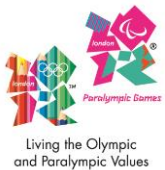


# HOWDEN SCHOOL

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## Year 11 Curriculum Booklet 2016





**HOWDEN SCHOOL**  
**KEY STAGE 4 INITIAL PREFERENCE FORM 2016**

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

**This form must be returned to the Form Tutor no later than  
Monday 25 January**

The completion of this form is the beginning of a process. Please fill in all the information required so that we can deliver a curriculum which is as close as possible to your preferences.

Option A	Option B
Art GCSE	PE GCSE
Food technology GCSE	Drama GCSE
Geography GCSE	Geography GCSE
History GCSE	History GCSE
ICT Cambridge National	ICT Cambridge National
Music GCSE	BTEC Sport
PE GCSE	German GCSE
BTEC Media	Resistant Materials GCSE
French GCSE	Textiles Technology GCSE
Product Design GCSE	Triple science GCSE
Business Communication GCSE	Health and Social Care GCSE

Students need to choose **one** subject from Option A and **one** subject from Option B. Please mark the choice with a tick. We would also ask you to make a reserve choice subject in each option column should your first choice not be available. If this is the case we will contact you. Please mark 'R' for your reserve choice.

## Introduction

The aim of this booklet is to help parents, carers and students understand how the curriculum operates in Key Stage 4 and to provide information about the range of courses available to individual students. The booklet contains a brief outline of the curriculum, detailed descriptions of all subjects offered, and two copies of the initial preference form, one to be returned to school and one to be retained for reference.

Any student who subsequently needs a replacement form can contact their Learning Manager, alternatively, forms are available from the Parents' Centre of the school website. Following the Parents' Information Evening, the form is used to start the process of working out each student's curriculum. A copy of this booklet is also available from the web site.

### Part A: General Information

In Years 7, 8 and 9 all students study the same subjects of the National Curriculum. In Years 10 and 11 students prepare for external examinations and the structure of the curriculum is different. Students need to follow a selection of courses which will lead to a successful outcome. The school's view on this is based on each student's attainment, effort and aptitude. In very broad outline there are two main routes through the two years of Key Stage 4, but each student's needs are considered on an individual basis.

<b>Academic</b>	<p>Students currently working at National Curriculum level six with the expectation of achieving higher levels (7 or 8) in at least some subjects by the end of the year should follow this curriculum. Many of this group of students entered the school with above average and high scores in the Key Stage 2 National tests.</p> <p>Students study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, RE, Computing and additional subjects which would usually be GCSE qualifications. These students have the potential to achieve excellent outcomes, provided they are committed to hard work and maximum effort.</p> <p>The government believes that schools should offer a broad range of academic subjects to age 16 and is promoting the English Baccalaureate. This is not a new exam but a certificate which will be awarded on the basis of good passes in GCSE English, Mathematics, Sciences, a Language and or a Humanities subject.</p>
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<b>Academic plus Vocational</b> or <b>Vocational</b>	<p>A more mixed curriculum is suitable for a wide range of students currently working at National Curriculum level 4 or 5 with the expectation of achieving level 5 or 6 by the end of the year in some subjects. By grouping students appropriately, it is also possible to tailor this route for students who will be working between levels 4 and 5 by the end of this school year. The majority of these students entered the school with above average or average scores in the Key Stage 2 National tests.</p> <p>Students study the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, RE and Computing and additional subjects which could be a mix of GCSE qualifications plus some GCSE equivalent courses such as BTEC's or Cambridge Nationals or entirely BTEC and Cambridge courses.</p> <p>Excellent outcomes can be achieved by these students, provided that they follow advice and guidance as to which courses offer the best chances of success. BTEC courses and Cambridge Nationals have a different approach to testing than traditional GCSE's, with greater emphasis on ongoing assessment.</p>
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**The core:**

All students follow courses in core subjects which are:

English

Mathematics

Science

Computing

Physical Education

For English, Mathematics and Science, students will follow a course of study which leads to appropriate certification for their ability.

Compulsory elements of Careers Education, Citizenship and Religious Education will be delivered over the two years of Key Stage 4. All students undergo a period of work experience at some time during the Key Stage, usually during the summer term of Year 10.

## Making Good Choices

Commonly asked questions

### Q. What is the duration of courses at KS4?

A. Core courses (English, Maths, Science,) are two year courses. At Howden we run the option subjects over one year. This means that you will achieve a GCSE/BTEC/Cambridge National at the end of year 10. You can then take other options subjects to start in Y11.

### Q. How many BTEC qualifications can I take?

We would advise that you take no more than three BTEC options over the 2 years. This is because DfE have advised that they are not counting more than three BTEC subjects towards the Progress/Accountability 8 models and English Baccalaureate.

