

# KS4 CURRICULUM OPTIONS

A group of diverse students in blue school uniforms are celebrating on a stone ledge next to a fountain. They are all smiling and have their arms raised, with several of them throwing their grey graduation caps into the air. The background features a large, ornate brick building with multiple chimneys under a bright blue sky with scattered clouds. The overall mood is one of joy and achievement.

2026-2027

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## KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS INFORMATION

Students all study the core subjects of English Language, Mathematics, and Science but can choose from a wide variety of option subjects which can be a combination

of GCSE or BTEC qualifications. Students also have access to the Performance Sport Programme (PSP) and Academy of Dramatic Arts (ADA), which allow students to specialise in sport or the arts alongside a full academic programme options.

### **Core Subjects:**

In English, students will work towards either the IGCSE in First Language or Second Language English over two years.

Students who are working at a high grade in English Language may also be entered for IGCSE English Literature at the end of Year 11.

Mathematics GCSE is offered as a two year course although more capable mathematicians may be able to take this qualification at the end of year 10, followed by GCSE Further Mathematics in year 11.

The majority of students will follow a GCSE Double Award Science course over the two years, though students who have the ability to gain at least grade 7s may instead study the separate sciences of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

### **Option subjects:**

Students can select up to 4 GCSE or BTEC options from a wide range of courses available. In the following pages, these are grouped under the headings of Digital

and Commerce, People and Places, and Creative and Physical courses.

Although most students will complete their optional GCSE or BTEC courses over two years, we also offer a small number of GCSE courses to be studied over one-year. Students may wish to consider these if they feel they would rise to the challenge of taking one or two GCSEs at the end of Year 10, aiming to achieve at least grade 7s. Where they are successful, they then choose one or two new GCSE courses in Year 11.

Success on the one-year pathway requires sustained effort, independence and maturity and is designed for those students who have ended Year 9 with high grades and demonstrated strong potential for their GCSE studies.

### **Other courses:**

All students in Key Stage 4 have Physical Education (PE) lessons. Here, students can take part in a range of sports and are able to select those that are of most interest to them. Choices include badminton, table tennis, football, basketball, hockey and swimming amongst others. Some students may elect to work in our gym towards their own fitness goals.

All students also have one lesson of Personal Development each week. Sessions cover personal, social, health and careers education and are created to help students grow in confidence, develop the values of respect, responsibility and integrity, and ensure they become well-rounded adults.

International students can access EAL support following the Cambridge B2 First English qualification and, for those students who require additional support to achieve in the core curriculum, this is available on an individual

basis. These are delivered on a small group basis and provide students with a good opportunity to gain the grades required for sixth form study and beyond.

The flexibility of the curriculum pathways, the specialist sport and arts programmes, the range of traditional and vocational qualifications, plus the availability of support sessions and academic learning coaches mean we are able to provide a tailor-made programme to meet each individual's needs to maximise their grades.

Outside of lessons, students are encouraged to choose super-curricular and enrichment courses which are designed to allow them to further develop their knowledge and skills in a chosen area of interest which may link to a future career goal.



## **GUIDANCE TO PARENTS/ GUARDIANS WHEN HELPING TO MAKE OPTION DECISIONS**

The subject choices made at the end of Key Stage 3 form the foundation for future learning. All pupils are now required to study towards A Levels, vocational qualifications or to take an apprenticeship post-16, and many then proceed to higher education.

A broad and balanced curriculum is necessary if it is to support future choices - we recommend therefore that students select a range of subjects for 14-16 study. Specialisation will come at a later stage of their education. With the exception of English, Mathematics, Science and Languages, most career paths do not require your child to have studied a particular subject in Key Stage 4. Most employers are more interested in the grades achieved and enthusiasm for learning, than the fact that they did, or did not, study any one subject at 14-16.

For a very small number of jobs, particular sixth form subjects are needed which require success at GCSE, so it is worth checking requirements. However, in most cases the best advice is to study as broad a range of subjects as possible - subjects that students enjoy.

The Queen Ethelburga's options policy is designed to encourage this, by ensuring that every pupil is given a wide range of subjects from which to choose. The purpose of the Options Booklet is to give information about each subject that students can study. Please note that we set maximum numbers for some practical subjects.

### **Some things for students to think about:**

*What do I enjoy studying? What are my strengths?*

*Am I choosing the best way of working? (For example, some students do better with regular assessments, others perform well in examinations).*

*If I choose this subject now, will it keep more options open for future study/training/work?*

### **Some things to consider with your son/ daughter:**

Some pupils say that they like a subject when they are really motivated by a belief that it won't involve much work. Remember, however, your son/daughter will have to work hard in all subjects to attain a good qualification.

Some choose a subject to stay in the same class as friends but because timetabling everyone's needs is complex, your son/daughter might well be split from their friends for a particular subject.

Another easy mistake for students to make is to think they like the subject because they like the teacher. Again, timetabling (and the possibility of staff changes) can place them with a different teacher. Your son/daughter should be confident that they will enjoy the subject no matter who teaches it.

The options process is designed to fully inform students so that they can confidently begin the path to a successful future. Please ask if you require further explanation or help with any stage of the process.

“

“The Science course is current and involves several practical elements. Questions help me to think critically and I have learned how to apply information in different contexts.”

“I think the English as an Additional Language course suits me better as I develop my English skills.”

## *Core Subjects*

“GCSE maths teaches you fundamental basics that’ll help you later on in life”

”

# FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

**IGCSE - CAMBRIDGE  
INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS 0990**

## **Topics covered**

Reading: a range of modern texts, mainly non-fiction, testing skills such as: finding information, analysing writer's choices, summary and re-writing in a different form.

Writing: descriptive, narrative and responding to a text.

## **Assessment**

Paper 1 Reading: 2 hrs, 50% and

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition: 2 hrs, 50% or  
Component 3: Coursework 50%

## **Why should I study this subject?**

English Language is a compulsory and essential subject for all students in Key Stage 4. A good grade in English demonstrates your command of the English language and will open doors for further study in many subjects, not just English. Indeed, a good pass in English will be essential for those wishing to go to University in future, and very valuable when applying for future careers.

The IGCSE English course will help students to develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing but will also teach the correct use of vocabulary, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Learners will develop a personal style in their writing and an awareness of the audience being addressed. From studying this course, students will also build more general analysis and communication



skills such as inference and the ability to order facts and present opinions effectively.

*'I really enjoyed doing the coursework as it allowed me the chance to improve my work and follow my own interests'.*

## **Where this course can lead**

English Language will give you the skills not only for further study in English, but also for many other subjects that require a good command of English and a wide vocabulary.

# LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

**CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS 0992**

## Topics covered

Paper 1: Poetry and Prose

Paper 3: Drama or

Paper 4: Unseen

## Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins, 50%

Paper 3: 45 mins, 25%

Paper 4: 1 hr 15 mins, 25% or

Component 5: Coursework 25%

## Why should I study this subject?

English Literature is an optional subject offered to those students within their English lessons who are working at a strong level in English and have the passion for literature. The course will help students to read, interpret and evaluate texts through the study of literature in English. Students will develop an understanding of literal meaning, relevant contexts and of the deeper themes or attitudes that may be expressed within written texts. Through their studies, they learn to recognise and appreciate the ways in which writers use English to achieve a range of effects, and will be able to present an informed, personal response to the material they have studied.

