



# ALL SAINTS

## CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ORARE LABORARE SERVIRE

# Year 9 Options handbook

## GCSE 2022– 2024



“I HAVE COME  
SO THAT YOU  
MAY HAVE LIFE—  
LIFE IN ALL ITS  
FULLNESS”

John 10:10

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# MESSAGE FROM YOUR HEAD OF YEAR

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It has been a privilege to guide and support you all over the last two years as you continue on your educational journey. This is a very important year for you as they are about to embark upon your GCSEs, and make your first decisions regarding your education. Over the coming weeks, students will be making a key decision about your future, and it is essential that this decision is made with the best intentions in mind.

You will receive lots of information about the options on offer, and will have the chance to speak to your teachers and ask questions about what the courses will entail. Please make the most of these opportunities and use them wisely to advise you in making the best decision possible.

I have been extremely impressed with the attitude that Year 9 have shown already, and I hope that you continue to show this same attitude and dedication in the weeks to come.

Mr Burke

# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

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Dear Year 9,

This is an incredibly exciting time where you are about to make some important decisions in choosing your GCSE option subjects. To make the right choice for you, over the next few weeks you will need to think carefully about your subjects and your future. The courses that you choose now, and the grades you achieve at the end of year 11, will open the door to your post-16 courses at Sixth Form. These therefore pave the way to your university destinations and then into your career.

Where many schools have narrowed their options choice offer considerably, at All Saints we are dedicated to offering a wide range of subjects. We are particularly proud of our new Music and Drama facilities which give our GCSE students an even better opportunity to succeed. Our Creative Media Suite also will allow you to explore lots of different software if you choose to take Art or Photography. Students do particularly well in their core subjects and academic prowess is something you will strive towards in all of your lessons.

You will continue to study the core subjects - English, Maths, Science and RE. Now is the time to choose 3 foundation subjects to continue into key stage 4. When you are choosing these, make sure that you have a good balance of subjects. We encourage you to choose subjects that you enjoy and will succeed in, but studying a *broad* range of subjects will help you to develop a variety of skills and knowledge and this will make sure that you keep your future choices open.

We aim to give you your first-choice subjects as far as we can, but know that this may not always be possible. You need to be willing to adapt and to have thought about your reserve subjects, so that you are prepared and happy for the final outcome. This will be discussed with you in detail in your interview with a member of SLT after Easter.

I hope that this booklet is useful in helping you to make your final decisions. Remember that this does not need to be a decision you make on your own — talk to your parents, older siblings and friends and your teachers who have all been through this process before. Make sure that you continue to work hard in all of your subjects as the skills and knowledge that you strengthen will undoubtedly help you into next year.

All the best,

Mr O'Neill



# Choosing your options

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You are now at the point of choosing the subjects you would like to study in years 10 and 11. You will need to consider all options available to you—what subjects do you enjoy? Which have you been successful in? Most importantly, which will be most useful to you in the future?

Over the next few weeks, you need to carefully consider your choices ensuring that you choose the right subjects for you. Before you make your final decision you should:

- ◆ Read this booklet carefully, even the subjects you have less interest in
- ◆ Get advice from parents, older siblings/ friends, teachers
- ◆ Consider which subjects match your ambitions
- ◆ Think carefully about where your strengths lie and how these will lend themselves to each of your choices
- ◆ Remember that everyone's plans can change— choose a broad and balanced range of subjects to keep doors open later in life.
- ◆ Listen carefully to feedback from your teachers at Parents' Evening
- ◆ Prepare questions with your parents to bring to Options Evening
- ◆ Bring concrete reasons for choosing subjects when you meet the Senior Team to discuss your subjects

## DO NOT:

- ◆ Choose or dismiss a subject because of the teacher
- ◆ Choose or dismiss a subject because of your friends
- ◆ Panic if you are confused—speak to your tutor, Head of Year or teacher.

# Key dates

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Tuesday 22nd March

Thursday 21st April

Thursday 5th May

Monday 9th May

Wednesday 11th May

Options Workshop

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Year 9 Options Evening

Options choice deadline

SLT interviews

# Overview

In Key Stage 4 you will study course leading to the following qualifications:

## Compulsory subjects

Subject (Exam board/ course number)	Number of GCSE qualifications	Number of lessons per week
English (AQA)	1x English Language GCSE 1x English Literature GCSE	6
Mathematics (Edexcel)	1x Mathematics GCSE	5
Combined Science: Trilogy (AQA 8464) (unless Separate Science chosen)	2x Science GCSE	6 (2 lessons per science)
Religious Studies (WJEC)	1x RE GCSE	3

## Optional subjects

You will pick 3 subjects from the following options to take in addition to the compulsory subjects above. Course details for each of these options are detailed over the next few pages.

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## Additional Information

All students will have 1 Core PE lesson per week and continue to follow their PSHE curriculum as standard.





## English

GCSE English at All Saints covers both English Language and English Literature. Pupils will receive a separate GCSE grade for each subject.

We follow the AQA GCSE Curriculum for both subjects.

English Language consists of two exam papers which assess reading comprehension and writing skills, as well as a Speaking & Listening component (non-assessed).