### Q. How much are GCSE's and BTEC qualifications worth?

Qualifications and grades are worth points. Both GCSE grade C and a BTEC pass grade are worth 40 points. A Merit at BTEC is equivalent to a B grade GCSE and a Distinction at BTEC is worth the same points as an A grade at GCSE. Colleges and Universities will often ask for a capped point score where the top 5 or 8 grades are counted. This is why it is so important **to hit at least the target grade in each subject**.

### Q. Who will I do my options subjects with?

Because of the way we run options at Howden School for your option subject in Y10 you will be with Y11 students. This means we can offer more subjects at KS4 than we would be able to do otherwise.

### It is important that students do the following:

- Think carefully about their preferences and the reasons for their choices
- Discuss their subject preferences with their parents, specialist subject teachers and tutor
- Consider their strengths and interests
- Think about where their choice of courses will lead post 16 and beyond
- Have high aspirations about what you want to do in the future
- Think about where you want to end up in five or even 10 years' time. What do you picture yourself doing? What industry or sector appeals to you most? Which job can you see yourself in? Once you've worked this out, research as much as you can about the types of qualifications and skills you might need to get there

### It is important that students don't do the following:

- Pick a subject or option because they like the teacher
- Pick a subject or option because it is the same as what their friends are doing
- Pick subjects that are very similar, i.e. GCSE PE and BTEC PE being a good example. Both are excellent courses but together they don't provide you with a wide range of skills, knowledge and attributes.

## **Keeping parents informed**

Students' progress is continually monitored by their subject teachers. You will be sent interim progress reports on a regular basis, currently five times a year. At the start of Key Stage 4 you will be invited to a Key Stage 4 launch evening with information on how the school and parents can work together to support the student. There will also be Parents' Evenings when you can talk directly to subject teachers.

## **The National Qualifications Framework and assessment**

The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) sets out the levels against which a qualification is recognised in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Qualifications are described by these levels. The qualifications described in this booklet equate to Levels 1 and 2. In general a Level 1 qualification is equivalent to a GCSE at grades D to G and a Level 2 qualification is equivalent to a GCSE at grades A\* to C.

Grades are awarded in recognition of positive achievement and all subject specifications have to meet agreed national criteria. Marks are also awarded for good spelling and presentation skills.

Most specifications involve an element of centre assessed task in combination with some form of external examination; students need to be able to organise their time and resources and use homework effectively to support the work done in school.

The role of parents and carers is crucial in ensuring a positive outcome for the student, particularly in ensuring that students attend school regularly and complete work done outside school, including coursework.

## **The timetable for choices:**

01 - 05 February	Assemblies for students: general and subject specific information
29 February	Initial preference forms returned
Summer term	Course confirmation letters sent to parents/carers

At any stage during the process, if students or parents and carers have any concerns, they should contact Mr Carruthers (Assistant Headteacher and Yr9 Learning Manager), Miss Knight (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Issatt (Assistant Headteacher and Yr10 Learning Manager).

Course descriptions can be found on the following pages; the same information is available on the Common Prospectus at [www.logonmoveon.co.uk](http://www.logonmoveon.co.uk)

# English Language GCSE

## English Literature GCSE (specification to be finalised)

GCSE English is an essential qualification required by all employers, further and higher education establishments. Students in Year 10 and 11 complete the course to develop reading and writing skills as well as improve their verbal communication in a variety of contexts. In addition to English at GCSE, we also teach English Literature to students who have the enthusiasm and ability to succeed in this subject.

### You will study:

#### English:

- English in the Daily World: reading and analysing 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> Century prose extracts and non-fiction and media texts.
- Writing for information and ideas
- Literary Reading and Creative Writing based on stimulus

#### English Literature:

- A Shakespearean play
- A range of poetry from an anthology
- Post-1914 prose / drama
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century prose

### You will learn:

- How to write for different purposes and audiences
- How to interpret texts and make effective use of quotations
- How to explore and compare texts
- How to analyse media and spoken language texts
- How to communicate in a range of situations in Standard English
- Preparation, revision and examination skills

### Assessment:

There will be no internally assessed pieces of work from September 2015. The two year courses will be examined in summer 2017. In order to prepare students for this new style of assessment in English we have planned regular mock exams in the school hall at key points during the academic year. This will be in addition to regular assessments and feedback by teachers during lessons.

There are two externally assessed examinations for the English GCSE and in addition, there are two examination papers for English Literature.



# Mathematics GCSE: Edexcel 1MA1 or AQA 8300

## Why study Mathematics?

GCSE Mathematics is a qualification that is required by most employers and is usually required for entry to further or higher education. Mathematics requires logical thinking and helps you to develop practical and analytical skills that can be used in everyday life. There are opportunities to develop problem solving techniques and basic skills that can be applied to further study in a range of disciplines, in the workplace and also to deal with situations in everyday life.

