

# Key Stage Four Courses

2022-2024



Mildenhall College  
ACADEMY



**T**

**Teamworkers**  
Together Everyone  
Achieves More



**R**

**Resilient**  
We make mistakes and face  
challenges but we never give up



**A**

**Ambitious**  
We have a strong desire and  
determination to achieve



**I**

**Inquisitive**  
We are curious and interested in  
the world around us



**T**

**Together**  
We show tolerance and respect for  
each other and our environment.  
'We Belong Here'



**S**

**Successful**  
We will be successful



**A**chieve academic excellence  
**B**e the best you can be  
**C**ontribute positively to your community



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# 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 present economic climate – so think long term!
- b) Be realistic and ambitious - do not settle for being less than you are capable of.
- c) The greater the qualifications you have the more you are likely to earn over your lifetime and the greater your freedom to choose your own pathway.  
Mildenhall College Academy has always aimed to offer a wide range of subjects to students. Please choose carefully. Once begun, it is usually impossible to change courses.

Students with special educational needs will have the same choice as all others and will enjoy continuing support. Where we feel that the burden of a full range of GCSEs would not be appropriate for a student, we shall discuss alternative routes. Giving 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. It is also important to note that some subjects are available to students by invitation only- Triple Science, Psychology and Youth Award.

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 Science	Mr F Hughes & Mrs Ackland
DT & Art	Mr Daniels
Business Studies / Health & Social	Mr Sexton
Care Drama / Performance Arts	Miss Finbow
History / Geography / RE IT /	Mrs Betts
Computer Science	Mr Sexton
Music	Mrs Sayer
PE	Ms Mutton
Modern Foreign Languages	Ms Bay
(French / Spanish)	
Youth Award	Miss Woods
Psychology	Mr Smith

# 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

This is aimed at students who are likely to achieve grade '4' or above in GCSE Mathematics, English, Science, a Humanities (History or Geography) and a Modern Foreign Language (French or Spanish). The government now expects all children to follow the EBacc. Those who achieve EBacc will find it much easier to apply for Sixth Form, college, and later university places in the future. The information in this booklet is correct for courses currently available. As 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 to 9. You have an opportunity now to select subjects in which you are strongest and which you enjoy most. Can you say which will be most suitable for you?

**After Year 11**

Throughout Years 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 four years. Consider post-16 courses when choosing options at KS4 and discuss any queries with members of staff. For more information on MCA<sup>6</sup> ask Mrs Sanders-Pope.

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.

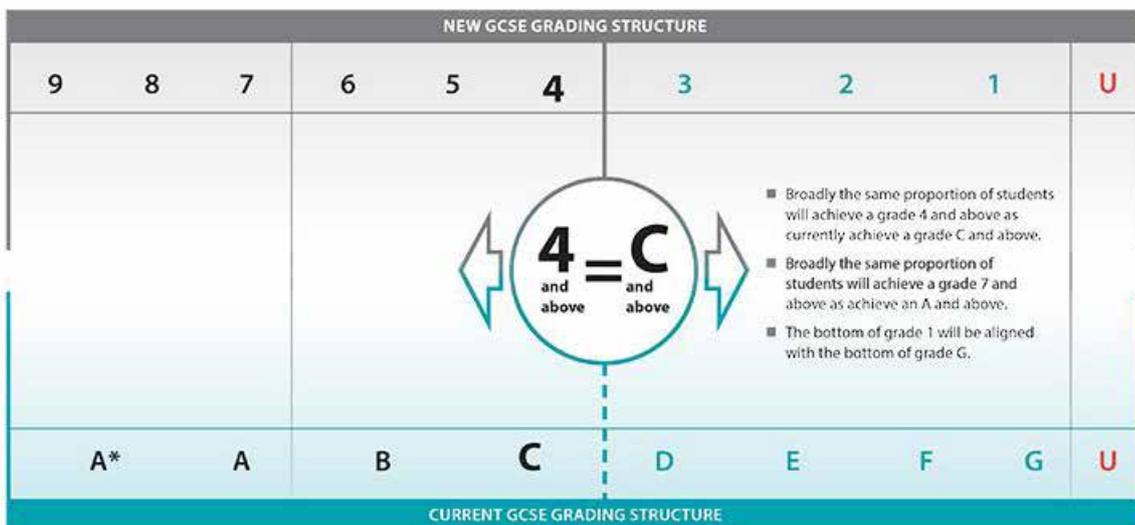


# The GCSE Grades

## Grading the New GCSEs in 2017 Ofqual

In 2017 the government changed GCSE grading.

The chart on the right shows how the new grades link with the old ones.



## Differentiation

The GCSE examination is intended for around 90% of all young people in Years 10 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- Foundation or Higher. These arrangements are explained in the subject descriptions. Most new GCSEs are now untiered. Therefore all students can achieve grades 1-9. The tiered subjects are Maths, Science, French and Spanish.

## 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, regardless of gender.

## Subject Information

### All students in KS4 must study:

- English Language and Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Trilogy or Triple)
- Humanities (either History or Geography)
- Nearly all student will also study a language (French or Spanish)

### All of the above are at GCSE level.

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

- Physical Education
- Skills for Life
- RE

## How do I choose my options?

Parents/Carers will be sent an email from School Comms with a link to an online form. This needs to be completed by 1/4/2022.

If you have any issues in completing the online form please contact Mr Oxley who will assist you.

We require students to select 'reserve options' in case a course is over-subscribed. In such an event, we will notify your child before allocating them to a reserve subject. Priority will be given to students who are clearly motivated in the subject and have a suitable academic and behaviour record.

Where there are any concerns about subject suitability, Mr Oxley will make contact with the student and parent to discuss the issue.

# Mathematics

## What is Mathematics GCSE?

Mathematics is a mandatory course at GCSE, which all students are entered. Students in Set 1 will sit the Higher tier and students in Sets 2-4 will sit the Foundation Tier exams. The content taught at Key Stage 3 builds the foundations for topics in Key Stage 4.

## How is the course structured?

You will have covered a range of topics in Key Stage 3 from the five strands: Number, Algebra, Geometry & Measures, Statistics and Ratio & Proportion. These are repeated in Key Stage 4 with an emphasis on where topics require cross-strand skills, knowledge and application.

## What will I learn?

By taking Mathematics, students will learn to:

- ⇒ become confident mathematicians, prepared for life beyond school
- ⇒ develop their problem-solving skills
- ⇒ improve mental arithmetic
- ⇒ enjoy and embrace challenge

## Knowledge Areas

Number  
Algebra  
Geometry & Measures  
Statistics  
Ratio & Proportion

## What homework will I get?

Homework is set weekly on an online platform that can be accessed on computers, phones or tablets. You will be expected to spend approximately an hour on homework a week.

## What syllabus will I follow?

You will follow the Edexcel GCSE Maths course. More information can be found here: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assessment/gcse-maths-2015-specification.pdf>

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Go to <https://www.mathsgenie.co.uk/papers.html> to have a sneak peak at past exam papers to get an understanding of what is expected of you by the end of Year 11.

It is also imperative you have a suitable calculator. We recommend the Casio Fx83gt.

## What could help me to do well?

Start to organise your notes in lessons to ensure you can use your class book to assist with independent study. You could also look carefully at the topic lists provided prior to each half termly-assessment and ensure you revise thoroughly.

We recommend purchasing the CGP GCSE Mathematics workbook and exam questions.

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams in the Summer of 2024, consisting of one non-calculator and two calculator papers.

Each exam consists of between 20 –30 questions, totalling 80 marks. You are given 1 hour 30 minutes to complete each paper.

The sum of your scores generates one final GCSE grade.

For those students entered for Higher tier, you can achieve between a Grade 3-9, whereas the maximum grade on Foundation tier is a Grade 5.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Hughes if you any questions about the course.

# English Language

## What is English Language?

All students in Year 11 will study English Language. English Language teaches important skills and key knowledge to enable students to communicate effectively, think critically and to leave the academy confident to take their place in the world, whether to further or higher education courses or apprenticeships. There is a widespread demand for strong communication skills in every industry.

## How is the course structured?

English Language is a two year course with two written examinations in the summer term of Year 11. Students also will complete an oral examination for a Spoken Language Endorsement.

