number skills, we aim to develop your thinking, solving, estimating, analytical and reasoning skills.

## **Setting**

You will be set by ability according to your prior attainment in Mathematics. You will be entered for the GCSE exam at one of two tiers, foundation or higher. The possible award grade is dependent on the tier of entry as follows:

Higher Tier 9 - 4

Foundation Tier 5 - 1

## **Where Mathematics Will Take You**

The Mathematics GCSE will provide you with the skills you need to follow many courses in the future. These include Geography, Psychology, Engineering, Business Studies, IT and the Sciences.

Maths can lead to a variety of careers and is an essential tool to be used through life by everyone whatever their chosen career path.

**This subject leads to Core Maths, A level Mathematics and Further Mathematics at MCA6**

Mathematics

# Music

You may already play an instrument or sing, or simply just enjoy listening to music. All you need for this course is enthusiasm.



## But what do I actually do?

Each lesson is a combination of practical and theory. In theory lessons you will learn the music from areas of study covering a range of styles from Classical to Club Dance as well as World Music from African Drumming to Indian Raga as well as set works.

In practical lessons you will learn to perform as a soloist and also choose a group to regularly work with, i.e. rock bands, singing or instrumental groups. You will also compose your own music and record it using our Music Technology Software.

### Assessment:

Performing 30% (recorded exam)

Composing 30% (coursework)

Listening 40% (1 ½ hour written exam)

## Where Music Will Take You

If you enjoy GCSE Music and wish to continue your studies then there are many options available to you. You could go on to study Music at AS/A Level at Sixth Form or study college courses such as NVQs or Diplomas in Music Performance, Sound Technology or Performing Arts. Studying music opens up a variety of job and career options such as music teacher, composer, conductor, session musician, recording studio technician, DJ, music therapist, sound engineer, band promotor, singer, musician, tour operator.

## This subject leads to A level Music at MCA6

# Sport Studies



If you are NOT taking a language, you will automatically study the Pearson BTEC L1/2 Award in Sport. This has the same value as 1 GCSE – it is just labelled differently.

This is an exciting course offered by the Physical Education Faculty, which aims to encourage personal development through practical participation and performance in a range of sports and exercise activities.

In addition to the practical work, you will receive theory-based teaching in internally and externally assessed units. You will study three internal units (practical sport, sports psychology and personal training) and one external unit (fitness for sport and exercise). The external unit is a 75 minute, screen-based test.

In practical sport, students will perform and officiate in a range of sports. In the psychology unit, students are challenged to consider the impacts of personality, motivation and confidence on sports performance. Within the personal training unit, students assess their own fitness and compare this to normative and elite performance data, drawing conclusions about what it takes to reach the top level in professional sport.

The qualification gives you the opportunity to progress to other vocational qualifications, such as the Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Sport, currently offered at MCA<sup>6</sup>. The qualification is particularly relevant for students who are open to the idea of future studies or a career in the sport and leisure sector.

An overview of the course is shown below. Students will study units 1-4.

<b>Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport</b>			
<b>Unit</b>	<b>Mandatory Units</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>	<b>GLH</b>
1	Fitness for Sport and Exercise	External	30
2	Practical Performance in Sport	Internal	30
3	Applying the Principles of Personal Training	Internal Synoptic	30
	<b>Optional Specialist Units</b>		
4	The Mind and Sports Performance	Internal	30
5	The Sports Performer in Action	Internal	30
6	Leading Sports Activities	Internal	30

**This subject leads to BTEC Level 3 Sport at MCA6**

# Computer Science

For those of you with an end of KS4 target of 6 or above we are offering the opportunity to complete a computing GCSE.



## OCR 9-1 GCSE in Computer Science

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an 'underpinning' subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly. In studying this specification you will learn how to create applications that:

- run on mobile devices
- operate in a web enabled environment
- learn to code and gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications (by completing a 20 hour programming task)
- opportunities to work collaboratively
- learn how computers work together to solve problems

### Course Assessment:

#### 50% - Computing Fundamentals

(1½ hour examination on paper)

#### 50% - Algorithms and Problem-Solving

(1½ hour examination on paper)

### Jobs in Computing:

Cyber security, data analyst, research, computer engineer, NASA, intelligence services.