## You will study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability and Statistics

## You will learn the following skills

- Numeracy
- Logical thinking
- Problem-solving techniques
- How to apply your mathematics to real life situations
- Resilience and independence
- How to work collaboratively

## Assessment is by Examination

Final GCSE assessment will be by three written examinations at the end of Year 11. You will be assessed regularly in class during the course, through tests that are linked directly to work done in class and at home. More formal progress assessments will also be done 2 or 3 times a year to gauge progress and highlight areas for revision.

In addition, some students may be entered for the Edexcel GCSE Statistics examination at the end of year 10 (specification code 5ST01).

The most able students will have the chance to study for a Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (AQA specification code 8360), a course which extends beyond the standard GCSE mathematics course.

The summer 2017 examinations will see the introduction of a new grading system in GCSE mathematics. Higher level GCSE examinations will have a grade range from 4 to 9 and Foundation level a grade range of 1 to 5. Current indications are that the new grade 4 will be broadly equivalent to the old grade C, grade 5 to grade C/B and grade 6 to a high grade B. The new grade 9 is intended to be available to only the most able students, namely those at the top end of the old A\* category.

**Please note students should provide their own scientific calculator, which can be purchased through the school if required, for use throughout the course.**

# Art and Design GCSE: AQA 4201

## A GCSE Art student will be expected to:

- Work to deadlines and have high expectations
- Carry out regular extended work and homework outside lessons
- Be fully dedicated showing an enthusiasm for the subject
- Have a strong knowledge and skill of drawing and painting
- Be open-minded to new ideas, materials and techniques
- Persevere to follow a piece of work through to completion
- Follow all advice and guidance given by staff as they are your examiner
- Communicate ideas through verbal and written responses
- Be able to look at the work of other artists and make practical and written responses to it

If you have skills in Art and Design and are committed to developing these, as well as expanding your creativity, then you will be suitable for GCSE Art and Design. You will get involved in and work with a wide range of media applications. The qualification can lead to Art and Design related employment or to courses in Further or Higher Education. You will also develop your understanding of aesthetic principles that can be used in all areas of life, personal and professional.

## Assessment:

There are four Assessment Objectives and all must be evident in both components in order to gain a mark.

## Coursework:

This is worth 60% of your overall result. You will begin working on this from **the beginning of the course** and every piece of work done counts towards the final grade.

## Externally Set Task:

This is worth 40% of the overall result. You will be given a limited number of weeks to produce preparatory work for the task inspired by one of the starting points set by the exam board. This test will last for ten hours and in that time you will produce a final piece based on your preparatory studies. All the work produced during this time will be marked.

# Business Studies GCSE: Edexcel

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more.

## What will I learn?

While studying the first two units of this course you are likely to learn a lot of new things. You will be introduced to the world of small businesses and will look at what makes someone a successful business person. You will find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective and manage money. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

### GCSE in Business Studies

You will learn more about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy. You will learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them.

### GCSE in Business Communications

You will understand how important effective communication is to any business. You will learn what communication is and the different ways businesses communicate with people inside and outside the business.

### GCSE in Business Studies and Economics

You will find out how to think like an economist and learn how the economy functions, the government's role in the economy and its impact on business. You will also examine what causes businesses to fail and how businesses grow. You will study many issues within the world of business such as inequality.

## How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 Examination	Unit 2 Controlled Assessment	Unit 4 Business communication Examination
You will take a written examination paper with multiple-choice and objective test questions based on the unit.	You will be given a list of controlled assessment tasks to choose from. The tasks will be based on what you have studied in Unit 1.	The questions will be a mixture of multiple-choice, data response, short-answer, extended-writing and scenario-based questions. For example, you might be given details of a business and asked a few questions based on that business.

**What can I do after I've completed the course?**

No matter which route you follow, all these business courses can help you prepare for further and higher education such as AS/A2 Levels and BTEC and NVQ courses. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of team. A GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

# Creative Media Production: BTEC Level 2 Award

The BTEC level 2 Award in Creative Digital Media Production is the equivalent to 1 GCSE grade A\* - C. It is a nationally recognised vocational qualification in the media sector and can provide a good progression route to more advanced BTEC courses.

The course is suitable for students with a keen interest in all aspects of the media who might be considering that as a career pathway, as well as for students who are creative and analytical. You must be prepared to be a highly organised, independent, committed and enthusiastic learner with competent ICT skills. You will also be expected to work frequently in groups. Students with a secure level 5 or above in English are best suited to this course.

## You will learn:

- Research skills
- Media terminology
- Media theories
- A variety of writing skills
- How to plan, make and edit a short film
- Pre-production, production and post-production skills
- Evaluation skills

## You will study range of the units below:

- **Digital Media Sectors and Audiences (core unit)**
- Planning and Pitching a Digital Media Product (core unit)
- Digital Moving Image Production
- Digital Audio Production
- Website Production/Digital Publishing Production

## Assessment:

Students are assessed internally at Pass, Merit or Distinction level for each unit completed apart from Digital Media Sectors and Audiences unit where you will be assessed by external examination.