English Literature consists of two exam papers which assess how well pupils know, and can explain and analyse: a novel, an anthology of poetry, a Shakespeare text, a modern drama text, and unseen poetry.



## Combined Science



All students, regardless of whether they choose Separate Science or not, will study Science at GCSE. The core science course is called Combined Science: Trilogy and follows the AQA specification.

At the end of year 11, students will sit 6 75 minute assessments.

Biology Paper 1 and 2

Chemistry Paper 1 and 2

Physics Paper 1 and 2

Much of the content overlaps with Separate Science. Although it is covered in slightly less breadth, the level of challenge is the same. Students will gain 2 Science GCSEs at the end of this course.

## Mathematics

GCSE Mathematics at All Saints follows the Edexcel Curriculum which assesses the four key areas of Algebra, Shape & Space, Number and Data Handling.

The GCSE exam is made up of three 1h 30min papers:

Paper 1 Non-Calculator

Paper 2 Calculator

Paper 3 Calculator

All three of these papers are out of 80 marks. Students sit either the Foundation Tier (which is capped at Grade 5) or the Higher Tier – this will be decided during Year 11.



## Religious Education



Religious Studies follows the Eduqas, Route B Specification.

All students will sit three papers.

Paper 1 (Foundational Catholic Theology) explores the origins of creation alongside the theological issues of the existence of evil.

Paper 2 (Applied Catholic Theology) explores the different beliefs on Life after Death and Sin and Forgiveness.

Paper 3 (World Religion: Judaism) explores both Jewish beliefs and practices.

# Art & Design

## Course Overview

If you enjoy making art and want to develop your practical skills in a range of media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics, Art & Design at GCSE is a great choice. The transferable skills you will gain, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of other subjects and careers. Art encourages self-expression, can build confidence and a sense of individual identity. It can help to develop critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret the world around us. Art can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work, giving you a qualification that could lead to a career in the creative industries or knowledge and skills that are transferable to other careers.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Edexcel

*Assessment:* Art and Design is marked against the Edexcel marksheet and four assessment objectives. A01, A02, A03, A04 (Developing ideas, refining work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions)

## Course Units

*Component 1 (COURSEWORK)- 60% of final grade*

In year 10 you will explore the topic 'Organic forms' and develop a journey of art and design from start to finish. The theme allows you to explore different materials, techniques and processes and a series of final outcomes, including a Surreal piece in clay.

In Year 11 you will explore the topic 'Identity, disguise and distortion.' You will work independently in this project by making creative decisions, choosing your own artists to study and developing ideas based on your individual sub theme. You will build a portfolio of artwork based on these topics, investigating artists and experimenting with a diverse range of media including digital art, 3D, drawing, painting, printing, collage, photography and relief.

*Component 2 (EXAM)- 40% of final grade*

Externally Set Assignment – Set in January of Year 11. You will prepare a project for this exam (Developing ideas, refining your work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions) 10 hour exam which is two school days in April to create your final piece

You will be marked against the Edexcel Assessment objectives throughout the course and finally be a moderator.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* Two year course (3 lessons a week)

*Entry Requirements:* To study Art and Design you need to be

- \* Passionate and creative
- \* Dedicated
- \* Can work independently or as part of a group
- \* Can work well to meet deadlines
- \* Critical and reflective of your own work
- \* Confident in interpreting, analysing and describing artwork in depth

*Beyond GCSE:*

London is a leading creative capital city, which attracts talent and enterprise from all over the world. The creative sector in London is vast and brings billions of pounds to the economy.

Studying Art and Design at GCSE and beyond can lead to a wide range of creative careers. Careers in the arts include jobs as an Architect, Designer, Illustrator, Teacher, Community Arts Worker, Exhibition/Set designer, Fashion Designer, Fine Artist, Printmaker, Jewellery Maker, Sculptor, Web designer, art ther-



# Citizenship

## Course Overview

GCSE Citizenship introduces students to key Citizenship issues and helps them develop a practical understanding of what it means to be a citizen today. They will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to think critically and play a positive role in public life.

Citizenship will allow students to deepen their knowledge of democracy and government, the law, rights and responsibilities and how we live together in society. Citizenship will also allow students to develop many transferrable skills such as evaluating evidence, debating ideas and making persuasive arguments.

## Course details

*Exam board:* AQA

*Assessment:* Two 1 hour 45 minute examinations each worth 50% of final grade. This course is graded from 100% examination. Students will participate in taking citizenship action investigation which they will be questioned on in Paper 1.



## Course Units

### *Paper 1*

**Section A: Active Citizenship.** Developed around principle of how citizens can make a difference in society. They will explore through case studies and their own investigation how citizen actions are able to make a difference in society. This will involve their own research, action and reflection.

**Section B: Politics and Participation.** Gives the student understanding of the political process in the UK. Through this they will understand how to resolve issues, bring about change and empower citizens to be the heart of our society.

### *Paper 2*

**Section A: Life in Modern Britain.** The make up and dynamics of contemporary society, what it means to be British, the role of the media and the UK's role on the world stage e.g. NATO and censorship of the media.