The IGCSE Literature syllabus also encourages the exploration of wider and universal issues, promoting learners' better understanding of themselves and of the world around them.



*'I enjoyed the set texts but found the coursework allowed me to explore other texts that I was really engaged with.'*

## Where this course can lead

English Literature will obviously lead into A Level in this subject, but also other subjects requiring analytical skills.

# ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

**CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL  
EXAMINATIONS 0772**

## **Topics covered**

### **Additional Language**

#### **Assessment**

Paper 1: Listening 40 mins, 25%

Paper 2: Reading 1 hr, 25%

Paper 3: Speaking 10 mins, 25%

Paper 4: Writing: 1 hr, 25%

### **Second Language**

#### **Assessment**

Paper 1: Reading and Writing 2 hrs, 70%

Paper 2: Listening 50 mins, 30%

Paper 3: Speaking Separately Endorsed 15 mins

### **Why should I study this subject?**

This course is offered an alternative to IGCSE English for students with English as an additional language who would find the qualification too challenging. The course is run during English lessons and will help to develop learners' ability to communicate in English clearly in a range of familiar situations. It will help to build knowledge of vocabulary and grammar in the context of five topic areas including the world of work, personal and social lives and the world. The course will also focus on building transferable skills in confidence, drawing inferences and creativity.



*"I think the English as an Additional Language course suits me better as I develop my English skills."*

## **Where this course can lead**

From studying and successfully completing this course, you will build your English skills and proficiency to be able to more easily access A Level and BTEC content in the Sixth Form.

# MATHEMATICS

## GCSE - AQA 8300

### Topics covered

Number

Ratio, proportion and rates of change

Algebra

Geometry and measures

Probability

Statistics

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1hr 30mins, Non-Calculator

Paper 2: 1hr 30mins, Calculator

Paper 3: 1hr 30mins, Calculator

Equally weighted

### Why should I study this subject?

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. The qualification is designed to support and enable students to engage with, explore, enjoy and succeed in maths.

Not only will you learn how to solve complex mathematical equations, but the skills you develop whilst working on mathematical functions will develop your problem-solving abilities in other ways, including: pattern spotting, visualising, working systematically, using logical reasoning. Whether or not you choose to continue your study of mathematics, these talents will be of value in any number of subjects and careers.

### Extension/Support Opportunities

Students in the top sets are also considered for entry in a Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (AQA 8360)

and/or FSMQ Additional Mathematics (OCR 6993).

These qualifications offer the opportunity to stretch and challenge students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, as well as by building on the GCSE curriculum in preparation for AS Level Mathematics. The content covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. They also give an introduction to calculus and matrices and develops further skills in trigonometry, functions and graphs. Within these courses, greater emphasis is placed on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.

*“GCSE maths teaches you fundamental basics that’ll help you later on in life.”*

### Where this course can lead

A strong mathematical background is one of the most desirable skill sets out there, and there are jobs in every imaginable industry for people want to use maths at work. Here’s even more good news: since maths is very often used to make critical business decisions, there is really no limit to where a career in mathematics can take you. A few example careers are: Statistician, Accountant, Economist, Logistician, Computer Scientist, Actuary, Cost Estimator, Mechanical Engineer, Surveyor, Physicist

# DOUBLE AWARD IGCSE SCIENCE

## IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4DSO

### Topics covered

Year 1

Biology

1. The nature and variety of living organisms
2. Structures and functions in living organisms

Chemistry

1. Principles of chemistry
2. Inorganic chemistry

Physics

1. Forces and motion
2. Electricity
3. Waves
4. Energy resources and energy transfers
5. Solids, liquids and gases

Year 2

Biology

3. Reproduction and inheritance
4. Ecology and the environment
- 5 Use of biological resources.

Chemistry

3. Physical chemistry
4. Organic chemistry.

Physics

6. Magnetism and electromagnetism
7. Radioactivity and particles
8. Astrophysics.

### Assessment

Paper 1 Biology: 2 hrs, 110 marks, 33.3% of total mark

Paper 1 Chemistry: 2 hrs, 110 marks, 33.3% of total mark

Paper 1 Physics: 2 hrs, 110 marks, 33.3% of total mark

Note that single award also has 3 examinations but each is only 1 hr 10 mins long

### Why should I study this subject?

IGCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. In this course, you will delve into the main scientific teachings of biology, chemistry, and physics, opening your eyes to the wonderful scientific patterns and frameworks that exist all around us. This course includes essential practical skills, it improves analytical and logic skills and addresses the need to use mathematical skills to interpret and analyse data to draw valid conclusions.

*“This course provided me with all the skills required to continue to study A2 science. The course is current and involves several practical elements. Questions help me to think critically and I have learned how to apply information in different contexts.”*



### **Where this course can lead**

*An IGCSE Science qualification demonstrates that you have the ability to analyse problems and devise practical methods to solve them. It can, therefore, help you to proceed in almost any direction, whether into an engineering trade, business, the arts, social sciences, computer programming, or a physical science. IGCSE Science is essential preparation for any A Level Science study.*

# BIOLOGY

## IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4BI1

### Topics covered

Year 1

1. The nature and variety of living organisms
2. Structures and functions in living organisms

Year 2

3. Reproduction and inheritance
4. Ecology and the environment
5. Use of biological resources

### Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hrs, 110 marks, 61.1% of total mark

Paper 2: 1 hr 15 mins, 70 marks  
38.9% of total IGCSE

### Why should I study this subject?

Biology is an essential foundation for studying science at university and for careers in medicine, health care and ecology. Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. This course includes essential practical skills, it improves analytical and logic skills and addresses the need to use mathematical skills to interpret and analyse data to draw valid conclusions.

*“GCSE Biology is a great subject that dives into a range of topics about all things science, it was one of my favourite subjects during GCSE and is very interactive with lots of interesting practical”. GCSE Biology helped me lock in my interest into medicine.”*



### Where this course can lead

Biology IGCSE prepares pupils for progression to AS and A2 level. The course is accepted in all UK and international schools and is supported by UCAS when studied at A Level. Many pupils who study this subject progress into medicine related and STEM careers.

# CHEMISTRY

## IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4CH1

### Topics covered

Year 1 (Paper 1)

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry

Topic 2 – States of matter and mixtures

Topic 3 – Chemical changes

Topic 4 – Extracting metals and equilibria

Topic 5 – Separate chemistry 1

Year 2 (Paper 2)

Topic 1 – Key concepts in chemistry (revision)

Topic 6 – Groups in the periodic table

Topic 7 – Rates of reaction and energy changes

Topic 8 – Fuels and Earth science

Topic 9 – Separate chemistry 2

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 45 mins, 100 marks, 50%

Paper 2: 1 hr 45 mins, 100 marks, 50%

### Why should I study this subject?

IGCSE study in the sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All students should learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas that relate to the sciences and that are both inter-linked and of universal application.