## **Design & Technology Subjects GCSE**

All the Technology courses will help you to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of products, making you a more discriminating purchaser. The study of these subjects will help you to be creative in your approach, using ICT to help with your design ideas and in creating products. You will gain skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs, further study or your personal life.

### **You will study**

- How to develop a specification for a product
- How to analyse existing products
- How to generate a range of design proposals
- How to research ideas
- Product development and planning
- How to select materials and work with tools and equipment
- How to evaluate products and suggest improvements

### **You will**

- Improve your ICT skills and learn about CAD and CAM
- Develop your awareness of consumer requirements of a product
- Analyse products and the processes used to manufacture them
- Work practically
- Learn how to work on your own and as part of a team

## **Design and Technology GCSE: AQA Product Design - 45552**

The course follows clear, simple structure to help candidates revise for and relate the work done for Controlled Assessment to the exam. A practical approach encourages candidates to design and make products with creativity and originality in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques.

Packaging, labeling and instructions are also encouraged as part of the complete design proposal, while marketing tools, such as advertising and points of sale, can be used to supplement the making experience and help create products which can be evaluated for their commercial viability. You will have a total of 45 hours to complete all design and practical work.

The Controlled Assessment is a single design and makes activity from a broad choice of set tasks. The folder should be no more than 20 pages of A3 paper or equivalent. It is a single tiered assessment covering grades A\*–G to cater for students of all abilities.

AQA Examination board - one controlled assessment takes place.

## **Design & Technology: Textiles Technology - 4570**

GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles Technology helps students develop their creativity, research and making skills.

This two-unit specification develops student's ability to research, design and make textile products. The course includes two units: the controlled assessment design and make activity which accounts for 60% of the overall grade and which takes place over the whole length of the course, and an exam which accounts

for the remaining 40%. The exam includes a pre-prepared design question which students receive before the Easter holidays in order to prepare designs with their teacher.

The controlled assessment is a single 'design and make' activity from a broad choice of set tasks. The folder will be no more than 20 pages of A3 paper. The set of tasks set by the exam board vary greatly and provide students with a good range of product types and themes to select from, thus catering to all styles and ability levels.

Here are just two examples from the set tasks:

- 1) A popular high street store has commissioned you to design a fashion garment or accessory to wear at a special occasion event. Your design is to be inspired by the colours, spirit and pattern offered by another culture.
- 2) A manufacturing company which supplies gift shops around the British Isles has commissioned you to design a range of textile, decorative products. Design and make one of the products from that range that would be a best seller with visiting tourists.

## **Design and Technology AQA: Resistant Materials - 45552**

GCSE Design and Technology: Resistant Materials helps students develop the ability to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. This specification requires students to develop their knowledge of woods, metals, plastics and composite materials. Other materials may also be used and the use of new technologies is also encouraged. This course has 60 per cent controlled assessment in order to recognise the importance of practical work within this subject

Coursework Example; It is widely recognized that young children learn through play - your problem is to design and make a marketable educational toy for a specific age range. Through your design folder you will analyse and research the problem before suggesting several solutions before carefully choosing and refining your idea. You will have a total of 40 hours to complete all design and practical work.

## **Design & Technology GCSE: Food Technology - 45452**

GCSE Design and Technology: Food Technology helps students develop their creativity, with making of food products a vital feature of their experience of taking this specification. This two unit specification requires students to develop their application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them. This course has 60% controlled assessment in order to recognise the importance of practical work within this subject.

Controlled assessment is a single design and make activity from a broad choice of set tasks the folder will be no more than 20 pages of A3 paper or equivalent.

Controlled Assessment example: Design and make a product which contributes to '5 a day' or the 'eat well plate', to be sold in a supermarket as part of a speciality range. Through your design folder you will analyse and research the problem before suggesting several solutions before carefully choosing, refining and manufacturing your ideas. You will have a total of 45 hours to complete all design and practical work.

All the Technology courses will help you to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of products, making you a more discriminating purchaser. It will help you to be creative in your approach, using ICT to help with your design ideas and in creating products. You will gain skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs, further study or your personal life.

# Drama GCSE: OCR J315

## Why study Drama?

GCSE Drama is about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. As well as acquiring the skills involved in creating and performing Drama, you will also be able to acquire skills in working with others, problem solving and communication.

There are many things you can do with a GCSE in Drama. You could go on to take an AS or A level in Drama and Theatre Studies, or a Vocational A level in Performing Arts or a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts or Performance Design and Technology. A qualification in Drama is ideal for any career that requires good communication, group work and organizational skills.