## What will I learn?

The AQA English Language specification will enable students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write and communicate clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

## Knowledge Areas

For GCSE English Language students will:

- read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.



# English Literature

## What is English Literature?

All students in Year 11 will study English Literature. English Literature teaches important skills and key knowledge to enable students to empathise, challenge and experience the beauty of language. Extended essay writing skills provide an excellent foundation for further study of English literature, law, media, advertising and publishing, academia, and is excellent preparation for research assistant roles in a wide variety of disciplines.

## How is the course structured?

English Literature is a 2 year course with 2 written examinations in the summer term of Year 11.

## What will I learn?

The AQA English Literature specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English literature that is consistent across the genres. It offers excellent preparation for AS and A-level English Literature, as well as giving students a grounding in a wide variety of literature that will stay with them for life.

### Knowledge Areas

#### **Reading comprehension and reading critically:**

- Literal and inferential comprehension: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events.
- Critical reading: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text.
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation.
- Comparing texts: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above.

#### **Writing**

- Producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references.
- Accurate Standard English: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.



# Combined Science: Trilogy

## What is Trilogy Science?

All students must take some form of science and most will take Trilogy which is a double-award GCSE (previously termed as 'Double-Science'). Your child will be allocated to study Trilogy Science as part of their core curriculum and will have lessons covering all three sciences.

## How is the course structured?

Trilogy Science is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabus taken is the AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy .

## What will I learn?

By taking Combined Science students are encouraged to:

- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, all three science subjects
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how the individual science subjects work and their essential role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## Knowledge Areas

### **Physics:**

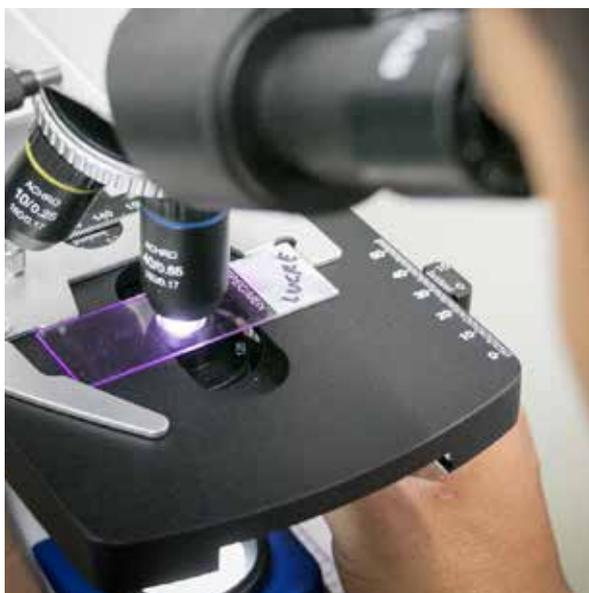
1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

### **Biology:**

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

### **Chemistry:**

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources



## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the Combined science: Trilogy course from AQA.



## How will I be assessed?

Science is assessed through six 70 mark exam papers with 2 papers for each of the three science strands. The examinations can be taken at one of two tiers of entry: **Foundation** and **Higher**. The exams are all 1 hour 15 minutes in length and are taken at the end of Year 11. The Foundation tiers will cover grades 1–5 and the Higher will cover grades 4–9. Questions assessing students' investigative skills will make up 15% of the examinations and these refer to specific practical activities that must be carried out– Required Practicals.

## Who is the course suited to?

All students will study Science. The Trilogy Science course results in two GCSEs covering 3 subject areas. It is suitable for students who want to pursue careers related to Science. All students will use Maths skills, English skills and will complete practical work and learn scientific skills. Being able to learn and remember facts is essential as well as the ability to apply knowledge to new contexts/scenarios.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: planning and writing up experiments, reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding, extending your understanding of a topic through research and revision for the end of unit tests and end of year examinations.

## What could help me to do well?

Online textbook access, worksheets, checklists and revision resources will be available through Kerboodle. Revision guides, specifically for the AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy are useful as are the workbooks associated.

Using SAM Learning and independently accessing Seneca can help support revision.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non-fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

### **Online and updated regularly:**

Focus magazine ([sciencefocus.com](http://sciencefocus.com));  
Catalyst magazine ([www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst](http://www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst));  
Newscientist.com

### **Fiction:**

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card  
The Hitchhikers guide to the galaxy by Douglas Adams

### **Non-fiction:**

Thing Explainer: Complicated Stuff in Simple Words by Randall Munroe  
The Elements: A Visual Exploration of Every Known Atom in the Universe by Theodore Gray  
The Diversity of Life by E. O. Wilson  
The New Way Things Work by D. Macauley  
Bad Science by Ben Goldacre

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Ms Ackland, Mrs Briggs-Hunter or Mrs Goulding if you any questions about this course

# Triple Science

## What is Triple Science?

Triple Science is three separate sciences: Biology Chemistry and Physics. You will be awarded a GCSE for each subject independently (three in total). All students must take some form of science and most will take Trilogy which is a double-award GCSE. Your child may be invited to study Triple Science as part of their core curriculum and as one option choice if they are on target to reach a grade 6 or above and have been making good progress in Science.

## How is the course structured?

Triple Science is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabuses taken are the Biology, Chemistry and Physics AQA separate science courses.

## What will I learn?

By taking Triple Science students are encouraged to:

- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, all three science subjects
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how the individual science subjects work and their essential role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## Knowledge Areas

### **Physics:**

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics (physics only)



### **Chemistry:**

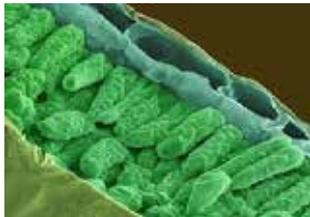
1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

### **Biology:**

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the Biology, Chemistry and Physics separate science courses from AQA.



## How will I be assessed?

The three Sciences are assessed through two 100 mark exam papers each worth 50% per GCSE. The examinations can be taken at one of two tiers of entry: **Foundation and Higher**. The exams are all 1 hour 45 minutes in length and are taken at the end of Year 11. The Foundation tiers will cover grades 1–5 and the Higher, grades 4–9. Questions assessing students' investigative skills will make up 15% of the examinations and these refer to specific practical activities that must be carried out– Required Practicals.

## Who is the course suited to?

The triple science course results in three GCSEs. This makes the course very intense but nevertheless rewarding. It is therefore recommended for students who want to pursue a career in Science. Being able to learn and remember facts is essential as well as the ability to apply knowledge to new contexts/scenarios. Only students who are invited to take Triple Science will be allocated it as an option.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: planning and writing up experiments, reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding, extending your understanding of a topic through research and revision for the end of unit tests and end of year examinations.

## What could help me to do well?

The online textbook access, worksheets, checklists and revision resources will be available through Kerboodle. Revision guides, specifically for the AQA GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics are useful as are the workbooks associated.

Using SAM Learning and independently accessing Seneca can help support revision.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

### **Online and updated regularly:**

Focus magazine ([sciencefocus.com](http://sciencefocus.com)); Catalyst magazine ([www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst](http://www.nationalstemcentre.org.uk/catalyst)); Newscientist.com

### **Fiction:**

The Martian, Andy Weir  
The Fountains of Paradise, Arthur C. Clark  
The Collected Stories of Arthur C. Clarke  
The Forever War, Joe Haldeman  
Foundation, Isaac Asimov

### **Non-fiction:**

A Short History of Nearly Everything BILL BRYSON  
The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins  
Women in Science by Rachel Ignotofsky

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Ms Ackland, Mrs Briggs-Hunter or Mrs Goulding if you any questions about the courses.

# Geography

## 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 tension 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 your role in our global society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

## Which syllabus will I follow?

AQA Geography

### Exam structure

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]



## What will I learn?

### 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.

As part of this unit you will undertake fieldwork to the coast and collect your own data to understand transport and erosion processes and coastal management techniques. You will analyse and present this data in a variety of ways and work with your classmates as you do so. The skills gained from these activities will be directly applicable to your written subjects, sciences and maths and will provide transferrable skills for your future work or study.

This unit also brings your learning about the Earth's physical environment up to date with study of the causes and impacts of climate change and human mitigation and adaptation strategies.

## What will I learn?

### 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 at different scales and timescales, the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments.