*“Chemistry has taught me to use critical thinking skills to collect data from experiments, analyse information and apply my knowledge to come to a conclusion.*

*“Evaluation is a key skill I have learnt from chemistry. Taking a practical I may be unfamiliar with and applying my own knowledge from lessons to be critical of the results and suggest improvements.”*

*“Chemistry has improved my skills with team work. It has allowed me to collaborate with my peers on practical work, use the guidance from my teachers and collectively come to an accurate conclusion.”*

*“Studying chemistry has enlightened me to its importance and its presence in all areas of life: from fuelling aeroplanes to establishing the causes of climate change. From this, chemistry can be used to find solutions which is an exciting matter to be a part of.”*



### Where this course can lead

IGCSE Chemistry teaches students analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking; skills valued highly by universities and employers.

# PHYSICS

## IGCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 4PH1

### Topics covered

- 1 Forces and motion
- 2 Electricity
- 3 Waves
- 4 Energy resources and energy transfers

### Year 2

- 5 Solids, liquids and gases
- 6 Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 7 Radioactivity and particles
- 8 Astrophysics

### Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hrs, 110 marks, 61.1% of total GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hr 15 mins, 70 marks, 38.9% of total IGCSE

### Why should I study this subject?

Physics is a diverse and engaging subject, and it provides pupils with several skills. For example, pupils can develop problem-solving and analytical skills which can be utilised in any profession. The course covers key topics and ensures pupils are equipped with practical skills for progression to study at AS/A2 level.

*“This course helped me to develop my knowledge of physics. I particularly enjoyed learning about Astrophysics. I had the opportunity to take part in several practical activities to help me understand challenging concepts.”*



### Where this course can lead

Physics can lead to several different STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, for example, engineering, computer science, mechanics, medicine, astro physics and many more.

“ “ *Options Subjects*  
*Mathematics*

“It’s like the arts and crafts  
of maths plus complements  
subjects such as geography,  
business, economics”

” ”

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

## LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE

### Topics covered

Number

Algebra

Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)

Calculus

Matrix Transformations

Geometry

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1hr 45mins, 50%, Calculator

Paper 2: 1hr 45mins, 50%, Calculator

### Why should I study this subject?

This qualification challenges high achieving students by assessing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth, thus preparing them fully to maximise their potential in further studies at Level 3. It offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to the GCSE Mathematics, rather than as a replacement. The content assumes prior knowledge of the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study and covers the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.



### Where this course can lead

AQA's Level 2 Certificate in Further Maths goes beyond the GCSE curriculum to challenge and engage the highest attaining students. It deepens students' understanding of algebra, geometry and number and extends their knowledge to new topics including calculus and matrices. It boosts students' GCSE attainment, prepares them for A-level, and gives them the opportunity to reach their full potential. new topics including calculus and matrices.

# STATISTICS

## GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1ST0

### Topics covered

Collection of Data  
Processing and Representing Data  
Summarising Data  
Scatter Diagrams and Correlation  
Time Series  
Probability  
Index Numbers  
Probability Distributions

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins, 50%  
Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins, 50%  
Calculators allowed for both papers

### Why should I study this subject?

Statistics is a subject which you can relate to easily with an abundance of real-life examples in an ever-changing world. With the opportunity to develop transferable skills, through an appreciation of the statistical enquiry cycle, you gain knowledge in analysing data and appreciating a variety of ways of representing data to suit the end user.

The course will complement your knowledge of GCSE Mathematics and encourage an inquisitive mind to develop curiosity.

*“It’s like the arts and crafts of maths plus complements subjects such as geography, business, economics.”*



### Where this course can lead

Statistics is a valuable GCSE qualification; it can be a secure base to explore Statistics at A Level. The opportunities are limitless beyond A Level, with many universities encouraging Statistics A Level across a variety of courses with career opportunities in, for example, accountancy, marketing, product data analysis to name a few, solving problems for example:-

The Coca-Cola Co. and product consistency. “Many people think the world’s best kept secret may just be the formula for Coke, but it’s not, it’s the formula for orange juice.” Coke engineers identified more than 600 (!) possible flavours of oranges and then built a proprietary algorithm to ensure consistent taste and texture from one batch of orange juice to the next. The orange juice data profiles shield its Minute Maid and Simply Orange brands from unknowns such as orange crop availability or taste variance from one orange to the next. This encouraged businesses to identify places where consistency in the face of external elements is necessary, such as the supply chain.

““

# *Digital and Commerce*

“Economics helps you learn about what’s happening in the world and see these events in a different light”

“I chose Computer Science because I think it can be really useful in the future. As the world is advancing programming skills become more and more relevant and I think GCSE Computer Science can help me develop these skills. I really enjoy component 2 in computer science the practical programming aspect. I think its really cool how we are able to create, test and use our own programs for things in the real world.”

“I really enjoy the work and our teachers are very supportive and help us understand exactly what we need to do in our work.”

””

# BUSINESS

## GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1BSO

### Topics covered

Theme 1:

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Spotting a Business Opportunity
- Putting a Business Idea into Practice
- Making the Business Effective
- Understanding External Influence

Theme 2:

- Growing the Business
- Making Marketing Decisions
- Making Operational Business
- Making Financial Decisions
- Making Human Resource Decision

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins, 90 marks. 50%

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins, 90 marks. 50%

### Why should I study this subject?

If you see yourself on Dragon's Den and believe you have the 'next best thing' then this course will teach you step by step all you need to know about business structure, the law and decision making. Business GCSE helps students to develop an understanding of organisations, how they market their products and generate profit. This involves looking at how businesses are managed, how decisions are made and how businesses react to different circumstances. This course provides a great grounding for the A Level Business course and any related courses at university. It also supports a wide range of other courses, from art to science, which

increasingly have elements of business management. In the modern world every career choice requires some understanding of business and the global business environment.

*"Business is an exciting subject, which has taught me about the economy and how money is made and lost in business, whilst also teaching me about the moral and ethical side of business. Looking forward to seeing what comes next!"*

### Where this course can lead

This GCSE is well respected and will give you access onto any KS5 programme. It gives students an essential understanding of how the world of commerce functions and can inspire young entrepreneurs or politicians to make future plans.

A GCSE in Business Studies can open many doors to the business and finance world. The course offers a huge insight into all areas of business and provides a strong but not essential platform to A Level Business and Economics. If you decide to progress to university then it can help you enter any business and international business-related degree at some of the best business schools in the world. It is an exciting course that will provide students with so much more than just a GCSE but knowledge on how the world works and help set you apart from other students when it comes to university applications and applying for jobs.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

**GCSE - OCR J277**

## Topics covered

Understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to interpret, amend and create algorithms.

Understanding of binary representation, data presentation, data storage and compression, encryption and databases; ability to use SQL to insert, amend and extract data stored in a structured database.

Understanding of components of computer systems; ability to construct truth tables, produce logic statements and read and interpret fragments of assembly code.