**Section B: Rights and Responsibilities.** The nature of laws, rights and responsibilities within the UK. This has a global aspect due to the nature of international laws, treaties and agreements by which the UK abides.

## Important information

*Start date:* September

*Duration:* 2 years (3 lesson per week)

*Entry Requirements:* Citizenship is a course that requires students to have shown an active interest in the Humanities subjects. Students will be required to write independently and cover a range of topics meaning students will need to take an pro active role in their studies.

*Beyond GCSE:* Citizenship is a great choice for students interested in progressing on to study Politics, History, Geography, International Relations etc. at A-Level and beyond. It also provides many transferrable skills that can be used in a variety of other subject areas.

Careers that would benefit from Citizenship GCSE would include:

Journalist, Reporter, Teacher, Civil Servant, Member of Parliament, Government Advisor, Charity Executive, Lawyer, Politician, Public Relations Officer, Advertising, Marketing and Business.



# Computer Science

## Course Overview

Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

## Course details

*Exam board:* OCR

*Assessment:* You are assessed through 2 non-calculator written exam papers. Both of these are

Paper 1: Computer Systems (1h 30min)

Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (1h 30min)

## Course Units

### *Component 1: Computer systems*

Introduces students to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with computer science.

### *Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming*

Students apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 1. They develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* 2 years

*Entry Requirements:* Students need to be proficient in Mathematics to access this course as well as have a good ICT skills.

*Beyond GCSE:* A GCSE in Computer Science opens up the opportunity to study a number of courses in sixth form. Examples of courses that you need Computer Science qualifications for include:

- ◇ A Level Computer Science
- ◇ Degree in Computer science
- ◇ Apprenticeships in Computer Science within industry

*Job options:* Careers in Computer Science exist within most big businesses as the skills developed help improve the technological infrastructure and therefore increase efficiency.

Examples of roles include: Cyber security analyst; Data analyst; Forensic computer analyst; Machine learning engineer; Software engineer; Systems analyst; UX designer, Web designer

There is a huge range in salary you would expect from a career in computing. Starting salaries for a new graduate begin at £30,000 and can rise to as high as £100,000 per year.



# Drama

## Course Overview

Drama GCSE promotes involvement in and enjoyment of theatre, as performers and/or designers. It provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Learners will investigate a practitioner or genre of drama, work collaboratively to develop ideas to communicate meaning and experiment with dramatic conventions, forms and techniques to produce and realise a piece of original theatre. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the performance of an extract from a published performance text. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, in a written examination.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Eduqas



### *Component 1: Devising theatre*

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. Learners must produce a realisation of their piece of devised theatre and a portfolio of supporting evidence.

*Assessment:* Devising/Performing  
Internally assessed. 40%

### *Component 2: Performing from a text*

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the school. Learners participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts.

*Assessment:* Performing from a Text  
Externally assessed by a visiting examiner. 20%

### *Component 3: Written Exam*

Section A: Series of essay questions on a Set Text, studied over the two year course.

Section B: Live Theatre Review One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

*Assessment:* Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes . 40%

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* 2 years

*Entry Requirements:* A love for acting and working with others. An interest in reading and writing is desirable!

### *Beyond GCSE:*

Drama promotes **communication skills, teamwork, dialogue, negotiation, socialization**. It stimulates the **imagination and creativity**; it develops a better understanding of **human behaviour, tolerance and empathy** with situations that might seem distant.

Drama helps prepare students to live and work in a world that is increasingly **team-orientated** rather than hierarchical.

Drama helps with **confidence, self-presentation, time-management, organisational skills, self-awareness and self-discipline** all desirable **transferable skills** in an employee for any job.

*Jobs linked to drama GCSE:* Arts administrator, Broadcast presenter, Film director, Further education teacher, Higher education lecturer, Secondary school teacher, Theatre stage manager, costume designer, lighting designer, drama therapist, actor, choreographer and cinematographer.



# English as an Additional Language

## Course Overview

This course is designed for students who do not speak English as their first language and wish to have support developing their speaking, reading and writing skills. It is important to note that this course does not count as a GCSE, so if you are choosing this you must be prepared to drop a GCSE course.

This course is taught in small groups. We follow the AQA Step Up To English course, which is an Entry Level course. In lessons, you will work on your spelling, grammar, punctuation, you will develop your reading and writing skills and will improve your spoken English. Teachers will identify the areas which you need to improve upon and focus on these during lessons. Students in the past have studied topics such as: leisure, sports, storytelling, music, gothic fiction and hobbies. Reading and writing about these topics gives you a chance to practice your reading and writing whilst also developing your vocabulary in different subject areas.

If you are an EAL student and want to choose 3 GCSE options, but you still want to receive support from the EAL department, you do not need to select this course and we will continue to support you in afterschool homework clubs. However, if you know that your language skills need improving, you may benefit from choosing this option so that your grades in other subjects improve.





# Food and Nutrition

## Course Overview

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition enables students to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. They will learn about food from around the world and develop an understanding of where food comes from (food provenance) with the challenges surrounding food security. They will master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. Students will develop transferable skills such as: analysis, evaluation, communication skills, working independently and the ability to interpret information and data.