You may wish to take a GCSE in Drama for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or as part of a range of other subjects, or you might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Drama. These might include careers in such fields as retail, law, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face. A qualification in Drama is ideal for any career that requires good communication, group work and organizational skills. The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career or job.

A key part of the Drama course involves working in teams and individually to create and deliver performances. This should be taken into consideration when considering this subject.

## You will study:

- Character and Context
- Structure, Shaping and Plot
- Audience
- Defining Performance Space
- Improvisation
- Genre, Style and Convention
- The Semiotics (signs and symbols) of Drama and Theatre

## You will learn:

- How to communicate
- How to plan by selecting and interpreting appropriate genres, styles and conventions
- How to develop your critical skills, through evaluation, analysis and reflection
- How to produce a written analysis of your practical work.

## Units

Page to Stage; gives you the opportunity to study a play and then produce a piece of scripted work from the text.

Drama in the Making; offers the chance to hone your improvisational skills and look at additional aspects of backstage work.

From Concept to Creation; is the examined unit and offer possibility to focus on elements that have interested you throughout the course. The exam paper includes script extract and another stimulus.



# French GCSE: AQA 4655

## Why study French?

Studying a foreign language helps you to communicate in the rapidly shrinking world and enables you to learn more about your own language. Once you have learned one foreign language, acquiring a second or a third is much easier. Knowledge of a foreign language means you get more out of travel experiences as well as learning about other cultures. For some careers and courses in Higher Education a foreign language is essential.

## You will study French in relation to four topic areas:

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and Environment
- Work and Education

## Assessment:

You will take a final examination in Reading and Listening which are each worth 20% of the final grade. Writing and Speaking are assessed through controlled tests carried out throughout the course and are each worth 30% for listening and reading. Entry is available at both Foundation and Higher level for reading and listening.

Reading Paper: assessment tasks use material from signs, emails, web pages, letters, postcards, brochures, articles and narratives.

Listening Paper: messages, dialogues, announcements, discussions and narratives are recorded onto a CD. There are pauses to give you time to write your answers.

## Additional Opportunities:

It may be possible to gain a BA Language Flag Award in French towards the end of your course. The BA Language Flag Award is the British Airways language award which is used with Air Stewards and support staff to highlight their language skills.

There is an annual trip to Disneyland Paris for pupils in year 9 and Key Stage 4.

# Geography A GCSE: AQA 9030

## Why study Geography?

Are you interested in the world around you? Do you want to be able to make informed decisions about where to work, where to live and where to go on holiday? Are you concerned about the environment? Do you want to develop skills you will find useful long after you have left school? There has never been a better time to study Geography. It leads to a qualification which links to many other subjects and is highly valued by employers.

## You will study:

- Restless Earth
- Population change
- Coastal Zones
- Urban environments
- Water on the land
- Tourism

## You will learn:

- Engaging and topical content
- A stimulating blend of traditional and contemporary Geography to suit students of all abilities
- the study of physical and human Geography in discrete, self-contained topic areas
- Map skills
- How to use ICT (Information and Communication Technology)
- How to collect and interpret data gained through fieldwork
- How to make decisions and solve problems

## Assessment:

There is a choice between two levels of entry: Foundation and Higher depending on the most appropriate route for the individual student. At Foundation level the grades available are G to C and at higher level the grades available are D to A\*. There are two examination papers and a local investigation, including fieldwork.

## Controlled Assessment:

You will complete one pieces of Controlled Assessment. It is a chance to investigate your surroundings and put to use the skills you have learnt throughout the course. This work will represent 25% of the GCSE.

## Where Geography can take you?

Geography fosters skills that are highly sought after by employers. There are a wide range of career areas for people with a Geography background including city planning, social work, market research, housing, retail, diplomacy, civil engineering, conservation, travel and much more.

# German GCSE: AQA 4668

## Why study German?

Studying a foreign language helps you to communicate in the rapidly shrinking world and enables you to learn more about your own language. Once you have learned one foreign language, acquiring a second or a third is much easier. Knowledge of a foreign language means you get more out of travel experiences as well as learning about other cultures. For some careers and courses in Higher Education a foreign language is essential.

## You will study German in relation to four topic areas:

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and Environment
- Work and Education

## Assessment:

You will take a final examination in Reading and Listening which are each worth 20% of the final grade. Writing and Speaking are assessed through controlled tests carried out throughout the course and are each worth 30% for listening and reading. Entry is available at both Foundation and Higher level for reading and listening.

Reading Paper: assessment tasks use material from signs, emails, web pages, letters, postcards, brochures, articles and narratives.

Listening Paper: messages, dialogues, announcements, discussions and narratives are recorded onto a CD. There are pauses to give you time to write your answers.

## Additional Opportunities:

It may be possible to gain a BA Language Flag Award in German towards the end of your course. The BA Language Flag Award is the British Airways language award which is used with Air Stewards and support staff to highlight their language skills.