Areas of study include the changing economic world and urban environments. These will be explored through exciting case studies of Jamaica, Nigeria, Rio de Janeiro, and the UK.

This unit will also include fieldwork in Bury St. Edmunds town centre, allowing you to see your local environment in a new light whilst working in teams to examine urban processes in Bury.

## Where can Geography take me?

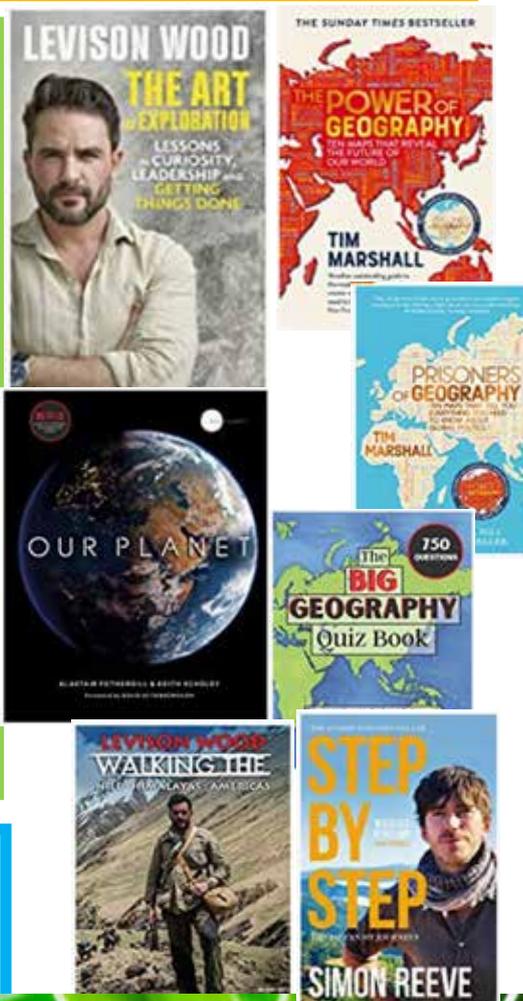
Choose GCSE Geography and you will learn how today's world was shaped and understand the challenges we face in the future. You will also examine the Earth's natural resources and how the growth of the human world creates challenges and conflict. This knowledge, paired with your essential curiosity, will give you 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

## What could I do now if I am interested?

- Have a look at the curriculum overviews or knowledge organisers on the MCA website.
- Read some geographical fiction or travelogues to develop your general geographical understanding.
- Visit the geography stand at the KS4 Choices Evening.
- Visit the Natural History Museum or National Maritime Museums in London.
- Visit the Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition in London.
- Look at the Royal Geographical Society website for information and topic ideas: <https://www.rgs.org/>
- Look at the Cool Geography website for information and ideas: <https://www.coolgeography.co.uk/>
- Look around! Geography is everywhere and can be in your back garden as much as it is in distant continents.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Billson or your Geography teacher.

[Bryony.Billson@mca.attrust.org.uk](mailto:Bryony.Billson@mca.attrust.org.uk)



# 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 and civil rights, 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 National Health Service? 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.

## Which syllabus will I follow?

AQA History

## Exam structure

The topics you will study are split into two sections: Understanding the Modern World [paper 1: 50%] and Shaping the Nation [paper 2: 50%]. These are examined in 2 two-hour exams.

## Understanding the Modern World

- Conflict and Tension: First World War (1894-1918)
- America between 1920 – 1973: Opportunity and Inequality

## Shaping the Nation

- Health and the People (1000-modern day)
- Norman England (1066-1100) with a Historical Environment Study

## What will I learn?

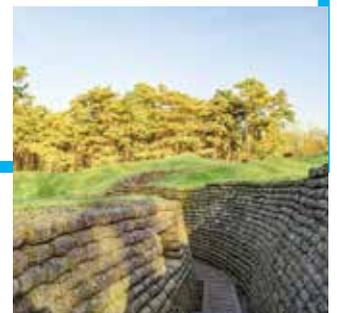
In Understanding the Modern World you will study:

### **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.



## What will I learn?

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 can History take me?

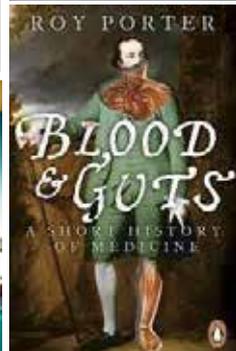
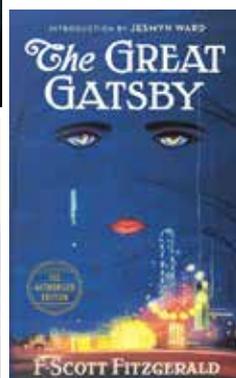
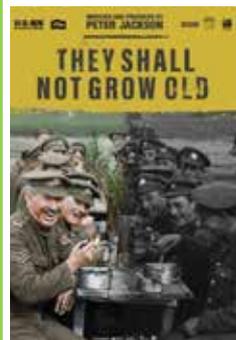
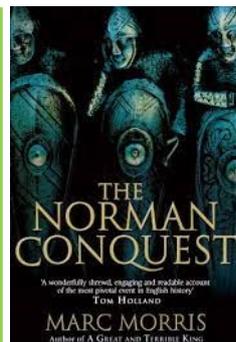
Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you will learn a range of important skills that will help you with A-levels and future work. These include: excellent communication and writing skills; how to construct an argument; research, investigation and problem-solving skills; analytical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

Studying history can lead on to some exciting career options, including: Journalism, Law, Business, Politics, Archaeology, Marketing, Teaching to name a few!

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

## What could I do now if I am interested?

- Read a variety of historical fiction to develop your general historical knowledge, and sense of period. Examples include *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, or *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo.
- Read some academic history: *The War that Ended Peace* by Margaret Macmillan, *The Norman Conquest* by Marc Morris, or *Blood and Guts* by Roy Porter.
- Listen to podcasts—*You're Dead to Me*, *In Our Time* and *Hidden Histories* are recommended.
- Watch historical films such as *1917*, *They Shall Not Grow Old*, *The Help*, *On the Basis of Sex* or *Green Book*.
- Visit the Imperial War Museum in London, or one of many Norman castles or cathedrals.
- Have a look at the curriculum overviews or knowledge organisers on the MCA website.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Betts (Faculty Leader) or your history teacher.

[Hannah.Betts@mca.attrust.org.uk](mailto:Hannah.Betts@mca.attrust.org.uk)



# French and Spanish



## Why learn a language?

Both French and Spanish are some of the top international languages you can learn and they give you access to many countries around the world. Studying a language increases your future employability and gives you the skills to better understand your own language. Studies have shown that learning a language helps increase your capacity to learn other subjects. Having a language qualification is really valued by colleges and universities.

## How is the course structured?

Learning French or Spanish at GCSE is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabuses taken are in Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking.

## What will I learn?

By taking a GCSE in French or Spanish students will:

- understand and respond to different types of written and spoken language
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of short and longer written and spoken passages
- recognise the relationship between past, present and future events
- communicate effectively by writing and speaking for a variety of purposes across a range of specified context

## Knowledge Areas

### **Theme 1 - Identity and Culture:**

1. Me, my family and friends
2. Technology in everyday life
3. Free time activities
4. Customs and festivals



### **Theme 3 - Current and future study and employment :**

1. Home and Town
2. Neighbourhood and region
3. Social issues
4. Global issues
5. Travel and tourism

### **Theme 3 - Current and future study and employment :**

1. my studies
2. Life at school
3. Education post-16
4. Jobs, career choices and ambitions

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the French or Spanish courses from AQA.



## How will I be assessed?

Each language is assessed by 4 separate skills which are all equal in importance:

Reading 25%

Listening 25%

Writing 25%

Speaking 25%

## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who is interested in languages and wants to improve their understanding of the world around them. Lots of people think that learning a language is difficult but if you are committed to your learning, you will see how much progress you will make with time and effort.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is focussed on the learning and memorisation of vocabulary and grammar. Activities to help you learn new words are also included—such as translations—as well as exam style questions to enable you to regularly practice these skills.