## Course details

**Exam board:** AQA

**Assessment:** Food and Nutrition is marked against the AQA marksheet using four assessment objectives.

Demonstrate and apply *knowledge* and understanding of nutrition, food, cooking and preparation. *Plan, prepare, cook and present* dishes. *Analyse* and *evaluate* different aspects of nutrition, food, cooking and preparation.

## Course Units

There are five core topics and coursework (NEA1 and NEA2) to be covered on the course:

### Year 10:

Diet, Nutrition and Health  
Food Safety  
Food Choice  
Food Science

### Year 11:

Food provenance  
Non examination assessment (NEA 1 and NEA 2)

### *Assessment :*

**50%** is a 2 hour written exam which will assess your knowledge based on all the five core topics above. (Year 11)

**15%** is the NEA 1 (non-examination assessment) which is to plan, conduct and evaluate a scientific food investigation. (Year 11)

**35%** is the NEA 2 (non-examination assessment) to research, plan, conduct and evaluate a **food preparation** task (including a 3 hour practical cooking exam). (Year 11).

## Important information

**Start date:** September 2022

**Duration:** Two year course

**Entry Requirements:** To study food and Nutrition, you must :

- enjoy **experimenting** with different recipes, ingredients and equipment to make food dishes
- be **curious** about how food products are made and how they work on a scientific level
- want to develop your organisational skills
- enjoy **asking others** about your food products and develop adaptations based on their feedback
- enjoy **problem solving** and developing realistic, scientific and creative solutions

You also need to be confident in analysing and evaluating dishes you have made in depth as part of your written non examination assessment.

### *Beyond GCSE:*

The food & drink industry is one of the UK's largest manufacturing sectors. There are hundreds of job roles within the industry such as research, new product development, purchasing, production and manufacturing, Food Science, Food Technologist, Teaching, Product Development, Nutrition and Public Health, Food marketing, Catering, Agricultural science, Dietician, Sports Science, Food stylist, Food Retailing and Biochemist.



# French

## Course Overview

Language GCSE qualifications are incredibly valuable. Holding such a certificate demonstrates a high level of perseverance and willingness to learn a new skill to employers, as well as being a rewarding skill which you can make use of throughout your life.

In studying French GCSE you will learn how to communicate using another global language. You will learn about the French culture and you will ultimately become more employable in the future.

## Course details

*Exam board:* EDEXCEL

*Assessment:* All assessments have a Foundation and a Higher tier.

The course assesses through the following components (25% each):

Paper 1: Listening and understanding examination

Paper 2: Speaking examination

Paper 3: Reading and understanding examination

Paper 4: Writing examination

## Course Units

*Theme 1:* Identity and culture ( family, free-time, technology, food, leisure)

*Theme 2:* Local, national, international and global areas of interest ( Home and region, social and global issues)

*Theme 3:* Current and future study and employment (Education and Work)

*Theme 4:* International and global dimensions



## Important information

*Start date:* September

*Duration:* 2 years– 3 lessons a week

*Entry Requirements:* A good understanding of the language and grammar is needed. It is essential to have the capacity to memorise both vocabulary and grammar easily.

French requires high commitment in the learning of the 4 skills as well as an interest in the French culture. Students accepted in the course must have studied the language in KS3 to ensure that they have the foundations already to succeed.

*Beyond GCSE:* Looking beyond GCSE study, some UK universities ask for a modern foreign language at GCSE or above as part of their entrance requirements, even if the student is not planning to study a language. They feel that proof of studying a language shows great aptitude and flexibility.

Many employers look favourably upon a candidate offering a foreign language, particularly in light of globalisation.

Studying French at GCSE can lead to enhance your linguistic and communication skills at A-level. A modern language is useful in the world of business, leisure, tourism and education.

# Geography

## Course Overview

GCSE Geography helps students to develop a clear understanding of the human and physical elements of our planet. They will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the way the world works and encourage them to become global citizens. Students will develop their understanding of hazards formation and impacts, how our world has changed over time economically, how the UK has changed physical and future challenges our planet faces. Geography will encourage pupils to improve on transferrable skills such as assessing outcomes, evaluating projects/systems, and analysing data.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Edexcel B

*Assessment:* Three 1 hour 30 minute examinations: Paper 1 and 2 are weighted at 37.5% each, whereas paper 3 is weighted at 25%.

This course is 100% examination.

## Course Units

### Paper 1—Global Geographical Issues.

*Topic 1:* Hazardous Earth

*Topic 2:* Development dynamics

*Topic 3:* Challenges of an urbanising world

### Paper 2— UK Geographical Issues

*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.

### Paper 3—People and environmental issues: Making Geographical Decisions

*Topic 7:* People and the biosphere

*Topic 8:* Forests under threat

*Topic 9:* Consuming energy resources

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* 2 year course

*Entry Requirements:* GCSE Geography is a course which requires the pupil to have a vested interest in the subject. The course requires students to work independently and write extensive, evaluative answers. Students who wish to be accepted on this course have to show these skills in abundance.

*Beyond GCSE:* Geography GCSE is the first stepping stone if you wish to take the subject as an A-Level, and subsequently can be taken further into degree level.