Understanding of computer networks, the internet and the World Wide Web; ability to use HTML and CSS to construct web pages.

Awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

**Practical Programming Task** This is a practical 'making task' that enables students to demonstrate their computational techniques using a programming language (Python). Students will:

- deconstruct problems into sub-problems
- create original algorithms or work with algorithms produced by others
- design, write, test, and evaluate programs

## Assessment

Principles of Computer Science -1 hour 30 minute written examination (50%) at the end of Year 11.

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming - 1 hour 30 mins written examination (50%) at the end of Year 11.

Practical Programming Task -A controlled assessment that will take place over 15 hours in Year 11 and will consist of three tasks.

## Why should I study this subject?

Students have grown up in a world where technology is evolving rapidly, creating new subject areas to explore and changing the way people work in every area, from medicine and fashion to engineering. So whatever a student's career plans, it is vital for them to develop their grasp of these ideas and concepts that will shape their world. The course explores the principles of digital technology and a way of working that is called 'computational thinking', with coding as a core of the course. It will make students think, stretch them and test their powers of logic. This course will be best suited for students working at a high level in Mathematics at Key Stage 3 but speak to the Computing/ICT department for more information.

*"I chose computer science because I think it can be really useful in the future. As the world is advancing programming skills become more and more relevant and I think GCSE Computer Science can help me develop these skills. I really enjoy component 2 in computer science the practical programming aspect. I think its really cool how we are able to create, test and use our own programs for things in the real world."*



### **Where this course can lead**

Computational thinking is a useful component of many A Level courses and students will find the skills developed during computing lessons will be invaluable. Some students will develop their programming skills as a hobby such as writing computer games which can translate into a career later on. Other students may want to take the course further and go onto the A Level Computing course to extend their knowledge of computing and their programming skills, again possibly leading to a career in computing.

# ECONOMICS

## GCSE - OCR J205

### Topics covered

Unit 1: Introduction to Economics

This unit covers issues that directly affect consumers and workers

The main economic groups and factors of production

The basic economic problem

How markets work, including demand, supply and price determination

How firms operate in markets, including competition,

Production, wages and Labour markets

Financial markets

Unit 2: National and International Economics

This unit looks at economics in terms of the national and international economy

Key economic objectives – economic growth, inflation and unemployment

Government revenue and expenditure, including taxation

Government policies – fiscal, monetary and supply side

Importance of international trade & globalisation

International competitiveness including exchange rates

### Assessment

Unit 1: 1 hr 30 mins - 80 marks, 50% of the GCSE

Unit 2: 1 hr 30 mins - 80 marks, 50% of the GCSE

### Why should I study this subject?

Economics is a subject that is about people – what they spend, how they live and what affects their lives. It covers the local area, country and the world. It is about the things that affect people now and in the future.

GCSE Economics will enable students to understand

how markets operate and the role of consumers, producers or workers within markets. They will learn how the economy works nationally and globally and how governments reach their different objectives.

A wide range of skills will be developed on the course such as being able to apply economic knowledge and skills to investigate current and historical economic situation and issues in a variety of different areas.

*“Economics enables you to understand the world around you.”*

*“Economics is really dynamic, it helps prepare you for the real world.”*

*“Economics helps you learn about what’s happening in the world and see these events in a different light.”*

*“Economics helps develop the way you think about the world.”*

### Where this course can lead

Economics is a highly respected and valued course by universities and employers, it is considered to be one of the ‘facilitating’ courses at A Level favoured by STEM courses and the Russell Group of universities.

Careers in Economics are amongst the most rewarding with Economics graduates regularly being in the top 5 for post-graduate earnings by subject.

Careers in Economics include: Economist, Banking, Insurer, Business and Financial Consultancy, Pricing Analyst, Social Relations, Public Sector, Accountancy, Public Relations, Journalist, Financial Consultant, Stockbroker, Taxation, Actuarial and Data Analyst.

# E-SPORTS

## BTEC LEVEL 2 AWARD - PEARSON

### Topics covered

(year 1 and 2)

Unit 1: E-sports Games, Teams and Tournaments

Unit 2: Establishing an Esports Organisation

### Assessment

100% coursework

Unit 1: Esports Games, Teams and Tournaments

Unit 2: Establishing an Esports Organisation

### Why should I study this subject?

Esports involves organised competitive video gaming, with players competing head-to-head or in teams, and is one of fastest-growing global industries with more than 30 million viewers worldwide and thousands of players. This qualification will give students a greater understanding of this exciting industry as they learn about genres, teams and tournaments. It is a practical course which will also improve students' research, analysis and communication, and build their business skills of customer engagement, branding and promotion.

*"I chose Esports because I saw the school had invested in good equipment to help us achieve highly. I like learning about parts of Esports that I didn't know much about beforehand, and learning more about the parts that interest me. I want to move into the Esports industry and this course is really helping getting me prepared to do that."*

*"I like the different parts of the course and being involved in really modern things - we learn about the different*

*genres of games but also the way that teams are run, how different organisations are run, and learning about how much there is to the industry is really interesting."*



### Where this course can lead

Learners taking this qualification may also want to progress to further study such as Pearson BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Esports, Information Technology, Creative Media, Sport, Enterprise and Entrepreneurship or Business. The qualification is endorsed by The British Esports Association as being suitable for learners wanting to work in this industry. This means that it will be recognised by employers in a range of roles. Successful completion of this qualification could also lead to being fully prepared to progress to an apprenticeship in the related sector, for example, in events, digital marketing or creative media.

““

# *People and Places*

“I like it because it is more engaging than other subjects as there is always something to think about”

‘Psychology is the most useful subject I take due to its applications in real life. The subject is filled with riveting experiments and I find myself thinking about research questions and variations of these studies in my free time.

As an international student, this subject helps me understand western cultural values as well as my own culture’

“Learning French is considered hard by many people, by knowing it, you can set yourself apart from many monolingual people whether it’s for work or university. I like learning the grammar, I personally find it fun to conjugate verbs.”

””

# CAMBRIDGE B2 FIRST ESOL - CAMBRIDGE

## Topics covered

Health, Media, Relationships, Global Issues, Entertainment, Identity, The Arts, Science and Technology

## Assessment

Paper 1: Reading 1 hr

Paper 2: Writing 1 hr

Paper 3: Use of English 45 mins

Paper 4: Speaking 40 mins

Paper 5: Speaking 14 mins

## Why should I study this subject?

Cambridge B2 First is a very thorough and enjoyable course which tests all language skills -reading, listening, writing, grammar and speaking. The course is designed for students with English as a second language who are aiming to improve their English skills and competence. It helps to build a wide vocabulary and develops knowledge of verbs, idioms and grammatical structures. By the end of the course students will be able to express ideas fluently and clearly using every day English as well as more academic language on a variety of themes. Overall the course will support students in their language development to help them thrive in English speaking countries in a wide variety of situations.



## Where this course can lead

One of the best things about the Cambridge qualification is that the certificate is valid forever, unlike IELTS which is only valid for two years. This makes it the best choice for a students' CV. When applying for a job, it's very useful to have this certificate to show competence in English in a working environment.

