



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' ACADEMY

'Be Inspired'



Year 9

Option Booklet

2023 - 2024



NOTTINGHAM GIRLS' ACADEMY

Principal: Mr D Tungate
PA to the Principal: Ms M Brown

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Dear Parent or Carer

We have reached the point in your child's secondary education, where they will have some choice over the courses they will study in years 10 and 11. The table below briefly outlines where there will be some choice around courses of study at key stage 4.

Subject	Notes
English Language	1 GCSE: No tiers of entry. No coursework. 100% exam.
English Literature	1 GCSE: No tiers of entry. No coursework. 100% exam.
Mathematics	1 GCSE: Higher and foundation tiers. 100% exam.
Triple Science	3 GCSEs: All students will study biology, chemistry and physics. Students will follow the triple science pathway unless they choose to opt out. Students will have another opportunity to opt out of triple science and study combined science instead, at the end of year 10.
Geography or History or Spanish	All students will study history, geography or Spanish. Students who are on the EBACC pathway will study Spanish and either History or Geography.
Options	Students on the EBACC pathway will select one additional option subject. Students not on the EBACC pathway will select two additional options subjects.
PE	All students will continue to take part in PE lessons.

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

The EBacc is made up of subjects that teach a broad range of academic knowledge and skills that are considered by higher and further education establishments and many employers as essential. A study by the University College London Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc, provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

To attain a strong pass in the EBacc, pupils must achieve a grade 5 or higher in the following GCSEs:

- English Language or English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography or History
- A modern foreign language (Spanish at Nottingham Girls' academy)

A standard pass can be achieved with a grade 4 or higher in each of the above subjects.

At Nottingham Girls' Academy, we are aspirational for all our students and seek every opportunity to give each and every one of our students the best possible life chances. If your child is on the EBACC pathway but you feel strongly that this is not right for them, you must put this in writing to me at jmora@nottinghamgirlsacademy.org.

Science Pathways

All students will work towards achieving separate GCSEs in biology, physics & chemistry. This is called the triple science pathway. This is because it gives students the best opportunity to succeed in each science subject and opens up even more STEM (science technology, engineering & maths) pathways in the future. If you would prefer your child to study combined rather than triple science, they will be able to opt out of triple science now OR at the end of year 10.

Options

In the table below are the subjects that students will choose from in addition to their core subjects. When considering what to choose, students might consider what they want to do after their GCSEs and which subject might help them with that pathway. If students do not know what they want to do in future, they should consider what their strengths and skills are and what they enjoy. They are much more likely to succeed if they choose a subject they enjoy.

Options	
Spanish	Religious studies
Health and Social Care	Computer science
Information Technology	Dance
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Art
Geography	Music
History	Sociology
Media	Sport Science
Performing Arts	GCSE Business

We may be unable to run a course if an insufficient number of students choose it. For this reason we ask that students indicate a first choice and a reserve option on the options form which will be sent as a Microsoft Forms link on the date below. Students MUST be happy to study their reserve choice, so please ensure this is selected carefully.

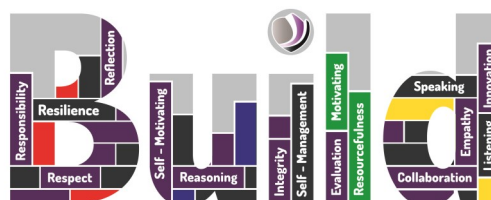
The key dates in this year's options process are as follows:

Parents' and Options Evening:	10th January
Options form emailed to parents:	11th January
Option form return deadline:	18th January

Yours faithfully



Jo Mora
Deputy Principal
Quality of Education



English

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Simpson

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse>

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature: Core Qualifications.

In Years 10 and 11, our pupils study for separate awards in English Language and in English Literature.

Each award is assessed via two examination papers, a total of four exams, which make up 100% of the two GCSEs in English.

Spoken Language is a separate module, assessed via a short speech on a given subject. Spoken Language does not 'count' towards our girls' final GCSE grades in English. This certification is assessed using the Pass, Merit and Distinction model.

What you will study in GCSE English Literature and GCSE Language.

English Literature: pupils will study pre and post 1914 Literature, including a Shakespearean play, post 1945 drama, a range of poetry and the C19th novella. English Literature is a closed book examination.