Careers which would benefit from a degree in Geography include:

Disaster management; Politics; Town planning; Travel and tourism; Education; Law; Journalism; Charitable organisations



# History

## Course Overview

GCSE History develops and extends student's knowledge and understanding of key historical events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history. They will engage in historical enquiry, developing them into independent thinkers and allowing them to think critically and reflectively about the world.

GCSE History students will gain a better awareness of why people, events and developments have historical significance and how varied the interpretations of our past can be. They will gain many transferable skills and be able to better understand the wide diversity of human experience and why society exists as it does today.

## Course Units

**Paper 1:** Thematic study and historic environment **Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000-present and Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city**

*Looking at the nature of crime and what is criminal, policing, trials and punishment and it's purpose through time. The Whitechapel section focuses on crime and policing in Victorian London, with a focus on the Jack the Ripper murders.*

**Paper 2:** Period study & British depth study **Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91 & Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509-40**

*The Cold War topic looks the tension between the USA and the USSR and how close the world really came to nuclear war. The Henry VIII topic looks at the era of the King who had six wives and how he navigated power in England.*

**Paper 3:** Modern depth study **The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad**

*Looking at the civil rights movements of the 1950's and 60's in America. Students then cover the unfolding of military involvement in Vietnam and the huge public reaction in America itself.*



## Course details

**Exam board:** Edexcel Pearson GCSE (9-1)

**Assessment:** This course is graded from 100% examination—through three exams.

Paper 1 (1h 15min) - 30%

Paper 2 (1h 45min) - 40%

Paper 3 (1hr 20min) - 30%

## Important information

**Start date:** September 2022

**Duration:** 2 years

**Entry Requirements:** GCSE History students should have shown an active interest and ability in History at KS3. Students will be required to work independently and cover a range of topics meaning students will need to take an proactive role in their studies.

**Beyond GCSE:** History is an excellent general subject that is viewed highly by employers and higher educators. It also provides many transferable skills that can be used in a variety of other subject areas, such as debating, thinking critically and coming to a justified conclusion.

Careers that would specifically benefit from a History GCSE would include:

Historian, Archaeologist, Journalist, Reporter, Teacher, Civil Servant, Member of Parliament, Government Advisor, Lawyer, Museum Curator, Academic Researcher.

# Music

## Course Overview

GCSE Music has three engaging components which are assessed through practical performances (30%), compositions (30%) and one externally examined paper (40%). Students will explore a wide variety of music focusing on the following four categories; **Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, and Fusions** where they will study 8 set pieces and explore wider listening. The set works enable students to conduct in-depth studies into different musical styles and genres, and put them in a wider context. Students will learn to perform, compose (using the latest Apple Mac computers with Logic Pro and Sibelius software) and appreciate different types of music. Students taking Music will receive 30 minutes free 1-1 tuition on their instrument each week.



## Course Details

There are three main aspects to the assessment of Music GCSE:

Solo & Ensemble performance - 30%

Composition x2—30%

Listening and Appraising Exam—40%

### Assessment Objectives:

AOS1: Instrumental Music (1700-1820)

- Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No.5
- Beethoven: Piano Sonata No 8

AOS2: Vocal Music

- Purcell: Music for a While
- Freddie Mercury: Killer Queen

AOS3: Music for Stage and Screen

- Stephen Schwartz: Defying Gravity
- John Williams: Star Wars

AOS4: Fusions

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* 2 years

*Entry Requirements:* To succeed in Music GCSE, students need a basic understanding of music notation and experience learning an instrument (with a teacher - preferably not self taught).

### Beyond GCSE:

You don't have to go on to be a professional musician after taking GCSE Music. Of course, this is an exciting option. As well as a well-rounded and academic subject, music also develops highly desirable interpersonal skills which universities will look for when students apply for further education or employment. You should take Music if you enjoy it as you will be willing to put in practice time and will do well!

Music helps with **confidence, resilience, time-management, organisation, leadership** and **self-discipline** all desirable transferable skills in an employee for any job.

### Careers directly linked to music:

Musician, Musical Director, Songwriter, Orchestrator, Lyricist, Producer, Conductor, Teacher, Event manager.

# Music Technology

## Course Overview

The aim of this course is to provide learners with the knowledge and range of skills needed to progress towards being able to operate successfully as producers/composers. Students will gain significant skills on Logic Pro and cover a range of production and arrangement techniques. There is a focus on contemporary/popular music, however students will have the freedom to arrange in whatever style they chose for most of the course.

Although instrumental skills will be beneficial, they are not required in order to take this course. However, students must enjoy working on computers.

## Course details

*Exam board:* RSL - Level 2 Certificate in Technology and Composition for Music Practitioners (Technology and Composition)



### *Assessment:*

Coursework only - no written exam.

Two internally assessed units. One externally assessed unit.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* At least 1 year (6 lessons per week)

*Entry Requirements:* No specific musical experience required. Understanding of the keyboard is desirable. Students must enjoy working on computers and have an interest in sound production and manipulation and creating modern music.