# FRENCH

## IGCSE – Pearson Edexcel 4FR1

### Topics covered

- A. Home and abroad
- B. Education and employment
- C. Personal life and relationships
- D. The world around us
- E. Social activities, fitness and health

### Assessment

Paper 1: Listening: 30 mins, 25%

Paper 2: Reading and Writing: 1 hr 45 mins, 50%

Paper 3: Speaking: 10 mins, 25%

### Why should I study this subject?

Many exchange opportunities! It is easy for students to make contact with French speakers of their own age, as pen pals or via the Internet. There are many different exchange programmes in France that offer rewarding experiences. Thousands of French schools are twinned with counterparts around the world, creating links with the world's largest educational network.

A creative language! French is often heard on the stage. Teachers like to put on plays in French and involve their students in French-language theatre festivals. Learning French helps children to express themselves and gain self-confidence in front of others. Students also learn French through songs, thanks to the vast repertoire of singers past and present.

A language of reasoning and debate! French is an analytical language that structures thought and develops critical thinking. It is the language of great philosophers

(Descartes, Sartre and Derrida, among others) and eminent scientists (Pierre and Marie Curie, Pasteur, Georges Charpak, etc.). In learning French, children also learn how to argue a case and present different points of view, valuable skills for discussions and negotiations.

*"I think that French should be studied as it provides you with a view into another culture as well as developing a new appreciation for another language."*

*"Learning French is considered hard by many people, by knowing it, you can set yourself apart from many monolingual people whether it's for work or university. I like learning the grammar, I personally find it fun to conjugate verbs."*

*"I enjoy GCSE French because I like how it differentiates itself from other languages, with its tenses, accents and rules of how you speak correctly. It is quite difficult but that is what makes it great because it is very satisfying when you understand it."*

*"Personally, I enjoy the role plays that take place in the French GCSE course as they provide a sense of immersion as if you are actually given the opportunity to use the language in real life."*

### Where this course can lead

*The ability to speak, write and understand French is an important skill for many workplaces, and obtaining a qualification in French can make you eligible for job opportunities in government, social services, education, business and international relations among many other exciting fields.*

# GEOGRAPHY

## GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1GA0

### Topics covered

#### Paper 1

Topic 1: Hazardous Earth

Topic 2: Development dynamics

Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

#### Paper 2

Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.

Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a Case Study - Dynamic UK cities.

Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation linked to Topics 4 and 5.

Topic 7: People and the biosphere

Topic 8: Forests under threat

Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins, 37.5%

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins, 37.5%

Paper 3: 1 hr 30 mins, 25%

### Why should I study this subject?

The course will give students the chance to address the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change it.

*“I enjoyed studying GCSE Geography because the curriculum was varied and interesting covering local, national and international Geography. I also found it useful that there were many links to my other subjects.”*

*Geography is a good subject because it has allowed me to have a new perspective of the world while understanding how the world works.*

*I chose Geography as in my home country I saw people living very different lives and I wanted to learn why this was and compare this to other places in the world.”*



### Where this course can lead

Geography develops many skills of English and maths but a variety of transferrable life skills including critical thinking, problem solving, leadership and an understanding of global events and different viewpoints.

# GERMAN

## IGCSE – Pearson Edexcel 4GN1

### Topics covered

- A. Home and abroad
- B. Education and employment
- C. Personal life and relationships
- D. The world around us
- E. Social activities, fitness and health

### Assessment

Paper 1: Listening: 30 mins, 25%

Paper 2: Reading and Writing: 1 hr 45 mins, 50%

Paper 3: Speaking: 10 mins, 25%

### Why should I study this subject?

Knowledge of German increases your job opportunities with German and foreign companies in your own country and abroad. Proficiency in German helps you to function productively for an employer with global business connections. German is also the 2nd most important language in the world of science and engineering and is the language of music and philosophy.

*Man lebt ein neues Leben für jede neue Sprache, die man spricht. Wenn Sie nur eine Sprache kennen, lebt man nur einmal.*

*You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once. (Anon)*

*“I chose German because I realise how many doors learning a foreign language opens up for me for the future”*



### Where this course can lead

Business, science, mechanical and chemical engineering, research and development. Not to mention international banking and law and obviously translation services.

# GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

## IGCSE - CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS 0457

### Topics covered

Cambridge IGCSE Global Perspectives provides opportunities for enquiry into, and reflection on, key global issues from different perspectives: personal, local/national and global. This course explores topics that have global significance and emphasises the development and application of skills rather than the acquisition of knowledge.

Skills learnt include:

- collaboration with others from another culture, community or country
- ability to assess information critically and explore lines of reasoning
- independent learning and thinking

Knowledge of content is not assessed but topics studied are chosen from:

- Arts in society
- Change in culture and communities
- Climate change, energy and resources
- Conflict and peace
- Development, trade and aid
- Digital world
- Education for all
- Employment
- Environment, pollution and conservation
- Globalisation
- Health and wellbeing

- Law and criminality
- Media and communication
- Migration and urbanisation
- Political power and action
- Poverty and inequality
- Social identity and inclusion
- Sport and recreation
- Technology, industry and innovation
- Transport, travel and tourism
- Values and beliefs
- Water, food and agriculture

### Assessment

Component 1: Written Examination, 1 hr 25 mins, 35%

Component 2: Individual Report, 30%

Component 3: Team Project, 35%

### Why should I study this subject?

This course focuses on building skills rather than acquiring knowledge. By studying this subject you will learn about a range of global issues and gain a real sense of your own place in the world as it undergoes huge challenges. It will equip you to be a valuable world citizen in the future and allow you to develop skills in researching, communicating and collaborating with others – all essential for future success!

*“There are so many issues affecting the world today that it is our duty to not only learn about them, but to consider how we can help. This course will help you understand these problems but also give you the skills to be part of the solution.”*

*Mr Oldershaw, Academic Director and Geographer*



### **Where this course can lead**

By building the skills that all employers say they are looking for, you will be well equipped for not only future sixth form study in a range of subjects but also well prepared for when you enter employment.

# HISTORY

## GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1H10

### Topics covered

#### Paper 1

Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front 1914-18

#### Paper 2

Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509-40 and Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

#### Paper 3

The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1hr 15mins, 30%

Paper 2: 1hr 45mins, 40%

Paper 3: 1hr 20mins, 30%

### Why should I study this subject?

This course provides a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world. It will help students to develop the important skills of extended writing and critical thinking. Through evaluating sources of evidence about the past, students learn to identify what is reliable and what is questionable in provenance, written to persuade or mislead. These skills and all those learnt on the history course are extremely valuable for future employment and success.

*"I enjoy learning about what happened in the past and it's interesting to learn how people dealt with events as well as learning more and different stories about the past."  
Anastasiia "What I enjoyed about the History GCSE course was studying the Cold War as it felt like watching a really cool movie. It was fascinating. It was important to make timelines and mind maps too."*

*"It's cool to know about how History still relates to us today."*

*"I think I have benefitted from taking History as it has helped me learn to write at a faster pace and improved my English writing skills."*

*"I like it because it is more engaging than other subject as there is always something to think about."*

*"I like History because it gives me a good perspective on things."*

### Where this course can lead

GCSE History provides the contextual knowledge and experience of depth studies, thematic overviews and source work to successful study A Level History.