There is a weekly lunchtime conversation group which provides extra practice in speaking German.

There is an annual trip to the German Christmas markets, which is primarily for students studying German in Key Stage four.

# Health and Social Care GCSE: Edexcel

This course is suitable for students with a keen interest in personal development, social care and children in early years.

The qualification consists of two units.

## **Unit 1: Understanding Personal Development and Relationships**

This unit is externally assessed through a 1 hour and 15 minutes written exam paper and worth 40% of the total GCSE course. In this unit you will learn about:

- Human growth and development
- Factors affecting human growth and development
- Effects of relationships on personal growth and development
- The effect of life events on personal development.

## **Unit 2: Exploring Health, Social Care and Early Years Provision**

This unit is internally assessed through completing a set task under controlled assessment conditions. In this unit you will learn about:

- The range of care needs of different groups
- How health care, social care and early years services are accessed and the barriers to access
- How health, social care and early years services are provided
- Workers in health, social care and early years
- Care values which underpin service provider interaction.

### **Progression:**

Completing this course will allow you to follow child care, health and child learning and development pathways at BTEC level 3 and equivalent.

# History A GCSE: OCR School History Project J415

## Why Study History?

History gives students an understanding of why other people think and act in different ways. It also helps them to ask questions properly and to express their opinions.

## What can I do with a History qualification?

History is a well respected discipline. History encourages students to infer information from sources and to recall facts. It demands strong written expression and the ability to look at different points of view. These transferable skills are highly valued in all careers such as Law, Media, Publishing, Accountancy and Education.

## Is History for me?

Are you ...

- Curious about the past and interested in how people lived?
- Keen to develop your writing, research and analytical skills?
- Willing to share and debate your ideas?
- Most of all, do you enjoy History?

## Assessment:

The course leads to a GCSE qualification which is assessed through a Controlled Assessment component and a written examination. The written examination counts for 75% of the marks and consists of a source and knowledge based paper (50%) on 'Medicine and Health through Time' and a source and knowledge based paper (25%) on 'American West 1840-1895'.

- The Controlled Assessment component counts for 25% of the marks and is based on a modern world study looking at 'The rise of Global Terrorism'

# ICT- Cambridge Nationals

The **Cambridge Nationals in ICT** will equip learners with sound ICT skills for everyday use and provide opportunities to develop in context those desirable, transferable skills such as planning, research and analysis, working with others or communicating technical concepts.

See below for an outline of the Levels and the wide variety of challenge available to our students in ICT.

**Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in ICT (120 GLH) J810**, requires 120 Guided learning hours and consists of Two Mandatory Units and two optional units

**Level 2 Cambridge National Diploma in ICT requires 240 Guided Learning Hours in total.** Consists of several engaging and practical units that allow students to explore several aspects of ICT and computing and Unit R0011 allows students to explore emerging technologies.

## Mandatory Units:

Unit R001: *Understanding computer systems* written paper OCR set and marked  
1 hour – 60 marks (60 UMS) Learners answer all question (Mandatory)

Unit R002: Using ICT to create business solutions (Mandatory)  
Although the above will be taken in core lessons they underpin the units of study below.

## Optional Units:

### Business Information systems

Unit R003: Handling data using spread sheets

Unit R004: Handling data using databases

### Creative Strand

Unit R005: Creating an interactive product using multimedia components

Unit R006: Creating digital images

Unit R007: Creating dynamic products using sound and vision

### Technical Strand

Unit R008: Introduction to computer programming

Unit R009: Exploring computer hardware and network

Unit R010: Developing control systems

## Learner Initiated Project

Unit R011: Understanding technology – a project approach

This unit will allow learners to develop their planning, research, presentation and analytical skills by undertaking a learner initiated-individual project with an ICT-related theme.

These qualifications will assess the application of ICT skills through their practical use. They will provide learners with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing their employability when they leave education, contributing to their personal development and future economic well-being.

They will also challenge all learners, including high attaining learners, by introducing them to demanding material and skills; encouraging independence and creativity; providing tasks that engage with the most taxing aspects of the National Curriculum (including data handling, modeling and programming).

The hands on approach that will be required for both teaching and learning will chime appropriately with the way young people use new technology and will underpin a highly valid approach to the assessment of their skills as is borne out by what teachers tell us.

The qualification design, including the range of units available, will allow learners the freedom to explore more deeply the things that interest them as well as providing good opportunity to enhance their learning in a range of curriculum areas.

# Music GCSE: AQA 4272

## Why study Music?

GCSE Music is suited to musicians who intend to /are considering taking this subject to further education. Musicians on the GCSE course will already have established skills on an instrument and will be taking instrumental tuition or will have displayed a large amount of flair during Key Stage 3. This option will give a broad overview of elements of Music – developing skills in all areas: Performance, Composition and Listening & Appraising.