English Language: pupils will explore unseen sources, both fiction and non-fiction; they will read, retrieve, summarise, analyse texts and engage with different forms of creative writing. Creative writing is a heavily weighted element of the English Language award.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN ENGLISH:

English Literature: 8702

- **Paper 1:** Shakespeare and the C19th Novel: two essays. 1hr 45mins / 64 marks.
- **Paper 2:** Modern Drama and Poetry: one essay on drama, one comparative poetry essay, two shorter answer tasks on unseen poetry. 2hrs 15mins / 96 marks.

English Language: 8700

- **Paper 1.** Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. 1hr 45 mins / 80 marks.

Section A is made up of four questions, worth 4 to 20 marks. Reading, retrieving and analysing one unseen fictional source. 40 marks.

Section B requires one creative writing task, either a description or a short story. 40 marks.

- **Paper 2.** Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives. 1hr 45 mins / 80 marks.

Section A is made up of four questions, worth 4 –16 marks, based on two unseen non-fiction sources, one of which will be taken from the C19th. 40 marks..

Section B requires one creative writing response; argue, persuade, explain. 40 marks.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

The study of GCSE Language and GCSE Literature encourages debate, hones one's ability to write a well rounded, insightful and convincing argument; English also taps into the creativity of our pupils.

Typical careers for graduates of English Literature might include teaching, university professor, journalist, reporter or working in PR and the media. Many graduates of English are also excellent writers - maybe you could become an author?

English Language graduates may also teach or veer towards socio-linguistics or the psychology of language study.

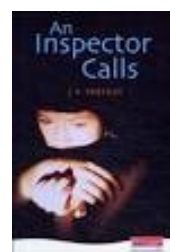
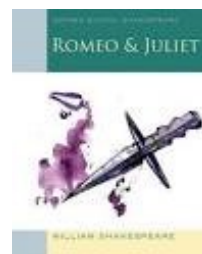
CAREERS

STUDY

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

English Literature past papers and mark schemes: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources>

English Language past papers and mark schemes: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources>



Business

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Gaskell

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/business-j204-from-2017/>

WHY CHOOSE BUSINESS?

- The world is run by market forces
- 94% of Business students get work on graduation
- Salaries are much higher for Business graduates

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN

BUSINESS:

Business activity

Marketing

People

Operations

Finance

Influences on business

The interdependent nature of business

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN BUSINESS:

100% examination

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins (50% of grade)

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins (50% of grade)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Commercial awareness

Thinking

Problem solving

Communication

Creativity

Self-management

Adaptability

Resilience

CAREERS

Business owner

Manager

Director

Retail

STUDY

Level 3 qualification in a business-related subject leading to a degree

Apprenticeship

A Levels

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

You will create and run your own small business. Through this you will learn about market research, customer needs, planning, finance, promotion, characteristics of businesses, and much more.



Computer Science

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Gaskell

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

WHY CHOOSE COMPUTER SCIENCE?

- The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use, and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges
- There are more vacancies than people to fill them
- People in computing earn 41% more, on average

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE:

Unit 1

1. Systems architecture
2. Memory and storage
3. Computer networks, connections and protocols
4. Network security
5. Systems Software
6. Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Unit 2

1. Algorithms
2. Programming fundamentals
3. Producing robust programs
4. Boolean logic
5. Programming language and Integrated Development Environments

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN COMPUTER SCIENCE:

100% examination

Paper 1: 1 hr 30 mins (50% of grade)

Paper 2: 1 hr 30 mins (50% of grade)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Programming
Complex problem solving
Algorithmic thinking
Logical and creative thinking skills
Breaking down problems effectively

CAREERS

Software Engineer
Programmer
Systems Administrator
Database Administrator
IT Technician
Systems Analyst

STUDY

Level 3 qualification in computer science or information technology, leading to a degree
Apprenticeship in computing/IT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Maths ability is a significant indicator of success in computer science.

With the amount of programming involved, you will have excellent employment chances in this rapidly expanding field if you decide to continue with your studies.

Around 80% of jobs require some computing or IT skills.



Information Technology

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Gaskell

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/it-level-1-2-j836/>

WHY CHOOSE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY?