# PSYCHOLOGY

## GCSE - AQA 8182

### Topics covered

Cognition and behaviour  
memory, perception, development and research methods  
Social context and behaviour  
Social influence, brain and neuropsychology,  
psychological problems and language, thought and communication.

### Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hr 45 mins, 50% of GCSE qualification  
Paper 2: 1 hr 45 mins, 50% of GCSE qualification

### Why should I study this subject?

GCSE Psychology introduces students to the fundamentals of the subject and covers a wide range of interesting topics. Students will investigate the ways in which different biological, cognitive and social factors contribute to shape human behaviour. Psychologists want to explain why people behave the way they do and this course offers an introduction that teaches students to go beyond common sense and opinion, to form reasoned arguments based on credible scientific evidence. Students will develop an understanding of psychological theories relating to a range of everyday experiences and with their study of research methods, will be able to critically appraise the evidence supporting those theories. Studying GCSE Psychology helps students develop their skills of problem solving, application, critical thinking, data handling and evaluation.

*“Psychology is much more than reading people’s minds, it provides an interesting angle to look at everything in life. GCSE Psychology can help you develop critical academic skills such as application and evaluation.”*

*“Psychology is the most useful subject I take due to its applications in real life. The subject is filled with riveting experiments and I find myself thinking about research questions and variations of these studies in my free time. As an international student, this subject helps me understand western cultural values as well as my own culture.”*



### Where this course can lead

This course is a great grounding for the A Level Psychology course and any related course at university. It also supports progression to a wide range of other subjects from the sciences, social sciences and arts. A good knowledge of psychological concepts will be invaluable in any possible future career, plus the skills of investigation, research and debating will help build valuable skills for their future lives.

# SPANISH

## IGCSE – Pearson Edexcel 4SP1

### Topics covered

- A. Home and abroad
- B. Education and employment
- C. Personal life and relationships
- D. The world around us
- E. Social activities, fitness and health

### Assessment

Paper 1: Listening: 35 mins, 25%

Paper 2: Reading and Writing 1 hr 45 mins, 50%

Paper 3: Speaking 8-10 mins, 25%

### Why should I study this subject?

Speaking a foreign language is a mark of distinction highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers alike. In addition to this, learning a foreign language has many other proven benefits; it enhances your problem-solving skills, boosts your creative thinking, and improves your memory – to name but a few.

Choosing to study GCSE Spanish has the added benefit of opening the door to communication with 400 million native speakers across the world, which is ideal whether you're preparing for further study, your next travel venture, or looking to boost your international job prospects."

'I chose Spanish because it is a useful subject, it's really fun and it's different to most of my lessons.'

*'I decided to study Spanish this year because I believe that it allows you to not only learn a new language, but to learn about the cultures too. I also find it very interesting and it helps a lot with boosting confidence.'* 'I chose

*Spanish because it has helped me explore different cultures and I find that learning Spanish makes me more confident to speak to more people. I also chose Spanish because as I go through QE it will help me apply to universities and jobs in the future giving me more option in the future.'*

*'I chose to study Spanish as I enjoyed learning something new each lesson and broadening my knowledge of the different cultures there are around the world. Learning to speak a new language is very fascinating, making me want to continue further and it has also helped encourage me to try more new things'.*

*'I chose Spanish as a fun and interesting way to take a break from more academic subjects, taking on the language is rewarding and special, especially when learning with friends.'*

### Where this course can lead

Being able to speak, write and understand Spanish is an important skill for many workplaces, especially as businesses expand internationally. Getting a degree in Spanish can make you eligible for job opportunities in government, social services, education, business and international relations among many other exciting fields.

“

“Drama at QE is amazing. There is so much support from all the teachers, they give you time and space to grow and develop in what you want to do. The facilities are outstanding and made my time at QE so much more magical. I took part in the plays and musicals each year and was able to see my skills and abilities grow. The drama team at QE is made up of industry professionals who were able to give me advice on how to audition for drama school and help me with my audition speeches. Performing and learning about drama at QE is something I will never forget.

“Good guidance from your teachers and challenging lessons means you can push yourself further. It also helped with my time management skills ensuring I always had time for my art projects”

# *Creative and Physical*

“Photography GCSE enables me to establish a love for media and photography, the course allowed me the freedom to develop my own ideas and work”

”

# 3D DESIGN

GCSE - AQA 8205

## Topics covered

Topics will include work in - architectural design, sculpture, ceramics, product design, jewellery and body adornment, interior design, environmental/landscape/garden design, exhibition design, 3D digital design, designs for theatre, film and television.

## Assessment

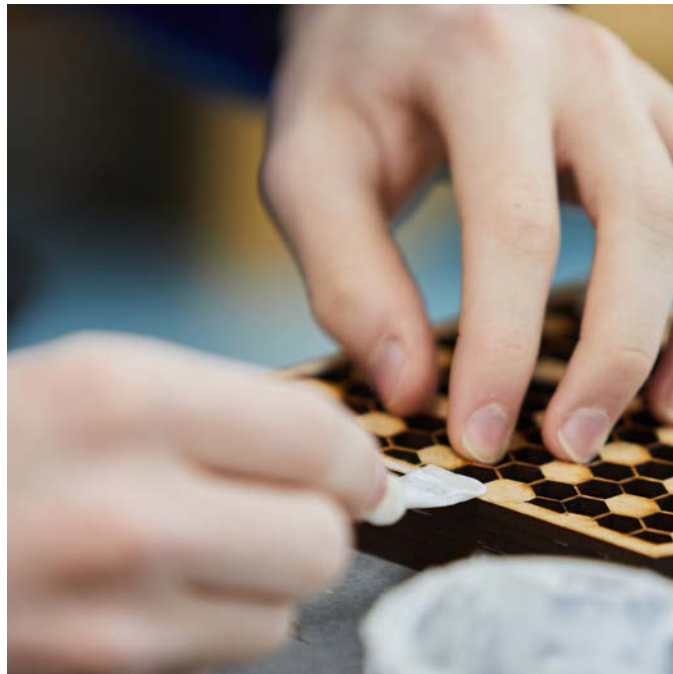
Component 1: Portfolio 60%

Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% - completed as coursework and in 10 hours supervised conditions

## Why should I study this subject?

3D Design is the creative approach to design and technology, where students can focus on developing their design and production skills in a wide variety of areas, from product design, jewellery, architecture, interior design to sculpture and modelmaking. Students develop ideas and will be able to demonstrate a good analytical and critical understanding through sustained investigation into the use and purpose of ideas, as well as the work of other designers. Experimentation is key to developing both 3D and 2D ideas using both traditional and new media, techniques and processes, reviewing work as it develops. Students have access to well-resourced workshops containing both traditional and contemporary machinery from drills and sanders to 3D digital printer and laser cutters. We also have a wide range of industry standard digital design programmes for students to use and develop their ideas.