### *Beyond GCSE:*

Sound production; Sound engineering; Project management; Composer/Arranger

## Course Units

### *201ta - Musical Knowledge (4 units)*

Internally assessed coursework

- Identify and describe contrasting musical styles
- Recognise and discuss key musical elements

### *203ta - Music Sequencing and Production (8 units)*

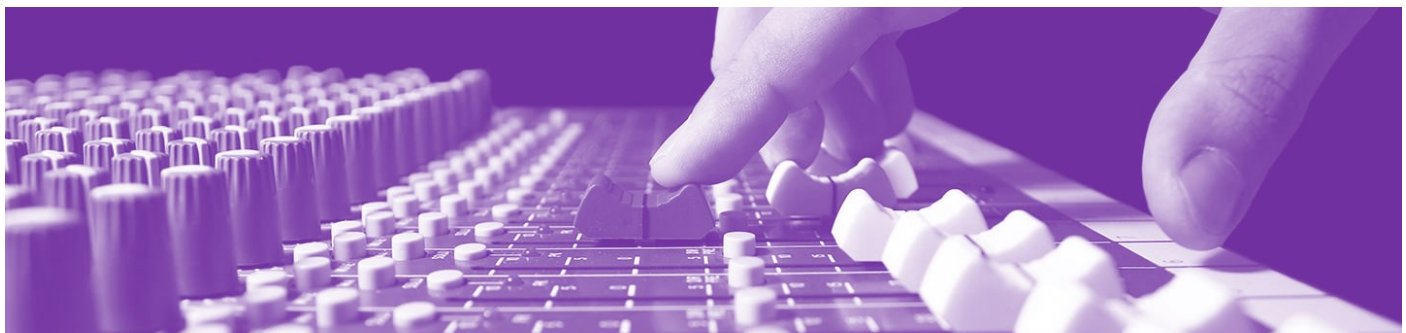
Externally assessed coursework.

- Plan a music production project
- Demonstrate use of DAW software to create a music production project
- Reflect on the music production project and consider ways to improve future endeavours

### *207ta - Using a DAW (8 credits)*

Internally assessed coursework

- Describe the operation of Digital Audio Workstation (DAW software) – Logic Pro
- Demonstrate the skills to use a keyboard to input and edit music
- Evaluate their work and consider ways to further enhance their skills



# Photography

## Course Overview

A GCSE in photography will involve producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. Students will complete a portfolio which can be chosen from a range of topics including location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, film or animation and fashion photography. Students will also need to develop their drawing and annotation skills as they are key components of the course. The drawing may include sketches and plans of ideas or story boards for a photoshoot.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Edexcel

*Assessment:* Photography is marked against the Edexcel marksheet and four assessment objectives.

A01, A02, A03, A04 (Developing ideas, refining work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions)

## Course Units

*Component 1 (COURSEWORK)- 60% of final grade*

In year 10 you will explore two topics and develop a journey of Photography from start to finish. The themes allow you to explore many photography skills including digital manipulation, portraiture, black and white photography, studio photography, photograms, cyanotypes and photo-weaving. In Year 11 you will explore the topic 'Identity' working independently by making creative decisions, choosing your own artists to study and developing ideas based on your individual sub theme. You will build a portfolio of digital work based on these topics, investigating artists and experimenting with a diverse range of photography styles and techniques.

*Component 2 (EXAM)- 40% of final grade*

Externally Set Assignment – Set in January of Year 11. You will prepare a project for this exam (Developing ideas, refining your work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions) 10 hour exam which is two school days in April to create your final photography piece

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

*Duration:* Two year course

*Entry Requirements:*

To study Art and Photography you need to be—

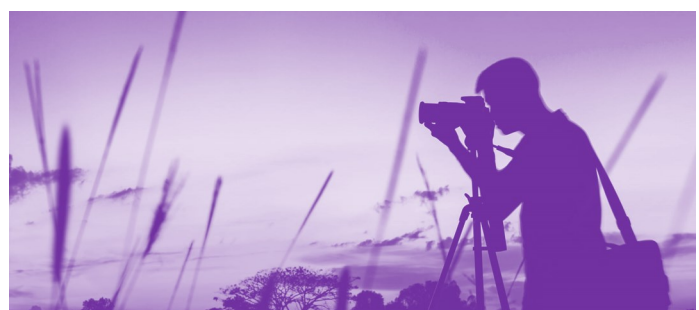
- Passionate and creative
- Dedicated
- Can work independently or as part of a group
- Can work well to meet deadlines

You also need to be confident interpreting, analysing and describing artwork in depth both in writing and verbally.

*Beyond GCSE:*

London is a leading creative capital city, which attracts talent and enterprise from all over the world. The creative sector in London is vast and brings billions of pounds to the economy.

Studying Photography at GCSE and beyond can lead to a wide range of creative careers. Careers in the arts include jobs as a professional photographer, fashion and Photographic Stylist, Commercial/ Advertising Photographer, Editorial and press photographer, Graphic Designer, Animator, roles within Film and Television, Forensic photography, Sports Photographer and many more.