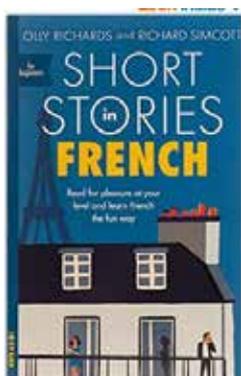
## What could help me to do well?

Attending lessons, catching up on missed lessons and completing homework are the most important things to do. Further to this, using online learning websites such as Merise and Linguascope have shown to significantly improve students' results.

Watching films in French or Spanish with English subtitles have also shown to improve outcomes.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying: The books below are designed for beginners and the parallel text stories have the English translations with it so you can compare and check your understanding.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask your French or Spanish teacher for more information, as well as any students in Y10 and Y11 who are currently studying a language .

# Computer Science

## What is Computer Science?

Computer Science is the study of computation, automation and information. Within Computer Science you will learn to problem solve, create algorithms for simple and complex problems, learn how computers store and process data and learn how computer systems can be used effectively and ethically.

## How is the course structured?

Computer Science is a two year course which meets the requirements of the KS4 Computing National Curriculum. The course follows the OCR specification and covers computer systems, algorithms and problem solving.

## What will I learn?

Students studying Computer Science will gain skills in:

- Problem solving
- Team work
- Detailed planning and testing
- Work annotation
- Perseverance
- Determination

All of the above skills are transferrable to other areas of school, work and life in general. Computer Science helps to build a more rounded individual.



## Knowledge Areas

### **Computer systems:**

- **Systems architecture**
  - Understanding of the central processing unit
- **Memory and storage**
  - Understanding memory and storage devices
  - Understanding how different types of data are stored
- **Computer networks, connections and protocols**
  - Understand the components of networks
  - Understand the rules devices use when communicating to other devices
- **Network security**
  - Understand the threats to networks
  - Understand common threat identification and prevention measures
- **Systems software**
  - Understand the software which is used to run and manage computer systems
- **Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental impacts of digital technology**
  - Understand a range of issues linked to the use and development of technology

### **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:**

- **Algorithms**
  - Understand common algorithms and how they work
  - Be able to create, interpret and complete algorithms
- **Programming techniques**
  - Understand the different techniques used to create solutions to problems
- **Defensive design**
  - Understand how to make code easier to maintain
  - Understand how to thoroughly test programs
- **Boolean logic**
  - Understand the rules followed to process binary data
- **Programming languages and Integrated development environments**
  - Understand the types of programming languages
  - Understand the tools available to make writing and debugging code easier

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the OCR GCSE Computer Science course (J277).



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed using two 80 mark exam papers, each worth 50%. The examinations are taken at the end of year 11 and cover all grades (1-9).

Each exam will last for 1 hour 30 minutes with paper 1 covering the Computer Systems topics and paper 2 covering the Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming topics.

## Who is the course suited to?

Computer Science is suited to students who are interested in finding out more about how the technology they use works. It could lead to jobs in programming, hardware design, games design and many other areas. It is also useful for anyone planning to go into a career linked to Maths or any of the Sciences. Resilience is a key trait a students will frequently encounter errors in their programming.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is an essential part of the course. It is set to be linked to the lessons or to help with revision. It will take the form of preparation work for future lessons (taking notes on new topics) or recap and revision tasks to help embed prior learning. It will be set weekly and taking time to complete it properly will help with students understanding of the topics.

## What could help me to do well?

All lesson content will be put on Brightspace to allow students to access the same content at home and at school. This platform has a range of tools to support revision.

Students will also be offered the chance to purchase CGP revision guides at a reduced rate through the academy.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Keeping up with the latest developments in technology and how it affects people and the environment will be beneficial. BBC New Technology is a good place to start: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology>

Installing a Python editor such as IDLE (<https://www.python.org>) or Thonny (<https://thonny.org>) will allow you to start to do some programming at home. **Please ask us how we can support you if you do not currently have any technology at home suitable for programming.**

You can practice programming using the following links:

- <https://www.w3schools.com/python/>
- <https://www.codecademy.com/learn/learn-python-3> (Only set up a free account)

Try to solve OCRs 40 coding challenges: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/260930-coding-challenges-booklet.pdf>

The best thing you can do to prepare is practice programming. You will have started programming in Python already in KS3. If you need support doing this in your own time, please ask us to help you.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Sexton or Mr Kelly if you any questions about the course.

# iMedia

## What is iMedia?

iMedia is the study of how to use computer programs to solve problems. Whilst studying iMedia you will learn how digital products can be designed and created using different types of software. You will also find out about the restrictions when creating these products.

## How is the course structured?

iMedia is a two year programme which covers the 'creative' and 'uses of technology' aspects of the National Curriculum for Computing. The course follows the OCR Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia and students will study three units set out by the specification.

## What will I learn?

Students studying this qualification will gain skills in a range of areas linked to creative computing. The units cover:

- The media industry
- Factors that influence product design
- Pre-production planning
- Visual identities
- Planning and creating digital products
- Reviewing digital products



## Knowledge Areas

### **Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry**

- *Media industry sectors and products*
- *Job roles in the media industry*
- *Style, content and layout links to purpose*
- *Defining client requirements*
- *Audience demographics*
- *Research methods and sources of data*
- *Media codes used to convey meaning*
- *Work planning and documents to support idea generation*
- *Documents used to design and plan digital products*
- *The legal issues that affect media*
- *Distribution considerations*

### **Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics**

- *Developing a visual identity*
- *Graphic design and conventions*
- *Properties of digital graphics*
- *Techniques to plan digital graphics*
- *Tools and techniques to create digital graphics*
- *Techniques to prepare and create assets*
- *Techniques to save and export graphics*

### **Unit R097: Interactive Digital Media**

- *Types of interactive digital media*
- *Features and conventions*
- *Methods of interaction*
- *Navigation methodology*
- *Resources used to create media*
- *Preproduction techniques*
- *Asset technical compatibility*
- *Production and technical skills*
- *Publishing Interactive media*
- *Testing interactive media*
- *Accessibility and Comparability*

## **What syllabus will I follow?**

OCR Cambridge National in iMedia J804 level 2 (GCSE level) course, which will be graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction.



## **How will I be assessed?**

The course is assessed using a combination of an externally mark examination and internally assessed coursework tasks.

The examination is taken at the end of year 11 and is worth 40% of the final grade.

The coursework tasks will be taken during year 10 and year 11 and combine for the remaining 60% of the final grade.

## **Who is the course suited to?**

The course is suited to students who are interested in a career which may involve making or editing digital products. This could be (but is not limited to) web design, image editing, video editing, photography, game design and many more. The skills taught on this course will also be transferable to a range of other careers that make use of any technology.

## **What homework will I get?**

Homework will be set weekly and will help to prepare students for the exam and internally assessed units. These will take the form of preparation tasks such as researching terms or collecting assets or tasks linked to preparing for theory content and revising the content.

## **What could help me to do well?**

All lesson content will be put on Brightspace to allow students to access the same content at home and at school. This platform has a range of tools to support revision.

Students should develop their attention to detail to ensure that the items they create look professional.

## **What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?**

Looking at digital products (tv adverts, websites, posters, leaflets, DVD/ book covers) in the real world will help students to understand what different types of product look like. Students should pay particular attention to how the style, layout and content is different depending on the target audience and the purpose.

Watching episodes of The Apprentice where digital products and advertising is created will help students understand how style and layout can affect branding.

Students can try to replicate digital products they see in real life. This will help them to develop the skills and the attention to detail required. Most products can be created using software which is free to download or can be accessed through their Office 365 account.

## **Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Ask Mr Sexton or Mr Kelly if you any questions about the course.

# Level 2 Further Maths

## What is Level 2 Further Maths

This course is open to those students who are following the Triple Science route and in top set Maths, aiming for a Grade 7+. If you are in Set 2 Maths or are entered for Foundation, please speak with Mr Hughes.

The qualification helps to bridge the gap between GCSE Maths and A-Level and is highly recommended for those looking to study Maths beyond Year 11.

## How is the course structured?

One lesson a fortnight will be part of your school timetable, as well as one hour session a fortnight after school (on the week where you do not have a lesson during the school day).

## What will I learn?

You will learn to become a better problem-solver within this course, deciding which skill to apply to each question.

You will further develop the skills and knowledge you have learned through GCSE Maths to improve fluency with key content.