*“I liked the practicality of the subject learning through hands on experience with different materials and developing new techniques. It helped me decide to study the BTEC 540 Diploma and choose architecture to study as a degree.”*



## Where this course can lead

GCSE 3D Art & Design develops creative problem solvers with the ability to develop visual language skills. Combined with building a broad range of artistic skills, students will become confident communicators with the ability to present their ideas in a comprehensive portfolio of work. They can progress towards further study in the Creative Arts such as A Level Fine Art/3D Design/ Photography or a Vocational Level 3 qualification in Art and Design/ Fashion/Photography.

# ART CRAFT AND DESIGN

## GCSE - AQA 8201

### Topics covered

Topics will include - drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, lens-/light-based media, photography and the moving image, printmaking, mixed media

### Assessment

Component 1: Portfolio 60%

Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% - completed as coursework and in 10 hours supervised conditions

### Why should I study this subject?

Highly practical and individualised, the GCSE in Art, Craft and Design is designed to develop and nurture creative and artistic talent. Students will experiment with a wide range of media, materials and processes, exploring both traditional and contemporary techniques, reviewing and refining work as it develops. From fine art painting, printmaking, craft, and illustration, to digital drawing and design, students can find their own passion and direction in our bright, airy and well-resourced art rooms and studios supported by our dedicated team of teachers and technicians. Work is presented in a wide variety of formats from practical pieces and sketchbooks to digital presentations, students produce personal, meaningful and informed responses to a wide variety of ideas, contexts and the work of other artists and designers. Art education in the UK is highly prized due to its creativity and individuality, providing students with a broad range of artistic skills to become creative thinkers with a ability

to develop visual language skills and become confident communicators.

*“Good guidance from your teachers and challenging lessons means you can push yourself further. It also helped with my time management skills ensuring I always had time for my art projects”*

*“GCSE gave me the foundational knowledge to develop my ideas in an independent way study an art based subject in 6th form and follow my arts education.”*



### Where this course can lead

GCSE Art, Craft & Design develops creative thinkers with the ability to develop visual language skills. Combined with building a broad range of artistic skills, students will become confident communicators with the ability to present their ideas in a comprehensive portfolio of work. They can progress towards further study in the Creative Arts such as A Level Fine Art/3D Design/ Photography or a Vocational Level 3 qualification in Art and Design/ Fashion/Photography.

# CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION

## BTEC LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD - PEARSON

### Topics covered

Students will study media products such as film, magazines, newspapers, websites and games from both pre-2000 and post-2000 selections. After learning about genre, narrative, and representation, students will have the chance to develop design skills and use Adobe Creative Cloud to create their own magazines, adverts and graphic design products.

### Assessment

The three components in the qualification give students the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the media sector, and relevant skills such as research, planning, problem solving and communication at Levels 1 and 2.

### Why should I study this subject?

BTEC Creative Digital Media Production is for students who want to acquire technical knowledge and skills through vocational contexts. Students can develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment using our brand new suite of digital media computers. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance-

- creative media production such as developing ideas
- effective ways of working such as responding to briefs

- attitudes to working such as communication skills
- knowledge and skills such as production processes

Many of these skills are transferable to other areas such as photography, 3D design and Computer Science as they provide an opportunity to understand and engage different audiences through making compelling media products.

*“KS 4 media introduced me to an entirely new skill set for perceiving multiple aspects of the world within certain industries, everything is done in a certain way which was hand-picked to communicate a message which honestly just made me fall in love with the subject.”*



### Where this course can lead

This course will prepare learners for future study in Key Stage within Creative Arts but will also build skills for success in a range of other subjects. It will also provide a foundation for employment in jobs such as digital marketer, film producer, broadcast journalist, event manager, game designer, media researcher.

# MUSIC

## GCSE - EDUQAS C660QS

### Topics covered

- Performing music is a key element of the course worth 30% of the final grade - including solo and ensemble performances.
- Composing (30%) using music software
- Appraising (40%) - students study set works from popular music, music for film and instrumental music.

### Assessment

Performances are recorded within the classroom and internally marked. The two compositions are internally marked. Appraising is assessed via a formal listening/written examination at the end of the course where students will answer questions on the set works as well as from additional pieces.

### Why should I study this subject?

Music GCSE offers all students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of and develop in a wide range of musical styles, tastes and genres, independent of their musical experience and ability. Students will actively engage in the process of music study developing individual and group performance skills, creatively through the study of the key elements of performance, composition, appraisal. Students will develop an awareness of a variety of instruments, styles and approaches to performing and composing using music technologies in the creation and presentation of their music.



### Where this course can lead

GCSE Music is a great foundation to progress on to BTEC or A Level Music. The course helps to develop strong performing, listening and composing skills. The skills learnt are also transferrable to other subjects and careers, such as developing confidence in public performance, teamwork, time-management, research and analysis.

# MUSIC

## GCSE

EDUQAS 601/8131/X

### Topics covered

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music.

### Assessment

Components

1: Performing - 30%

2: Composing - 30%

3: Written Exam - 1 hr 15 mins 40%

### Why should I study this subject?

Studying the Eduqas GCSE in Music inspires creativity while building powerful, transferable skills for life. Music develops discipline, focus and resilience through practice and performance, teaching students how to set goals and persevere. It sharpens listening, analytical thinking and problem-solving as students explore different styles, cultures and composers. Working in ensembles builds teamwork, communication and confidence, while composing encourages innovation and independent thinking. These skills are highly valued in every career, from science and business to media and technology. Music is more than a subject – it is a foundation for adaptable, creative and confident learners ready for any future path..



### Where this course can lead

BTEC music Level 3

A Level Music

# DANCE

## GCSE - AQA J316

### Topics covered

Component 1: Performance

Component 2: Choreography

Component 3: Dance appreciation

### Assessment

Component 1: Solo and duet/trio performance (30%),

Component 2: Solo and group choreographed dances (40%)

Component 3: Written exam - 1 hr 30 mins, (40%)

### Why should I study this subject?

Creative powerful and expressive – GCSE Dance will allow you to develop your passion, talent and interest in dance no matter what your previous experience. A unique combination of dance appreciation, performance and choreography, GCSE Dance is designed to allow you to develop and respond to a wide range of dance styles and fusions. Underpinned by the study of different dance styles choreographed and performed in the UK today, students will develop performance and choreography skills as a soloist and, in a group. You will not only develop your passion for the Arts- but you will also improve your fitness, technical and creative dance skills, challenging and stretching your confidence, as well as, analytical skills, the ability to work in a team and independently. GCSE Dance is offered outside the curriculum for those students who have an interest in this area. Please speak to a member of the Performing Arts Department for more details.