## You will follow:

- Five areas of study through three strands of learning
- The areas of study are: Rhythm & Metre, Harmony & Tonality, Texture & Melody, Timbre & Dynamics, Structure & Form
- The three strands of learning are: Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music of the 20/21st Century, World Music
- These areas will be studied in relation to: Performance, Composition and Listening & Appraising

## You will learn:

- To further develop performance techniques and ensemble skills
- To critically evaluate performances of others – the information from which will support / inform your own performance standard
- How to develop personal instrumental skills and the importance of good practice discipline
- The process and recording of your own Compositions
- How to use ICT and technology to enhance your musicianship
- How to use musical vocabulary to reinforce musical understanding

## Assessment:

The AQA GCSE Music course (4272) allows musicians to pass with grades from A\* - G.

## Coursework:

This will be worth 80% of your overall result -

- 40% Performance - Both a Solo and Ensemble performance .
- 20% Listening & Appraising - A 1 hour written paper, assessing listening skills on musical vocabulary and techniques within the five areas of study.
- 20% Composition/Appraising - One piece composed exploring two or more of the areas of study, Compositions are notated, recorded and evaluated during two hours of controlled time.
- 20% Composing Music - A composition exploring two or more areas of study, which is recorded and evaluated.

## Examination:

You will sit a Listening & Appraising paper for 1 hour, which explores music from the 5 areas of study, with links to the three strands of learning. This examination is externally assessed as part of the final examination.



## **Physical Education: core course for all students**

The course reflects a range of sporting activities that can encourage young people to actively pursue an interest in physical activity and lead a healthy lifestyle beyond school. It includes traditional team sports such as football, netball, rugby and rounders and activities such as trampolining, boxercise, zumba, Howden boot camp and our new addition of the fitness suite.

All students currently take part in one hour of Physical Education per week; they are expected to wear clothing suitable for the activity as described in the school prospects and student planner.

Within the core course students have the opportunity to gain a certificate in various activities including Level 1 Sports Leader Award, Level 1 Dance Award and Junior Football Organisation Award; these are nationally recognized qualifications that enable successful candidates to lead small groups in simple sport and recreational activities whilst under the supervision of a tutor.

The qualifications include generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport; in addition it is a fun, practical qualification with no entrance requirements or final examinations.

Sports Leader candidates will be required to lead a minimum of 1 hour of sporting or recreational activity, for which they must be the sole organiser.

# Physical Education GCSE: OCR J586

## Why study GCSE Physical Education?

Students opting for this course should match at least some of the following criteria:

- Be a naturally talented sports performer who enjoys PE and is competent in a range of sporting activities outside of school
- A student who would enjoy the opportunity of studying both the practical and theoretical aspects of games
- Students who may be considering employment in an area where a knowledge of Physical Education would be an advantage
- Students who are equipped to deal with assessment by examination, rather than continuous assessment

## Practical

The practical element is assessed in terms of a student's ability to perform effectively under applied conditions in their four selected activities, using tactics or compositional techniques and observing rules and conventions of the activities.

Students are also assessed in terms of their ability to analyse performance in one of their chosen activities and how they can improve their lifestyle. Students have to assess strengths and weaknesses of both performance and lifestyle and, as a result of practice and training, show how the quality and effectiveness can be improved. Students are required to complete an analysis of performance and lifestyle as a means of recording their observations, analysis and conclusions.

Students are required to be assessed in four practical areas along with two pieces of coursework which stands for 60% of their overall final grade. With this in mind we offer a variety of different activities in the school curriculum however some require students to attend after school sessions.

It is a must that students actively play sport either in or outside of school in order to gain four practical marks. This can be any sport as long as it is on the criteria for the OCR syllabus.

We also run personal survival and an orienteering residential which generate high marks. Many different activities have been approved as practical performances: further details are obtainable from staff in the PE department.

## Theory:

The theory section is two papers lasting 1 hour. The aims of the papers are for students to show their understanding, apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations and to recall facts. The papers are split into multiple choice questions and open ended questions. The theory stands for 40% of the GCSE grade

## **Science GCSE: AQA Core Science Spec A – 4405**

This course is taken by most of the students as part of either the double or triple science options. It covers some of the basic principles of biology, chemistry and physics, but focuses in particular on how scientific developments impact upon society.

Students will also spend a significant amount of time developing their practical and analytical skills. Researching ideas, designing investigations, collecting and interpreting data and presenting findings are all important aspects of science. ICT is used to assist in these activities.

### **Year 10 topics include:**

Biology - Human systems, Health and disease, Environmental impact and Evolution.

Chemistry - The atom, Metals, Products from rocks, Oils and the Earth and atmosphere.

Physics - Energy and electricity, Radiation and the Universe.