**This course leads to A level ICT,  
A Level Computer Science or  
OCR Technical Level 3 ICT at MCA6**

# Creative iMedia

## **OCR Cambridge nationals in Creative iMedia**

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia is a vocational course which aims to provide you with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating.

iMedia is a wonderful course that trains you to develop online documents that stand out from the crowd. This is ever more important in today's digital age.

### **Course Assessment:**

25% External Examination - RO81 Pre-production documents

25% Coursework on RO82 – Creating digital graphics

25% Coursework on RO85 – Creating a multi-page website

25% Coursework on RO88 – Creating a digital sound sequence

**This course leads to A level ICT/OCR  
Technical Level 3 ICT at MCA6**



# Independent Advice & Guidance – PSHE Skills For Life (SKL)



In Years 9, 10 and 11 you will continue to follow a programme building on the knowledge, skills and values developed in Years 7-8 to educate the 'whole child'. It aims to enrich your personal and social development, which is nurtured through the curriculum and supported by the pastoral system. You will further develop your knowledge of a range of topics studied throughout your time at the academy. The curriculum will cover topics relating to personal wellbeing and financial capability as well as careers education including access to impartial information, advice and guidance (IAG).

## Assessment

There is no formal qualification or assessment in this subject however you will receive regular feedback from the teacher about your progress in this aspect of your education through verbal feedback and comment marking on your work. You will also be given the opportunity to access a careers advisor for 1:1 careers advice. To make an appointment please see your House Leader or Mr Goodenough.

## What will be covered in detail?

Sex and Relationships - including contraception, FGM and STI's

Healthy Lifestyles - including exercise, mental health awareness

Staying Safe (including online safety)

Smoking, Alcohol and Drugs

Citizenship: government & democracy, crime & disorder, human rights, media & culture,

British values

Careers: further education, higher education, job opportunities, CV building and E4L portfolio evidence

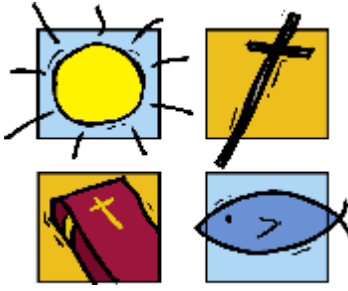
Finance: managing money

Preventing violent extremism

## Where SKL will take you:

At 16 you must either go on to further education or employment with training. SKL can help you with either of these options. You can also go on to Higher Education when you get to 18 and study for a degree as well as a range of post graduate courses. Within this course you will have opportunities to develop your knowledge, skills and understanding about a range of life issues to better prepare you for a successful future and life beyond MCA.

This course is vitally important for your development into adult life.



# Religious Education

**You will further develop an interest in the world around you and an enthusiasm for debating the complex social, moral and ethical challenges that we face as human beings.**

**By studying a range of different religious beliefs and attitudes, you will continue to develop your knowledge and understanding of the multi-cultural society we live in and the growing need across our world to celebrate and be tolerant of diversity.**

## **The Course**

The topics studied aim to tackle a range of ethical issues and include the following:

Our World, Medicine, Crime and Punishment, Equality and Current Affairs.

Through the teaching of these topics, you will continue to learn about Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism and build upon the KS3 programme of study.

## **Assessment**

All students follow an RE curriculum. There is no formal qualification or assessment in this subject however you will receive regular feedback from the teacher about your progress in this aspect of your education through verbal feedback and comment marking on your work.

Should a sufficiently large group of students wish to select RE as an option we can deliver the full GCSE course.

**This subject leads to Social Sciences at MCA6**

# Science

The Science Faculty currently offers two different Science GCSE courses at Key Stage 4. Science is a compulsory subject. Both the government and the academy believe it is an essential part of your education.



## The Courses

### Course 1 AQA Trilogy Combined Science

The AQA Trilogy GCSE is an exam-based course. You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and at the end of the course will achieve two Science grades. This route can result in two GCSEs at the end of Year 11.