*“GCSE Dance really developed my choreography skills as there are so many different aspects to think about, from rhythm to facial expression. I thought it was an interesting subject as there were no wrong answers if you could justify your points.”*



### Where this course can lead

This course will prepare students to study Dance and Performing Arts at A Level or BTEC Level 3. It will also challenge and stretch their confidence, analytical skills, ability to work in a team and independently, improve their fitness, technical and creative dance skills and develop a passion for the Arts. Students who study GCSE Dance may want to have a career in dance, choreography, fitness or live performance. They may also want to gain a qualification in a subject that they have a passion for and a firm interest in.

# FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

**GCSE - AQA 8585**

## **Topics covered**

Food preparation skills – these are intended to be integrated into the five sections:

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

## **Assessment**

Paper 1. Written exam: 1 hr 45 mins, 100 marks 50% of GCSE

Questions

Multiple choice questions (20 marks)

Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

Non-exam Assessment

Task 1: Written or electronic report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included.

## **Why should I study this subject?**

This is an exciting opportunity to learn practical cooking skills and to develop an understanding of the relationship between diet, nutrition and health. The knowledge

acquired will provide valuable life skills and possibly lead to further study and interesting career pathways.

In studying food preparation and nutrition, you will learn to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking using a variety of foods, cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- Appreciate the economic, environmental, ethical, and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, and diet and health choices.
- Show knowledge of 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.

## **Where this course can lead**

There are a variety of benefits for studying this at GCSE. It will provide you with valuable skills for life and if you want to further your career in hospitality, sport and nutrition, product development and diet related industries.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## GCSE - PEARSON EDEXCEL 1PE0

### Topics covered

Fitness and Body Systems (Paper 1)

Anatomy and physiology

Movement analysis

Physical training

Use of data

Health and performance (paper 2)

Health, fitness and wellbeing

Sport psychology

Socio-cultural studies

Personal exercise programme

Practical sports performance

### Assessment

Paper 1 – 1 hr 45 mins, 36%

Paper 2 – 1 hr 15 mins, 24%

Personal exercise programme – coursework 10%

Practical sports performance – 3 sports – 30%

### Why should I study this subject?

This course is ideal for those who play sport to a good level due to the practical element. Students will also learn a great deal of scientific content about how the body works, methods of training or sports psychology which can help their own performance but also prepare them for further study or work. The course will teach you how science underpins sport, and they will grow to become really interested in how we can use science to make performance better. Students will be able to choose

either an A-Level or BTEC pathway depending on their preferences at the end of year 11.



### Where this course can lead

Students will usually go on to further study in the field of Physical Education at Level 3, but then progress to the many courses within Sport, such as in Sport Science or in Sports Management.



# SPORT

## BTEC LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD - PEARSON

### Topics covered

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

### Assessment

Supervised assessment

Component 1. 5 hrs, 60 marks

Component 2. 4 hrs, 60 marks

External exam

Component 3 – 1 hr 30 mins, 60 marks

### Why should I study this subject?

This course is ideal for learners who have a keen interest in sport and would like to acquire knowledge and skills in a vocational context.

This course will have a number of practical opportunities including planning and delivering sessions, analysis of performance and sports leadership.

It will enable learners to develop skills such as communication, planning, teamwork, and time management.

This course is assessed on an ongoing basis. It may be suitable for those who prefer doing tasks more than exam papers or those who feel they don't want to be assessed practically in 3 sports (as happens on GCSE).

*I chose this course due to the differences in its set up compared to GCSE PE. I preferred that assessments were taken throughout the course rather than waiting right until the end of the 2 years. I also liked the fact that even though you do practical, there was not so much assessment in the role of a player. On this course I can plan and deliver coaching sessions, lead circuits or analyse performance which I feel are good ways to develop skills and qualities needed to work in actual jobs in sport. I am really enjoying the practical element during lessons and that we often learn through doing tasks rather than it always being classroom-based learning.*



### Where this course can lead

Learners may go onto study a BTEC or A Level in Key Stage 5 within Sport with a view to a career within the industry.

## KS4 PATHWAYS

Our KS4 Pathways provide students with an exciting opportunity to specialise and deepen their learning in an area that inspires them. Each pathway is designed to nurture skills, confidence and ambition, helping students excel in their chosen field.

Students may select one pathway as their fourth GCSE option. This pathway will form part of their timetabled curriculum for three lessons each week over the two years of KS4. Programmes are tailored to student interests, and the activities below give an overview of the types of skills and experiences each pathway offers.

### **Performance Pathway**

#### **Performance Drama: Confidence, Communication and Creativity**

Our Performance Drama pathway is designed to develop skills both on and off the stage. Performing and Production Arts are a proven way of improving key skills in communication, boosting confidence and allows students to explore their creativity.

Although the pathway will explore the world of performance, it will support all career pathways by developing key skills that all universities and employers will look for.

#### **The programme offers:**

- Specialist training in public speaking, stage combat, screen acting, script writing, acting styles and dance.
- Opportunities to develop theatre production skills, such as design in lighting, set and sound.

- Workshops delivered by external practitioners.
- An annual trip to broaden cultural and artistic understanding.

Many of our alumni have moved on to prestigious drama and performing arts schools or employment in top creative companies such as The Globe.

### **Performance Sport**

For students whose aspirations lie in sport, our Performance Sport Programme (PSP) provides advanced coaching, specialist support and access to outstanding training facilities.

#### **PSP offers:**

- High-performance coaching from experienced professionals
- Access to QE's Sports Village and Sports Science Centre
- Movement analysis, testing and monitoring
- Physiotherapy, sports massage and strength & conditioning support
- Guidance on nutrition and sports psychology

#### **Students can specialise in:**

- Football
- Netball
- Cricket
- Basketball
- Rugby (Year 10 upwards)

PSP athletes benefit from elite training methods, competitive opportunities and a multi-disciplinary support system that develops physical skill, resilience and sporting intelligence.

### **STEM Pathway**

The STEM Pathway gives students extensive opportunities to explore science, technology, engineering and mathematics through hands-on learning and creative problem-solving.

#### **Students will take part in:**

- Engineering challenges
- National competitions such as Science and Maths Olympiads
- Robotics and automation projects
- Coding and computational thinking
- CREST Awards
- Independent research activities
- Talks from industry professionals and visiting speakers
- Masterclasses delivered by alumni and local experts

This pathway encourages students to collaborate, innovate and apply STEM concepts to real-world challenges—ideal for aspiring engineers, scientists, technologists or mathematicians.

### **Creative Arts Pathway**

The Creative Arts Pathway allows students to explore a wide range of artistic disciplines and develop specialist skills through practical, project-based work.

#### **Opportunities include:**

- Photography (digital and darkroom)
- Printmaking (screen printing, lino, etching)
- Fashion and textiles
- Graphics and illustration
- Oil painting
- 3D design and CAD
- Ceramics
- Life drawing
- Exhibition curation (marketing, promotion, branding)
- Portfolio development
- Entry into competitions such as the ISA and Royal Academy Summer Showcase
- Collaboration with the Kings Theatre on prop and set design
- Community arts projects
- Outreach work with The Big Draw
- Working with visiting practitioners

This pathway helps students identify their artistic strengths, explore how the arts influence society, and build the skills needed for future study in creative fields.



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