- The world depends on computers. In this qualification you will learn about how to use computers effectively
- People in computing/IT earn 41% more, on average
- Applicants for any job will stand out if they have an IT qualification

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

Using different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products

Create a data manipulation solution
(spreadsheets)

Create an augmented reality prototype

Human Computer Interfaces

Data and testing

Cyber-security and legislation

Internet of Everything

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

R050 IT in the Digital World Exam: 1 hr 30 mins (40% of grade)

R060 Data manipulation using spreadsheets Coursework (30% of grade)

R070 Using augmented reality to present information Coursework (30% of grade)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Data analysis

Planning and designing a spreadsheet solution

Using tools and techniques to create a spreadsheet solution

Design, create, test, and review an augmented reality prototype

CAREERS

Office administrator

Data analyst

IT Technician

Quality assurance tester

Cyber security analyst

User experience designer

STUDY

Level 3 qualification in information technology, leading to a degree

Apprenticeship in information technology

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Jobs analysing data are one of the fastest growing areas

Around 80% of jobs require some computing or IT skills.





Food Preparation and Nutrition

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Harding

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK: aqa.org.uk/foodprep

WHY CHOOSE

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION?

This course embraces and emphasises understanding of and enjoyment of different cuisines. There will be significant focus on developing high level cooking skills.

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drink.

Food preparation and nutrition also helps you to learn how to work independently and manage your time – skills valued by both higher education institutions and employers alike.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION:

The new Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will help you to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. You'll also learn about food from around the world, through the study of British and international culinary traditions as well as developing an understanding of where food comes from (food provenance). You'll master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. This is an exciting and creative course which will allow you to demonstrate your practical skills and make connections between theory and practice.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED:

There will be one exam for this qualification, which will assess your knowledge of the theory behind food preparation and nutrition. The exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long.

The second part of the assessment will be **non-examination assessment** and will consist of two tasks, involving practical work.

Task 1: Students will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food. This task will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and practically apply your understanding of the science behind cooking. You'll practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why.

Task 2: Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu. This task will provide you with an opportunity to cook up a storm and showcase your creativity and cooking skills. You might make a street food menu, create delicious tapas dishes or cook up a menu for a student on a budget.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

CAREERS

STUDY

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition will equip you to go on to further study. After taking this course, you could embark on A-level study, begin an apprenticeship or perhaps begin employment in the catering or food industries. You'll also have the knowledge and skills to feed yourself (and others) affordably and nutritiously for life.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This is a GCSE course with a strong practical focus. You'll master a variety of technical skills and become proficient in the kitchen. In addition, you'll develop an in-depth knowledge of food science, food safety, food choice, nutrition and health. You'll also develop transferable skills such as:

- analysis
- evaluation
- communication skills
- working independently
- time management
- the ability to interpret information and data.



Dance

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss Hawley

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel (Pearson)

SPECIFICATION LINK: [https://qualifications.pearson.com/](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446939628_BTEC_L1L2_AWD_PA_SPEC.pdf)

[content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446939628_BTEC_L1L2_AWD_PA_SPEC.pdf](https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446939628_BTEC_L1L2_AWD_PA_SPEC.pdf)

WHY CHOOSE DANCE?

Choose dance if:

- You enjoy performing
- You are interested in different styles of dance
- You want to increase your confidence and communication skills in all areas
- You want the opportunity to develop your performance skills, and choreograph movement for yourself and others

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN DANCE:

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts:

In this unit you will develop your understanding of dance by examining practitioners' work and the processes and practices that contribute to a range of dance styles. This unit will help you to understand the requirements of being a dancer across a range of performance genres. You will develop transferrable skills, such as research and communication.

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques:

This unit is about developing your versatility and technique as a dancer. You will be encouraged to develop your physical and interpretive skills to help you become a stronger and more technical dancer. You will explore and develop your dance skills in practical workshops and lessons focusing on two styles of dance and learning specific dance repertoire. You will be encouraged to understand your own strengths, identify areas for your development and, as a result, set targets for your improvement.

Component 3 - Performing to a Brief:

This unit will give you the opportunity to work as part of a group to research, choreograph and develop a dance performance in response to a given brief and stimulus. You will creatively use and apply the skills and techniques learnt on the course to a performance for a selected audience.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN DANCE:

Components 1 and 2 of the course are assessed internally and component 3 is assessed externally. In the internally assessed units you will be assessed on both your practical skills and development as well as written work. The written work consists of rehearsal logs and evaluations, a research portfolio and presentations of your findings. You will be recorded and assessed on your practical skills and how your skillset develops over time. Your final performances will also be assessed.