## Knowledge Areas

Number  
Algebra  
Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)  
Calculus  
Matrix Transformations  
Geometry

## What syllabus will I follow?

This course is run by AQA. More information can be found here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8365/introduction>

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams in the Summer of 2024, consisting of one non-calculator and one calculator papers.

Each exam consists of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as you progress through the paper. Each paper is 80 marks. You are given 1 hour 45 minutes to complete each paper. The sum of your scores generates one final GCSE grade.

## Who is the course aimed at?

This course is offered to students who have been selected for the Triple Science qualification as a similar skill set is required. In addition, students who are able/willing to commit to an extra after-school session each fortnight.

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Mantle if you have any further questions.

# GCSE AQA Citizenship

## What is Citizenship

In GCSE citizenship you will learn about how the UK is set up as a democracy. You will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics related to law, democracy, voting systems and how to be an active citizen.

The exam board is AQA.

## How is the course structured?

Citizenship has 5 units in total. Unit 1 is Citizenship skills and processes. Unit 2 is Life in Modern Britain. Unit 3 is Rights and Responsibilities. Unit 4 is Politics and Participation and Unit 5 is Active Citizenship. You will sit two examination papers in year 11.

## What will I learn?

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable you to become thoughtful, active citizens.

You will gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and you will develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society.

You will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.



New regulatory requirements mean all exam boards now offer the same content. However, we've incorporated numerous You can find out more about the Citizenship Studies qualifications at [aqa.org.uk/citizenship](http://aqa.org.uk/citizenship)

## What could help me to do well?

Being up to date with current affairs and watching and reading news articles will support you on this course. You will have a keen interest in politics, law and historical and current affairs.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is set frequently. You will be expected to know a range of new terminology. Often the research will involve looking at case studies for a particular topic issue so that your knowledge can be increased with

## How will I be assessed?

You will be awarded a GCSE in Citizenship upon successful completion of two papers at the end of year 11. Grades will be awarded between 1— 9.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mr Goodenough if you any questions about the course.

# Physical Education—GCSE PE

## What is GCSE PE

GCSE PE is a practical and engaging qualification that takes into consideration your practical ability in a range of sports and your theoretical understanding of the body and mind during sport and physical activity in an academic setting.

## How is the course structured?

GCSE PE is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabus uses OCR Physical Education.

## What will I learn?

By taking GCSE PE students are encouraged to:

- develop a critical approach to the workings of the mind and body during sport and physical activity.
- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for Physical Education
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how the mind and body work together to create optimal performance
- acquire skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

## Knowledge Areas

### **Physical factors affects performance:**

- 1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology
  - Skeletal system
  - Muscular system
  - Cardiorespiratory system
- 1.2 Physical training
  - Components of fitness
  - Methods of training
  - Prevention of injury

### **Practical performances**

- Core and advanced skills in three activities
- One from the 'individual' list
- One from the 'team' list
- Once from either list

### **Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology**

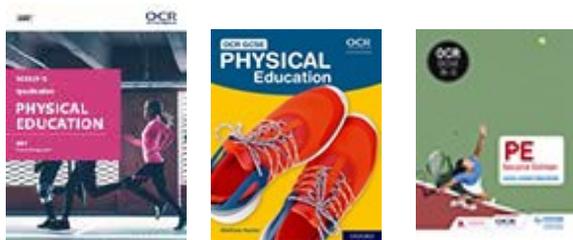
- 2.1 Socio-cultural influences
  - Factors affecting participation in sport
  - Commercialisation of sport
  - Ethics in sport
- 2.2 Sports psychology
  - Goal setting
  - Mental preparation
  - Classification of skills/feedback and guidance.
- 2.3 Health fitness and well-being
  - Diet and nutrition

### **Analysis and evaluation of performance**

- Using acquired knowledge analyse and evaluate their own or a peers performance in one activity.

## What syllabus will I follow?

OCR GCSE Physical Education



## How will I be assessed?

GCSE PE will be assessed in 3 key content areas:

- 1) 2 x 1 hour written paper, 60 marks each—60%
- 2) Assessment in three sporting activities, at least one team and one individual. 30%
- 3) Written task in controlled conditions—10%

## Who is the course suited to?

Students will be selected to study GCSE PE upon application. The GCSE PE course is aimed at students that are both practically talented and academic. Students will develop a good understanding as to how the mind and body work in Sport and some of the influences that affect participation in sport. This course is ideal for students who want to go on to study PE at sixth form and pursue careers in both the sports and medical industry. Being able to learn and remember facts is essential as well as the ability to apply knowledge to new scenarios.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: additional reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding, extending your understanding of a topic through research and revision for the end of unit tests and end of year examinations.

## What could help me to do well?

All lesson content and revision resources will be available through OCR approved resources. OCR accredited revision guides will be offered to students to purchase at a reduced rate through the Academy.

Using SAM Learning and independently accessing Seneca can help support revision

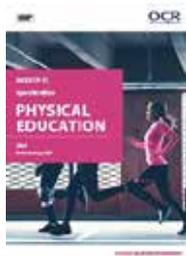
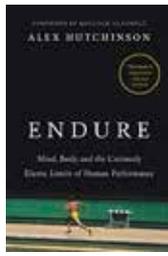
## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

- Look in more detail at the GCSE PE specification

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234822-specification-accredited-gcse-physical-education-j587.pdf>

- Pocket atlas of the Moving Body
- The Body: A Guide for Occupants
- Open Side, Sam Warburton
- Endure: Mind, Body and the Curiously Elastic Limits of Human Performance



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Muttock if you any questions about the course.

# OCR Cambridge Nationals—Sports Science

## What is Sports Science

Sports Science is a practical and engaging course that helps to bring the subject to life and inspire you to achieve more. It will help you to develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that can be used in the exercise and physical activity sector.

## How is the course structured?

Sports Science is a two year course which comprises three units. One unit is an external assessment and the two remaining units are coursework units.

## What will I learn?

By taking Sports Science students are encouraged to:

- Complete research
- Work with others
- Plan training programmes
- Evaluate and make recommendations to improve performance
- Create and deliver presentations
- Develop leadership skills
- Develop healthy living and lifestyle skills

## Knowledge Areas

### **Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical issues.**

- Factors that influence the severity of an injury.
- Warm up and cool down routines
- Causes of sports injuries
- Reducing risk, rehabilitation and treatment of sports injuries

### **Applying the principles of training: Fitness and how it affects skilled performance**

- Components of fitness applied in sport
- Principles of training
- Organising and planning a fitness training programme.
- Evaluation of your own performance in planning and delivering fitness training sessions and programmes.

### **The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this.**

- The Musculo-skeletal system and how the use of technology supports different types of sports and actions.
- The Cardio-respiratory system and how the use of technology supports different types of sports and their intensities.
- Short-term effects of exercise on the Cardio-respiratory and Musculo-skeletal systems.
- Long term effects of exercise on the Cardio-respiratory and Musculo-skeletal systems.

## What syllabus will I follow?

OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sports Science



## How will I be assessed?

Sports Science will be assessed in three key areas:

- 1) 75 minute written exam (70 marks)
- 2) 2x coursework based units.

## Who is the course suited to?

Students who want to develop their knowledge of the sport and activity leisure industry and who can work to deadlines on coursework based assignments.

## What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to classwork and includes: additional reading, note-taking and answering questions to aid understanding and extending your understanding of a topic.

## What could help me to do well?

Using OCR accredited revision guides for the examined element of the course.

Using intervention sessions effectively to keep onto of work and stick to deadlines.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of brilliant fiction and non fiction books you can read to give you a taste of what we will be studying:

- Secrets of a successful programme design.
- The ultimate body plan
- Base of Strength



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Mutton if you any questions about the course.

# Art and Design

## What is Art and Design GCSE?

The creative industries are one of the fastest growing economic sectors in the UK! The skills a student will learn in Art GCSE will be immensely valuable in the workplace. Art and Design is an opportunity for you to develop your creative skills as well as your critical thinking and independent learning. You will explore a range of artists during your time on the course and will develop new and existing practical skills to create unique and personal pieces of artwork. The skills you gain make it a fantastic complement to your other subjects. Art and Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you.