### Course 2 AQA Separate Sciences

Those of you who are on course for grades 7+ will be selected to take the AQA Separate Science course. This is a similar format as the AQA Trilogy Combined Science course, but has additional taught material and as such is particularly suitable for those who wish to continue with science at KS5 and beyond. This route results in three GCSE grades at the end of Year 11, one for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## Setting

Those of you who are going to follow the Separate Science route will be in separate 'Triple' sets. You will have extra science teaching and reduced RE/Skills for life and core PE. Those of you on the AQA Separate Science course are expected to achieve grades 5-9 in each of the separate science subjects. Those of you studying the AQA Trilogy Combined Science will be set based on your ability and prior attainment.

## Regular Assessment

During the course you will be regularly assessed. As the course is arranged in module blocks there will be regular mid-module and end-ofmodule tests. You will be given feedback after these assessments to help you to move on.

## GCSE Assessment

Both GCSE routes are assessed by external examinations held in the summer of Year 11.

## Where Will Science Take You

If you achieve grade 5 in the AQA Science courses, you can complete traditional A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. This will enable you to go on to University to study the 'traditional' science degrees. Your options would include:

Mechanical Engineer, Chemical Engineer, Design Engineer, Electrical Engineer, Astronomy, Astrophysics, Robotics, Teaching, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Medicine, Zoologist, Marine Biology, Genetics, Veterinary Surgeon or Nurse, Pharmacy, Biochemistry, Dietician, Psychology, Nursing, Environmental Health, Science Journalism, Clinical Scientist.

**This subject leads to A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and BTEC Level 3 Applied Science at MCA6**



# The Youth Award

## Personal Development Programme

### Bronze / Silver / Gold Award

You will be invited to take this course by Miss Woods and cannot select it as an option without talking to her first.

#### What Are Personal Development Programmes?

These programmes allow you to develop and recognise a range of skills that will be invaluable when you start work and begin living independent lives: teamwork, independent learning, coping with problems and using Maths, English and IT.

#### How Does it Work?

- You complete 'Challenges' each with a credit rating
- Evidence for each successful challenge is filed in a portfolio
- SIX full credits are required for Bronze Level and a further SIX at the same level for Silver Award . Pupils are expected to show initiative and will work in a variety of situations, both inside and outside the classroom.

#### Why Choose Youth Award?

- It recognises academic and non-academic achievement.
- Measurable success with rapid results
- Encourages independent learning
- Improves organisational skills
- Improve levels of motivation
- Focuses on Key Skills
- Allows students an element of choice
- Encourages initiative and builds confidence

#### What Challenges Can You Take?

- Communication
- The Community
- Sport and Leisure
- Home Management
- The Environment
- Number Handling
- Health and Survival
- World of Work
- Science and Technology
- Wider World
- Expressive Arts
- Beliefs and Values



All these challenges can be made up from work you do in an out of the academy.

# The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Level 1



You will be invited to take this course by Miss Woods and cannot select it as an option without talking to her first.

## What is CoPE?

The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness is a nationally-recognised qualification. CoPE can accredit many of the activities undertaken by you as part of your formal or non-formal curriculum. CoPE promotes, and allows centres to record, the development of a wide range of personal qualities, new skills and confidence.

## What it Involves

- Complete 12 curriculum credits' worth (120 hours) of challenges from the CoPE Levels 1 and 2 student book.
- Compile a portfolio of evidence.
- Meet the criteria for all six of the CoPE assessment units.

## CoPE Assessment Units

- Working with Others
- Improving own Learning and Performance
- Problem Solving
- Planning and carrying out Research
- Communication through Discussion
- Planning and Giving an Oral Presentation

You are required to formally plan and review your work using the mandatory CoPE recording documents provided by ASDAN. These mandatory documents form a key part of the Portfolio of Evidence.

## The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness Can:

- Recognise your personal achievements
- Help you to manage your own learning
- Broaden your experience
- Develop your employability skills
- Help you build your record of achievement
- Add to your GCSE qualification

All these challenges can be made up from work you do in an out of the academy.

# AQA GCSE Citizenship

*“Citizenship is the chance to make a difference  
to the place where you belong”*



## Why Choose Citizenship?

This exciting and incredibly engaging course will motivate and educate students to become thoughtful and active citizens who engage intelligently and enthusiastically with public life.

Students will gain knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop the ability to create sustained, well balanced arguments. Communication skills are increasingly sought after by employers and this course will enhance students' writing and speaking styles.