# Separate Science

## Course Overview

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics provides in-depth foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. Through both Science routes, students develop observational, practical and problem solving skills through required practical activities

Separate Science offers a more in-depth exploration of each science than core Combined Science. Whilst the same topics are covered, in Separate Science students go into a lot more depth. As such, they are more adequately prepared for studying A-Level post GCSE.

## Course details

**Exam board:** AQA (8461, 8462, 8463)

**Assessment:** Two 1 hour 45 minute examinations for each Science (6 in total). This course is graded from 100% examination.

**Qualifications:** 3 GCSEs achieved in GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

## Course Units

### Biology (1 x GCSE)

Cell biology	Homeostasis and response
Organisation	Inheritance, variation and evolution
Infection and response	Ecology
Bioenergetics	

### Chemistry (1 x GCSE)

Atomic structure and the periodic table	The rate and extent of chemical change
Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter	Organic chemistry
Quantitative chemistry	Chemical analysis
Chemical changes	Chemistry of the atmosphere
Energy changes	Using resources.

### Physics (1 x GCSE)

Energy	Waves
Electricity	Magnetism and electromagnetism
Particle model of matter	Space physics
Atomic structure	
Forces	

## Important information

**Start date:** September.

**Duration:** 2 years. 3 lessons for each science.

**Entry Requirements:** Separate science is an extremely intense course designed to adequately prepare students for A Levels in Science and for those who intend to study a Science at university. Students accepted onto the course should be performing highest in the year group for Science and working at a grade 6 or above.

**Beyond GCSE:** Careers that require Separate Sciences as a pre-cursor to relevant degrees include the following:

Medicine, Veterinary Sciences and Animal Care, Astronomy, Astrology, Teaching, Psychology, Psychiatry, Forensics, Engineering, Microbiology





# Spanish

## Course Overview

Language GCSE qualifications are incredibly valuable. Holding such a certificate demonstrates a high level of perseverance and willingness to learn a new skill to employers, as well as being a rewarding skill which you can make use of throughout your life.

In studying Spanish GCSE you will learn how to communicate using another global language. You will learn about the Spanish culture and you will ultimately become more employable in the future.

## Course details

*Exam board:* EDEXCEL

*Assessment:* All assessments have a Foundation and a Higher tier.

The course assesses through the following components (25% each):

Paper 1: Listening and understanding examination

Paper 2: Speaking examination

Paper 3: Reading and understanding examination

Paper 4: Writing examination

## Course Units

*Theme 1:* Identity and culture ( family, free-time, technology, food, leisure)

*Theme 2:* Local, national, international and global areas of interest ( Home and region, social and global issues)

*Theme 3:* Current and future study and employment (Education and Work)

*Theme 4:* International and global dimensions



## Important information

*Start date:* September

*Duration:* 2 years– 3 lessons a week

*Entry Requirements:* A good understanding of the language and grammar is needed. It is essential to have the capacity to memorise both vocabulary and grammar easily.

Spanish requires high commitment in the learning of the 4 skills as well as an interest in the Spanish culture. Students accepted in the course must have studied the language in KS3 to ensure that they have the foundations already to succeed.

*Beyond GCSE:* Looking beyond GCSE study, some UK universities ask for a modern foreign language at GCSE or above as part of their entrance requirements, even if the student is not planning to study a language. They feel that proof of studying a language shows great aptitude and flexibility.

Many employers look favourably upon a candidate offering a foreign language, particularly in light of globalisation.

Studying Spanish at GCSE can lead to enhance your linguistic and communication skills at A-level. A modern language is useful in the world of business, leisure, tourism and education.

# Sports Studies

## Course Overview

OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies is vocational qualifications at Level 1/2 for students aged 14–16. This Physical Education course is designed to provide you with the opportunity to enjoy and understand the benefits of many different aspects of sport. These include participation, Olympics/Paralympics, sporting values, sports industry, sports leadership and many more.

Those who study this course will be encouraged to think for themselves about the study of sport and the application to real life practical sport, leadership and evaluation of the skills required there.

## Course details

*Exam board:* OCR Cambridge National

*Assessment:*

*Practical coursework (25% of overall grade)*

Students choose 2 sports (one individual sport and one team sport) from a wide range of activities. They are assessed on their performance ability in each area and these marks are put forward to their final grade.

Due to the course comprising of 25% practical assessment students are expected to participate in extra-curricular sporting activities across the two year course in order to ensure they meet the standard required for an acceptable practical mark and consequent Cambridge National grade.

*Written coursework (50% of overall grade)*

Students will study a selection from the following units:

- \* Sport and the media
- \* Sport leadership
- \* Working in the sport industry
- \* Developing knowledge and skills in outdoor activities

This will comprise of written coursework that will be completed predominantly through the use of ICT.