## Which syllabus will I follow?

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Art and Design



## How is the course structured?

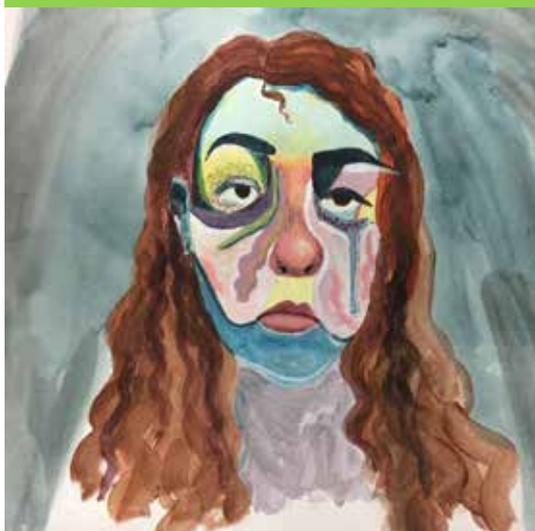
Yr. 10 is made up of two coursework projects, each with a main theme that you are able to explore in your own individual way, practicing skills and learning about new artists. In Yr. 11 you build upon this, and complete the course with an exam unit, which ends in a 10 hour exam.

## Breakdown:

**60%** - Personal Portfolio (Start of Yr. 10 until December of Yr. 11)

**40%** - Externally Set Assignment (Handed out January Yr. 11)

**10 HOUR** - Practical Exam



## What will I learn?

- You will learn a range of enjoyable, creative and exciting approaches to making art such as painting, drawing, printmaking and sculpture.
- You will develop observational skills through sustained studies as well as shorter exercises.
- You will learn to analyse artworks and to present high quality research on a range of artists and designers.
- You should be prepared to make trips to support your studies with first-hand experiences.

## How will I be assessed?

Throughout the GCSE, alongside regular verbal feedback in lessons; you will be formally assessed using the following criteria at points during their projects:

- Developing ideas through investigations, and demonstrating an understanding of sources (AO1)
- Refining their work by exploring ideas, experimenting with materials, techniques and processes (AO2)
- Recording their ideas, observations and insights that are relevant to their work as it progresses (AO3)
- Presenting a personal and meaningful response / outcome (AO4).



## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who is:

- Keen to develop their visual skills
- Creative, enthusiastic and imaginative
- Willing to experiment with new materials
- Up for the challenge of taking risks in their work
- Motivated and able to work independently
- Able to review their progress and make improvements
- Using their thinking skills to come up with imaginative solutions



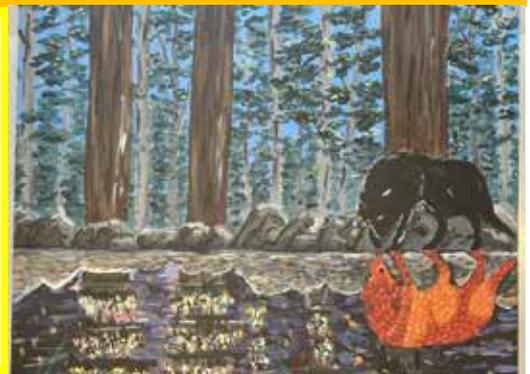
## What can help me do well?

- Being organised
- Storing your work carefully, and bringing it to all lessons
- Planning ahead in your project
- Having your own basic art equipment for working at home
- Choosing Sub theme topics that you are interested in
- Taking on feedback
- Taking lots of photographs– You never know when you might need them!

## What Homework will I get?

Homework forms a significant part of your art course, and you will be set homework following on from your weekly lessons. You will be expected to complete a minimum of 1 hour per week outside of lesson time.

Tasks you are set all form part of you coursework, so every piece of work you complete is building towards your final grade. It is important you make sure you are keeping up to date with coursework to avoid any stress!



## What could I do now if I am interested?

- Practice drawing skills.
- Build a bank of your own photographs.
- Create your own pieces of work.
- Research artists online.
- Visit Art exhibitions.
- Use Google Arts & Culture App to view artwork and galleries.
- Watch Netflix 'The Art of Design' series
- Watch 'Portrait Artist of the Year' & 'Landscape Artist of the Year'.

## Who Should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Moles-Smith (Subject Leader) if you have any questions about the course.

Email: [Natalie.moles-smith@mca.attrust.org.uk](mailto:Natalie.moles-smith@mca.attrust.org.uk)

# Drama

## What is Drama?

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. Drama is a GCSE that will help you in whatever you would like to do in the future. Drama offers transferable skills that universities and employers look for.

## How is the course structured?

GCSE Drama is a 2 year course—across the two years you will develop your skills in multiple areas of performing, creating and responding to theatre.

## What will I learn?

By taking Drama students are encouraged to develop the following skills...

Acting/Performance

Teamwork/Communication

Leadership Skills

Problem solving

Confidence

Evaluation/Analytical Skills

Creativity and thinking outside the box

## Knowledge Areas

### Component 1: Devising Drama

You will create a performance based on stimuli options provided by the exam board.

This unit involves working practically on devising and rehearsing your performance.

You will also work on creating a portfolio exploring the research you have done as well as an evaluation of your finished performance.

You can use video recordings, observations and images in your portfolio—it does not need to be purely written.

### Component 2: Presenting and Performing Texts

You will study a chosen play text. You will then take part in two performances of different extracts from the text.

You must perform one extract as a member of a group; the other may be a monologue (individual).

You will create an Artistic Intention that shows your understanding and interpretation of the text to go alongside your performances.

### Component 3: Performance and Response

You will sit a written exam at the end of the course (1hr 30mins). This exam is split into 2 sections.

Section A: You will study a whole play text. The questions will focus on the process of creating and developing a performance of this text.

Section B: You will be asked to review a live performance that you have seen during your course. It is expected that you will analyse and evaluate the performance.



## What syllabus will I follow?

Students currently follow the OCR GCSE Drama Specification



## How will I be assessed?

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

## Who is the course suited to?

You should take GCSE Drama if you already have an interest in acting and theatre. You should also take Drama if you wish to develop your skills and interests in this area. **Some things to consider before taking this course-** Can you work well with others? Can you attend additional rehearsals and workshops? Will you be committed to the course?

## What homework will I get?

- Practical Rehearsals
- Lesson Log Reflections
- Watching/Evaluating/Analysing Performances
- Practice exam questions
- Learning lines

## What could help me to do well?

BBC GCSE Bitesize offers fantastic resources that have been created to match the specification that we follow.

There are also a range of revisions guides that have been created by OCR for the topics covered in the specification.

CGP also offer general revision guides suitable for all GCSE Drama courses.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

There are loads of things that you can be doing to give you a head start if you are interested in taking GCSE Drama!

- Go and watch some live theatre!
- Make the most of streaming services and find a musical/play to watch from the comfort of your own home.
- Speak to Miss Finbow and she will recommend some specific plays that match your interests.



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Miss Finbow if you any questions about the course.

# Music

## What is Music?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum). GCSE Music fosters this creativity through the study of Performing, Composing and Listening.

## How is the course structured?

Music is a 2 year course which meets the requirements of the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. The GCSE examination syllabus is EDUQAS and is based around Performing, Composing and Listening

## What will I learn?

By taking Music students are encouraged to:

- Build resilience, creativity and reflection
- Develop confidence and presentation skills
- Develop analytical and problem solving skills

## Knowledge Areas

### **Component 1 : Performing (30%)**

You will rehearse and play music on your own and in a group. This could be in any style, on any instrument or voice.



### **Component**

### **2: Composing (30%)**

You will explore how great pieces of music are put together, then when you have learnt some of the techniques, compose your own music. This could involve using computer software, writing for a specific purpose, writing songs etc



### **Component 3: Appraising (40%)**

You will listen to a variety of music and learn to identify the facts about what you hear. We have four areas of study

**Area of Study 1: Forms and Devices**, Western Classical tradition (Set Work; 'Badinerie')

**Area of Study 2: Music for Ensemble**

(Musical Theatre, Blues, Jazz, Folk)

**Area of Study 3: Film Music**

**Area of Study 4: Rock and Pop Music** (Set Work: 'Africa' by Toto)



## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the EDUQAS GCSE Music syllabus.