In component 3 you will be assessed on how you respond to the given scenario set by the examination board. You will be marked on your rehearsal process, the final performance and the written evidence you create to support this.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Communication

Confidence

Teamwork

Resilience

Performance

Physical and interpretive

Creativity

Reflection

CAREERS

Performer

Events management

Backstage/technical

Arts administrator

Fitness instructor

Make up artist

Teacher

Dance therapist

STUDY

Level 3 qualification in dance

Degree in performance related subject

Professional dance training

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The BTEC Tech Award is the equivalent to 1 GCSE.





SUBJECT LEADER: J PYE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/fine-art>

WHY CHOOSE ART?

Art GCSE will allow you to develop many transferable skills employers want to see, such as **independence, creativity, time-management** and **the ability to adapt** to a process from start to finish.

Art will give you the opportunity to express your individual response to a project.

You will develop a greater understanding of the media you have used in KS3, as well as explore new

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN ART:

Throughout the course you will explore how Artist's have used media within their own work and experiment with your own interpretations inspired by them. The techniques you could cover include:

- drawing
- painting
- Sculpture
- ceramics
- printmaking
- mixed media
- photography and the moving image

Other inspiration might come from installation art, lens-/light-based media or land art, plus others

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN FINE ART:

Component 1: Portfolio of Work (60%)

You will explore 2D and 3D media and build up a variety of skills and confidence.
Two projects will be completed.

Component 2: Externally set task (40%)

In Yr11 you will choose a question from the exam paper.
You will have from January to April to develop your design.

Assessment

Each component is marked out of **4 Assessment Objectives**, each worth 24 marks.

The Assessment Objectives cover:

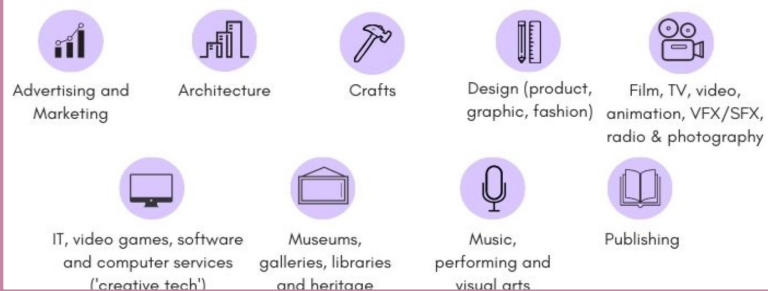
- ◆ Research and analysis.
- ◆ Experimentation and refinement.
- ◆ Observations, planning and development of ideas.
- ◆ The final design inspired by the whole design process.

EMPLOYABILITY

1 in 8 UK businesses are within the Creative Sector.

The Creative Industries contribute over **£100 Billion** annually to the UK economy.

WHAT ARE THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES?



YOUR FUTURE

This qualification would help you with study for any creative subject at **Level 3 and higher**, as well as an

Apprenticeship within the creative arts sector.

Whether or not you can see yourself in a creative career, any Arts course will allow you to work in a practical, way. It will also help you appreciate the things you might enjoy doing in your spare time and

Health and Social Care

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Evans

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835/specification-at-a-glance/>

WHY CHOOSE H&SC?

- Care values are at the heart
- Students apply their learning to a real-life scenario
- The components build on each other so that your students grow in confidence
- Practical tasks rather than written exams

Health and Social Care will help you to understand how to work with a range of different individuals with specific needs and learn how best to support them.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN H&SC:

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care

outline:

2 mandatory units:

- R032: Principles of care in health and social care (Written paper, OCR set and marked)
- R033: Supporting individuals through life events (Centre-assessed tasks, OCR moderated)

Optional unit:

- R034: Creative and therapeutic activities (Written paper, OCR set and marked)

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN H&SC:

2 x internal assessments (60 marks each)

1 x external assessment (70 marks)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Draw together, analyse and critically evaluate information.

Communicate effectively with individuals, groups and organisations.

Produce accurate informed decisions.