### **Assessment**

Each topic is assessed by a 1 hour exam. Each topic is worth 25% of the final grade. Coursework has been replaced in Science by the Investigative Skills Assessment (ISA). This is carried-out during your normal science lessons and involves, planning investigations and the collecting and processing of primary and secondary data.

The ISA contributes 25% of your total marks.

This course is preparation for either the GCSE Additional or Triple science course studied in year 11 and does not on its own prepare you for AS/A level courses.

## **Additional Science – 4408**

The Additional science course follows on from the Core science, with a greater emphasis on explaining, theorising and modeling science. The specification provides students with a solid foundation for progression to AS and A-level sciences.

### **Year 11 topics include:**

Biology: Cells, Inheritance, Plants, Enzymes and Speciation

Chemistry: Structure and bonding, Rates of reaction, Energy and reactions

Physics: Forces and motion, Electricity, Radioactivity

### **Assessment**

Each topic is assessed by a 1 hour exam. Each topic is worth 25% of the final grade. Coursework has been replaced in Science by the Investigative Skills Assessment (ISA). This is carried-out during your normal science lessons and involves, planning investigations and the collecting and processing of primary and secondary data. The ISA contributes 25% of your total marks.

With the incorporation of Core science this will lead to a double award GCSE. This specification provides students with a solid foundation for progression to AS and A-level sciences.

# Applied Science and Applications of Applied Science; BTEC Level 1&2

## Course requirements:

Have self-motivation and the ability to work independently.

## BTEC- Principles in Applied Science

This is a one year vocational course. The course consists of 4 modules:

1. Chemistry and our Earth - Assignments
2. Energy and our Universe - Assignments
3. Biology and our Environment - Assignments
4. Principles of Applied Science - Exam

**Each module is worth 25% of the final grade.**

On successful completion of the course students will be awarded one of the following grades; Pass (equivalent to GCSE grade C), Merit (equivalent to GCSE grade B) or Distinction (equivalent to GCSE grade A) or level 1 pass (equivalent to GCSE grade F)

## Course description:

- Provide full-time learners with the opportunity to gain an appropriate vocational qualification prior to entering employment.
- Provide opportunities for learners to acquire technical and employability skills, knowledge and understanding which are transferable and will enable individuals to meet changing circumstances, in employment, provision or environment.
- Give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

## Progression:

Learners can progress onto the BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Applied Science, including the Forensic Science and Medical Science endorsed pathways. Learners can also progress onto a range of BTEC Level 2 National qualifications in related areas such as Beauty Therapy Science, Health and Social Care, Sport and Exercise Science, Engineering, Construction, Land-based, Pharmacy Services or Dental Technology.

Alternatively learners can progress to NVQ's such as the Laboratory and Associated Technical Activities or Laboratory Science. The underpinning knowledge, practical and vocational scientific skills learnt on the BTEC course will enhance and support the progression to a competency-based course.

# **Triple Science - (GCSE Core Science, Additional Science, and Further Additional Science) - AQA**

## **Course requirements:**

Science KS3 at L6 or above.

This is an ideal option for any students who are considering studying two or more Sciences at 'A' level. Anyone with ambitions to follow a Science based career such as healthcare professions, doctor, vet, engineering, RAF, chemistry etc. would be well advised to choose this option.

## **Course Description:**

Students who choose to follow the triple science course will extend the Year 10 Core Science and Year 11 Additional science courses to obtain three separate GCSE grades. The course is in addition to Core Science and Additional science, and for students who have a particular interest in Science. It would principally be beneficial for students hoping to study Science at a higher level post 16.

## **Assessment and progression:**

These will be examined as the core and additional science, with three 1 hour examination papers. These will be taken in the June of year 11. In addition there will be at least one further practical coursework (ISA) exercise further to those taken for Core and Additional Science.

# Sport BTEC Level 2 First Award

The BTEC level 2 first award in sport is equivalent to 1 GCSE grades A – C. It is a nationally recognised vocational qualification and can provide a good progression route to further college courses.

The course is suitable for students with a keen interest in all aspects of sport who might be considering that as a career pathway. You must be highly organised, prepared to learn in-depth sports science information, independent and prepared to work in mixed groups. Students with a secure level 5 or above in English are best suited to this course.

## You will learn:

Unit 1: Fitness for sport and exercise:

- Cardio – respiratory system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system
- How the body works in depth when we exercise
- Components of fitness and principles of training
- Training methods
- Fitness testing methods

Unit 2: Practical sports performance:

- Rules, regulations and scoring systems for two sports
- Be able to assess skills, techniques and tactics for two sports
- Review a sports performance

Unit 6: Leading sports activities:

- The attributes associated with successful sports leadership
- Planning and leading sports activities
- Review the planning and leading of sports activities.

## Assessment:

Students have a written external exam for unit 1. The other two units are assessed through assignments. Students are assessed at Pass, Merit or Distinction level for each unit completed and the final grade is awarded on aggregate.