## How will I be assessed?

Performing : Recorded performances, assessed by teacher and moderated by the exam board

Composing : Recorded and notated compositions, assessed by teacher and moderated by the exam board

Appraising: A 1 hr 15 min listening exam which is externally assessed

## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who likes Music! If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills. If you don't already play an instrument or sing then you can take the opportunity to learn new skills. If you are a creative person who wants to learn to make music then this course will give you the chance. If you love listening to music and can spot all of the details then you will enjoy learning about many different styles and genres.

## What homework will I get?

Regular practice on your instrument or voice is an ongoing homework. You will also have online and listening homework or research homework.

## What could help me to do well?

You don't have to have instrumental or singing lessons however they would help you. We offer Piano, guitar, drums, Flute, Violin, Clarinet and Singing lessons in school

Regular practice at home or at school will also help

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

You could start to rehearse songs / pieces now using You-tube videos

You could also widen your listening by accessing different music platforms

Attending live music events or watching online concerts

Attend extra-curricular groups



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Sayer or Mrs Wright if you any questions about the course.

# Design Technology

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

## How is the course structured and how is it assessed?

### 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

### Coursework

#### 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



## What will I learn?

Our GCSE Design and Technology specification sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification should be delivered through the practical application of this knowledge and understanding. Topics and themes have been grouped to help you teach the specification, but these are not intended as a route through the specification – you can teach the content in any order. The subject content has been split into three sections as follows:

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

Students must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding, in relation to design and technology. At least 15% of the exam will assess maths and at least 10% will assess science.

### How will I be assessed:

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Significant design and make process
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating
- In the spirit of the iterative design process, marks 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.

**What syllabus do we follow?**

AQA GCSE Design and Technology

**Who is the course suited to?**

This course will suit independent self-disciplined, creative students who enjoy problem solving, and have an interest in the world of design. Students are encouraged to experiment with materials and

**What homework will I get:**

In Year 10 it will be mainly tasks based on online platforms to enhance theory work and this will be set every week. Year 11 will be weekly homework tasks aimed at supporting NEA (coursework) based learning and

**What could help me do well?**

Using a range of websites such as:  
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>  
<https://www.technologystudent.com/>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zby2bdm>  
<https://www.stem.org.uk/home-learning/secondary-design-technology>  
<http://www.dtonline.org/>  
<https://design-technology.org/>

**Where will Design and Technology take you?**

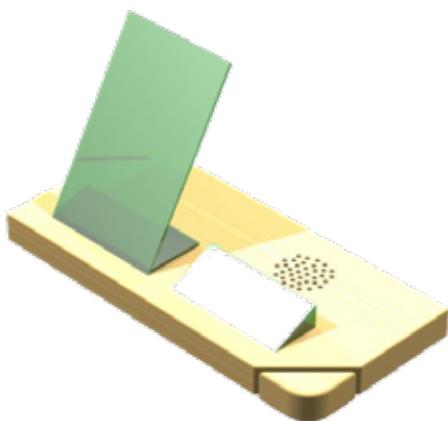
This course is ideal for moving onto A- Level Product Design. You would normally need to get A\*- B grade at GCSE to take this course.

**Jobs:**

Product designer, architect, software engineer, civil engineer or carpenter.

**Who should I contact if I have questions?**

Ask Mr Daniels if you any questions about the course.



# Food Preparation & Nutrition

## What is Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

## How is the course structured?

The GCSE course in Food Preparation and Nutrition is a two year course which spans years 10 and 11. All preparatory work is completed in year 10 and all assessed elements are completed in year 11 (both pieces of coursework and final written exam). In year 10 students receive 2 practical lessons over two weeks and one theory lesson. In year 11 students will have one practical lesson and two computer based lessons to complete coursework.

## What will I learn?

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- be able to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

## Knowledge Areas which are covered through practical and theoretical lessons

Areas of Content

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation



### What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the WJEC Eduqas GCSE course in Food preparation and nutrition

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1 Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition  
Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of the qualification 100 marks

Component 2 Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action  
Non-examination assessment 50% of the qualification 100 marks

Food Investigation Assessment 15% and Food Preparation Assessment 35% of total qualification

### Who is the course suited to?

This course is suitable for any student who wants to learn more about food preparation, cooking and the functions of ingredients which is looking at the science behind cooking processes. The course is appealing to all students who are interested in the sciences or sports as physical exercise and healthy diet are closely linked.



### What homework will I get?

Homework is meaningfully related to the subject area covered at the time and aims to increase the understanding of the topic. Homework can be in the form of research, revision questions or short projects.

### What could help me to do well?

Revision books and study guides approved by WJEC can be offered to students to purchase at a reduced rate through the College. Videos to support practical learning are available on the WJEC website under the heading 'Resources'. WJEC has also released a question bank with correct answers, spanning all topics to help with revision.

### What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

You could

- explore the WJEC website and have a look at the videos and materials posted in the resources section.
- look at the question bank posted by WJEC
- look at some past papers released by WJEC
- 

### Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs S Peacock, Mrs C Daniels or Mr M Daniels if you would like to know more about this exciting course.

# Business Studies

## What is Business Studies?

Business studies is about learning how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Within Business Studies you will learn about different types of businesses from a start up to established, marketing, human resources, production methods and finance exploring the techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance and external influences such as the economic climate.

## How is the course structured?

Business Studies is a two year course. The course follows the OCR 9-1 specification and covers Business activity, Marketing, People, Operations, Finance and influences on business.

## What will I learn?

Students studying Business Studies will gain skills in:

- Decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Develop and apply quantitative skills
- Presentation Skills



## Knowledge Areas

### ***Business Activity***

- The role of business enterprise & entrepreneurship
- Business planning
- Business ownership
- Business aims and objectives
- Stakeholders in business
- Business growth

### ***Marketing***

- The role of marketing
- Market research
- Market segmentation
- The marketing mix

### ***People***

- The role of human resources
- Organisational structures and different ways of working
- Communication in business
- Recruitment and selection
- Motivation and retention
- Training and development
- Employment law

### ***Operations***

- Production Processes
- Quality of goods and services
- The sales process and customer service
- Consumer law
- Business location
- Working with suppliers

### ***Finance***

- The role of the finance function
- Sources of finance
- Revenue, costs, profits and loss
- Break-even
- Cash and cash-flow

### ***Influences on business***

- Ethical and environmental considerations
- The economic climate / Globalisation
- Interdependence of functions

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the OCR Business (J204) course.



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by two written exam papers which are both worth 50% of the marks.

Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people

Paper 2: Operations, finance, influences & interdependent nature of business functions

## Who is the course suited to?

Those considering running their own business or interested in finding out about life after school in the workplace.

## What homework will I get?

You get one homework a week which develops and builds on your classwork knowledge.

There is an expectation to consolidate/revise the work from the lesson to help with memory and recall.

## What could help me to do well?

Consolidating your learning to develop your memory and recall of the subject.

Reading around the subject will help to develop your understanding of real world businesses.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

- Read the business news section
- Read entrepreneurs autobiographies e.g. Alan Sugar, Duncan Bannatyne, Richard Branson
- Visit a business like Cadbury or Lotus
- Take the time to talk to people about their job roles
- Find a business on [www.crowdcube.com](http://www.crowdcube.com) that looks interesting or research a business that you want to learn more about
- Watch Business programs to find out more for example Dragon's Den, The Apprentice, Inside the Factory or The Money Maker
- Follow business people or business news sites on twitter for example :  
[@richardbranson](https://twitter.com/richardbranson) or [@businessinsider](https://twitter.com/businessinsider)

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Ask Mrs Willingham or Mr Sexton if you any questions about the course.

# Health and Social Care

## What is Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care is an examination and course-work structured course which focuses on a wide range of topics involved in caring for adults, older adults and children. All theory is linked to practical applications so that you have a very clear idea of how to use the skills and knowledge you learn. We use case studies about real situations to help students apply their skills and show understanding in a 'real world' environment.

## How is the course structured?

The Health & Social Care Course is a 2-year course. As it is a vocational (job-related) course, it is assessed by both examination and coursework. The exam element is worth 40% of the marks, whereas the coursework element is worth 60% of the marks. It is important that students are prepared to be *proactive and self-reliant and willing to put the effort into their own coursework*; if not, the course is not for them.