*Theoretical exam (25% of overall grade)*

Within the theoretical aspect students will study the following unit:

- \* Contemporary issue in sport

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2022

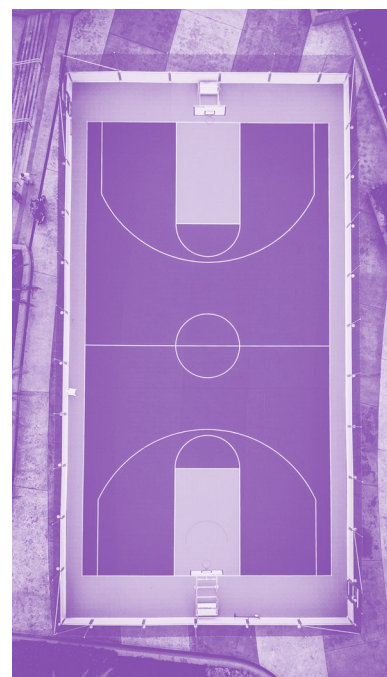
*Duration:* At least 1 year

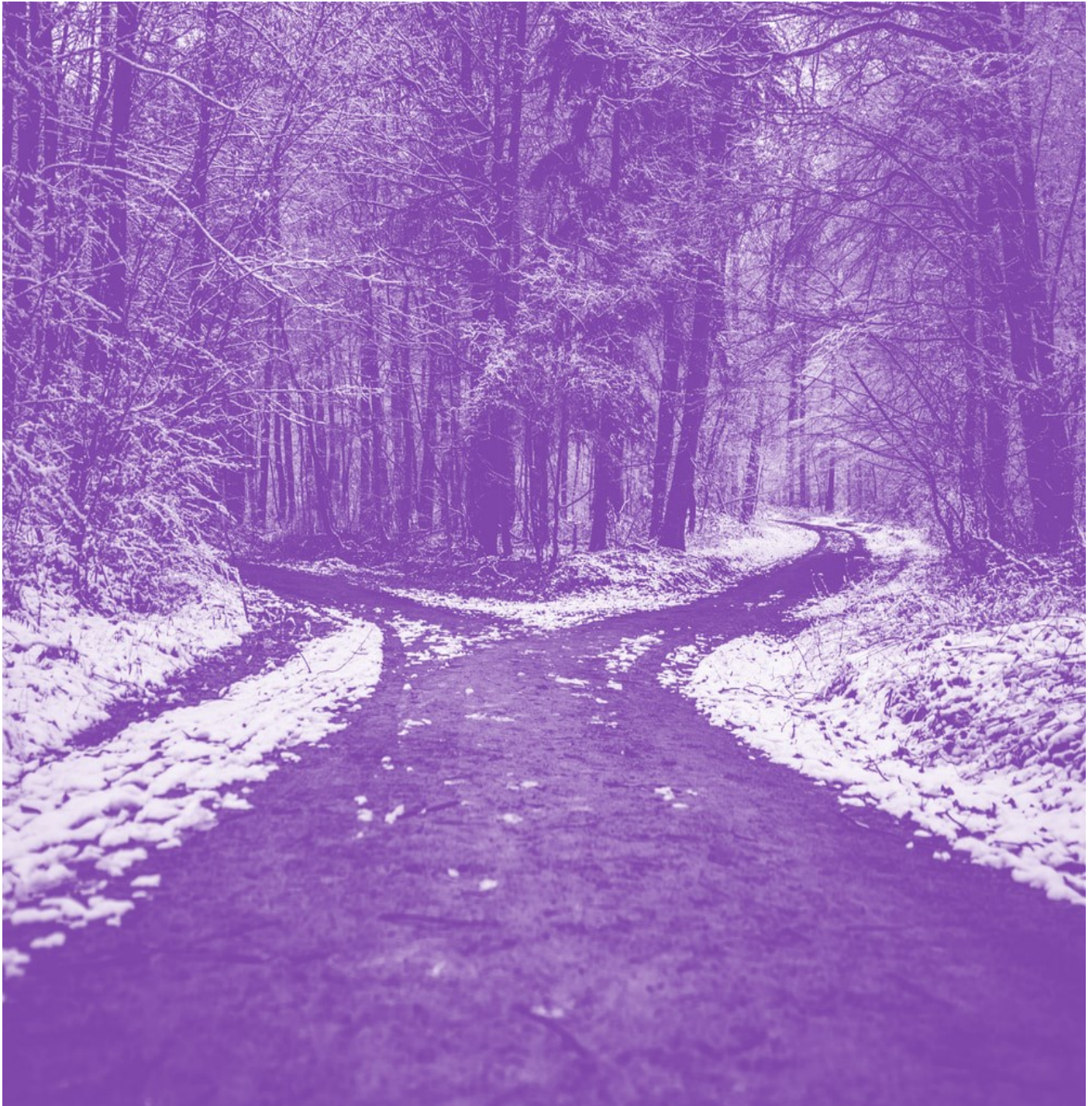
*Entry Requirements:* Students must show an interest in sport both inside and outside of lessons. They will need to appreciate the importance of sport within society and must have examples they can use of their own experiences within their written work.

Students must be proficient in ICT skills as 50% of the course is assessed by coursework.

*Beyond GCSE:* Students who complete this course will open the doors to a range of courses/careers including the following:

BTEC Level 3 in Sport; Physiotherapist; Referee/ Umpire; Sports Manager; Sports Medic; Sport/Fitness instructor; Dietician/Nutritionist; Coach/Trainer; Teacher.





“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I,  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference”

*Robert Frost*



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