You need to be interested in current affairs and be currently, or willing, to read and watch the news on a daily basis.

## The Course and Assessment

The GCSE is divided into four themes with two exams:

Life in Modern Britain | Rights and Responsibilities | Politics and Participation | Taking Citizenship Action

### Life in Modern Britain:

Discover more about the principles and values in British society, looking at identity and the role of the media and international organisations.

### Rights and Responsibilities:

This unit looks at human rights and how laws protect the citizen and deal with the criminal. You will learn about the rights and responsibilities within the legal system and then how these can be used to bring about change.

### Politics and Participation:

You will discuss political power in the UK and where it resides, looking into both local and devolved government. You will discover how others govern themselves and then how to bring about political change.

### Taking Citizenship Action:

This is where you will plan and then take action in an area you feel passionate about.

## Where Citizenship Will Take You

Choose GCSE Citizenship and you will learn how today's society and political landscape has been formed and begin to understand the challenges we face in the future.

### Career Paths Include:

• Lawyer • Community Worker • Economist • Police Officer • Solicitor • Local Government Administrator • Police Community Support Officer

**You could go on to study courses like Government and Politics, Sociology, Criminology or History – all of which are available at MCA6.**

# Invitation

## to the KEY STAGE 4 Information Evening

The purpose of the evening is to give students and parents/carers the opportunity to discuss any matters you need to consider with the people best placed to advise you.

**Year 8 Options Evening**  
**Wednesday 18th March 2020**  
**5:45 - 7:45pm**

The programme for the evening will be as follows:

### Presentation in the Octagon

**First Sitting 5:45pm**  
**Second Sitting 6:45pm**

Welcome and Introduction

An explanation of the Curriculum for Years 9 - 11  
and a summary of choices available to students

Any general questions will be taken, after which subject teachers will be available to discuss individual questions with parents/carers and students.

Subject teachers will be available from **6:00** until **8:00pm**

# What Next?

## Note for Students:

A “Subject Preference Form” will be given to you after the Options Evening during your Skills for Life lesson. Please refer to this booklet when completing the form in which you are asked to indicate your preferred choices. You can use the duplicate form in this booklet to work out your subject choices with your parent/carer first.

## Note for Parents and Carers:

Once the Subject Preference Form has been completed it should be signed and returned to your Skills for Life teacher. Those teachers will then pass the forms to Mr Oxley for collation. If there are any concerns surrounding your selection we will always discuss the matter with parents/carers. One factor, which must be taken into account, of course, is each student’s performance in Year 8. The recent Parents’ Evening will have helped.

While our aim is to ensure all students can take their first choice subjects it is inevitable that in some cases this may not be possible. A course may not be run if it attracts too few students to make it viable. It may be that a course is over-subscribed making it necessary to identify the students likely to gain most benefit from following it. In these circumstances students’ second preferences may have to be examined and contact made between us. Where a second preference has not been indicated it may be necessary to return the Subject Preference Form to you for further study.

As always we shall strive to ensure that everyone is as happy as possible with the final outcome. When the process is complete, parents/carers and students will be formally notified of their child’s courses for Key Stage 4. This is likely to be around June.

I should like to stress how important it is to take your time discussing the matter with key staff if you have need of further clarification on any point.



# Preference Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

All students will follow GCSE courses in English Language, English Literature, Maths and Science  
(Trilogy as standard or Triple if selected).

All students will also follow courses in RE, Skills for Life and Core PE.

For Options A-B, please put a tick to indicate your selection

Option A - Humanity	Select 1
History	
Geography	

Option B - MFL	Select 1
French	
Spanish	

All students will study an accredited language course, either at GCSE or a functional level

Please select 4 subjects in order of preference- 1 being your first choice and 4 as your reserve choice

Triple Science and Youth Award is by invitation only. If you have received a letter for either of these subjects, please put them as your first choice.

Subjects	Select 4
Triple Science*	
Youth Award*	
Art & Design	
Business Studies	
Citizenship	
Computer Science	
Creative iMedia	
Drama	
DT-Product Design	
DT - Food Preparation & Nutrition	
Health & Social Care	
Music	
Sport Studies	
Geography	
History	
French	
Spanish	

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Student)

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Carer)

# Notes...



Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY

## Key Stage 4 Courses / 2020-2023