## What will I learn?

### **R032: Principles of care in health and social care—Exam**

In this unit, students will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centred values and how to apply them.

Students will also learn about the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for individuals in care settings. Procedures and measures used to protect service users and service providers such as safeguarding, hygiene and security will also be studied.



### **R033: Supporting individuals through life events—Coursework**

In this unit, students will learn about life stages and the factors that affect them. They will understand expected and unexpected life events and the impact they will have on physical, social/emotional and socio-economic aspects in an individual's life.

Students will research the service providers and practitioners that can support individuals, recommend support and justify how this will meet the needs of a specific individual.

### **R034: Creative and therapeutic activities—Coursework**

In this unit, students will learn about a range of creative activities and therapies that are available in health or social care and understand the physical, intellectual, emotional and social benefits of these.

Students will learn how to plan and deliver a creative activity with an individual or group and evaluate their planning and delivery.

## What syllabus will I follow?

Students will follow the OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social care J835 level 2 (GCSE level) course, which will be graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction.



## How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed using a combination of an externally mark examination and internally assessed coursework tasks.

The examination is taken at the end of year 11 and is worth 40% of the final grade.

The coursework tasks will be taken during year 10 and year 11 and combine for the remaining 60% of the final grade.

## Who is the course suited to?

This course results in an equivalent to a single GCSE. It is relevant to everyone, but particularly to those considering a future in working in the health sector (e.g. care, nursing, paramedic) or the social care sector (e.g. care, rehabilitation, early years, counselling, support worker, social work).

## What homework will I get?

All homework is meaningfully related to work undertaken in class, so is always relevant.

It can include learning key content for the exam element, as well as practising exam-style questions and producing revision materials. For the course work element, further research to support students' writing in class is essential. In addition, using friends and relatives for case studies will be necessary in order for students to succeed.

## What could help me to do well?

All lesson content and revision resources will be available through Teams/ Brightspace so that resources can be accessed at home and at school.

Revision guides and materials will be available to access / purchase at a reduced rate.

Your teacher will support and encourage you to achieve your full potential.

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Students could start preparing in a number of ways:

Reading:

- I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
- The Language of Kindness by Christine Watson

Watch TV programmes e.g. Call the Midwife; watch documentaries e.g. Extreme Love: Dementia by Louis Theroux, see blogs etc. This can be about any health care setting (hospitals in the emergency department, paramedics, midwives, GPs) or social care setting (psychiatrist, support worker with young adults with learning disabilities)

Talk to family members/friends who have jobs in health care (hospital, dentistry, chiropody, opticians, Chemists/ pharmacies like Lloyds or Boots) find out about what they do, how they communicate etc.

Talk to family members/friends who work in social care (early years/nursery, carer for adults in someone's own home or in a residential care home, social work, art therapy, counselling e.g. drug or alcohol abuse).

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Contact Mr Sexton (Lead of Business, Computing & HSC faculty) or Mrs Wilmshurst (Assistant Lead of Business, Computing & HSC faculty) if you have any questions about the course.



## What syllabus will I follow?

ASDAN - The Personal Development Programme



## How will I be assessed?

Work will be assessed in class and challenges will be signed off as you complete them. The more challenges you can achieve, the more credits you will earn to work towards a Gold Certificate. There is no exam attached to this course.

## Who is the course suited to?

Youth Award will be by invite only from Miss Woods .



## What homework will I get?

There is no set homework attached to the Youth Award course

## What could help me to do well?

- Good organisational skills
- Enthusiasm
- Willingness to learn

## What could I read or do now, if I'm interested?

Assesses your current skills:

- Ability to learn
- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- IT skills
- Literacy
- Numeracy



## Who should I contact if I have questions?

Miss Woods and Mrs Williams

# GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

## What is Psychology?

Psychology is a very **broad** subject that looks at human mind and behaviour. In one lesson, you might look at why we forget certain memories. In another lesson, you could be looking at why people suffer from mental illnesses such as depression.

## How is the course structured?

There are 2 exams. Paper 1 is focused on Cognition and Behaviour and Paper 2 is on Social Context and Behaviour.

### **Paper 1**

Memory  
Perception  
Development  
Research Methods

### **Paper 2**

Social Influence  
Language, thought and communication  
Brain and neuropsychology  
Psychological problems

## How is the course

### assessed?

Paper 1 50% 100 marks

Paper 2 50% 100 marks

Both exams are sat at the end of Year 11 and both are 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

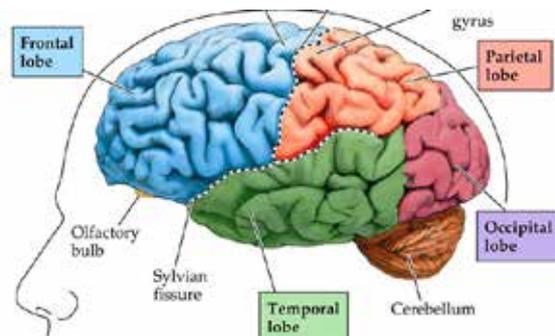
## What syllabus will I follow?

## AQA GCSE Psychology

## Who is the course suited to?

Anyone who is:

- Interested in the world they live in
- Enthusiastic, thoughtful and inquisitive
- Willing to work hard
- Human behaviour, science and maths
- Motivated and able to work independently
- Able to review their progress and make improvements
- This course is only open to invited students
- Using their thinking skills to come up with imaginative solutions

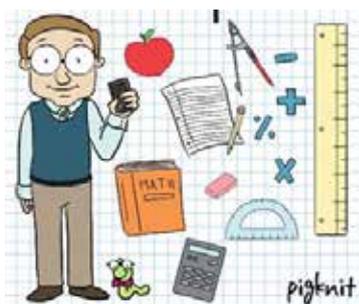


## What can help me do well?

- Being organised
- Listening to feedback
- Keeping up to date with current affairs and having a good level of general knowledge

## What Homework will I get?

You will get homework every fortnight based on the topics you are study. As you progress through the course it will also include prior learning to help you remember all you have learned and make links between ideas and concepts. Homework will be a combination of research, short answer questions and some essay writing.

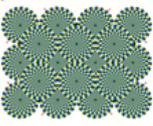
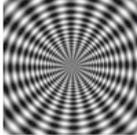


WRITING AND  
NUMERACY  
SKILLS ARE  
IMPORTANT  
IN  
PSYCHOLOGY!



## What will I learn?

# YEAR 10 PSYCHOLOGY

<p><b>MEMORY</b></p> <p>How are memories stored in our mind?</p> <p>How/why do we forget things?</p> <p>What types of memories are there?</p>  	<p><b>PERCEPTION</b></p> <p>What factors affect our perception?</p> <p>How can we explain visual illusions?</p> <p>What are the theories of perception?</p>  
<p><b>DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>How do our brains develop?</p> <p>What impact does learning have development?</p> <p>How do we learn?</p>  	<p><b>RESEARCH METHODS</b></p> <p>How do Psychologists conduct their research?</p> <p>What is the difference between a questionnaire and an interview?</p> <p>How do Psychologists recruit people to take part in research?</p>

# YEAR 11 PSYCHOLOGY

<p><b>SOCIAL INFLUENCE</b></p> <p>What makes us conform or obey?</p> <p>How can we explain crowd behaviour?</p> <p>Why do people step in to help others in need?</p>  	<p><b>LANGUAGE, THOUGHT AND COMMUNICATION</b></p> <p>How do humans and animals communicate?</p> <p>What is non-verbal communication?</p> <p>How does language develop?</p>  
<p><b>BRAIN AND NEUROPSYCHOLOGY</b></p> <p>What is the structure of the nervous system?</p> <p>How is the brain structured? What are the different areas called?</p> <p>How can we scan brains?</p>  	<p><b>PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS</b></p> <p>What is mental health?</p> <p>What is an addiction? How can we treat an addiction?</p> <p>How can we explain depression? How can we treat depression?</p>  

## What could I do now if I am interested?

- Keep up to date with contemporary affairs, for example the news, documentaries about real life events
- Pay particular attention to topics covered in SKL&RE lessons
- Work hard in science and maths

## Who should I contact if I have questions?

**MISS LAVENDER & MISS SUTTERBY**



**Mildenhall College**  
A C A D E M Y

**Key Stage 4 Courses / 2022-2024**