CAREERS

Nursing

Care worker

Midwife

Social worker

Physiotherapist

STUDY

Human Lifespan

Development

Health and Social Care Services and Values

Health and Wellbeing

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Students are given the opportunity to:

- build awareness and understanding of contemporary issues in health and social care.
- prepare for A-level studies in this and related subjects.
- learn skills essential for higher education and the world of work .

This specification is suitable for those considering a range of careers.



Sociology

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Evans

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

WHY CHOOSE SOCIOLOGY?

It will give you the opportunity to develop your analytical, communication and evaluation skills due to the broad topics that are covered and the depth at which those topics are covered.

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden students' minds, helping them to see their world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways.

Sociology can lead to careers within sectors such as criminal justice, welfare services and government etc.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN SOCIOLOGY:

Units covered include:

Paper 1-

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Paper 2-

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN SOCIOLOGY:

100% examination

Paper 1: 1 hr 45 mins (50% of grade)

Paper 2: 1 hr 45 mins (50% of grade)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Communication

Analytical

Evaluative

Research

CAREERS

Police officer

Teacher

Social research

Counsellor

Social worker

Family support worker

STUDY

Families

Education

Research methods

Social Stratification

Crime and Deviance

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Sociology is about the study of society. It relates to how individuals and groups interact with one another and how these interactions impact on who they become.

Students will gain theoretical views throughout each unit. Theories such as:

- Feminism
- Marxism
- Functionalism



Sport Science

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss Henderson

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-science-level-1-2-j828/>

WHY CHOOSE SPORT SCIENCE?

This course would suit you if:

- You enjoy taking part in physical activity
- You are interested in learning more about fitness
- You have a keen interest in anatomy and physiology
- You want a qualification that will open up a wide range of careers in many different sectors such as medicine, sport, journalism, leisure industry and more...

This qualification involves a lot of academic study; you will be required to complete coursework and sit a written exam. The opportunity for practical will come within units with practical elements such as fitness testing and skills testing.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN SPORT SCIENCE:

In this pathway you will have the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles, and psychology in sport and sports performance.

Mandatory units:

R181 - Applying principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance **(C/Work)**

R180 - Reducing the risk of injuries and dealing with common medical conditions.

(1 Hour Exam)

Optional units:

R182 - The body's response to physical activity and how technology informs this

R183 - Nutrition and sports performance

(Only one of the optional units will be chosen)

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN SPORT SCIENCE:

The course assessment is as follows:

Unit R181 Applying the principles of training: fitness and how it affects skill performance

Unit R183 Nutrition and sports performance

Unit R180 Reducing the risk of sports injuries and dealing with common medical conditions.

Units R181 and R183 are both coursework units, with elements of practical; R180 is an examined unit, which is completed at the end of the course like most other GCSE subjects.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Academic style writing

Academic Referencing

Team work

Effective communication

Research skills

Physiological Testing

Data Analysis

CAREERS

Physiotherapist

Coach

Teacher of PE

Sports psychologist

Medical role

Sport Scientist

STUDY

Level 3 qualification in sport

University degree in sport science

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

OCR Sport Science is
equivalent to 1 GCSE.



Spanish

SUBJECT LEADER: Ms Cross

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698

WHY CHOOSE SPANISH?

Spanish is the second most widely-spoken, native language in the world. Studying Spanish develops articulacy, creativity and academic discipline. The skills developed through studying Spanish are as valuable and complimentary of other GCSE subjects, as learning the language itself.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN SPANISH:

In Spanish you will study the following themes:

1. Identity and culture.
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest.
3. Current and future study and employment.

As well as developing your confidence, communication and employability skills.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN SPANISH:

The course is assessed at either foundation level (Grades 1-5) or higher level (Grades 4-9) in all 4 skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each skill is worth 25% of your final grade and exams take place at the end of year 11. Speaking assessments are conducted by your Spanish teacher and students are able to pick a chosen topic for part of the assessment.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS	CAREERS	STUDY
Communication	Travel and Tourism	University
Problem solving	International Business	College
Team work	Education	6th form
Perseverance	Translation	Degree
Analysis	Business	Masters
Creativity	Marketing	PhD
Resilience	Fashion	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Speaking multiple languages improves resilience, problem-solving, multitasking and decision-making. New research indicates that people who speak more than one language process information more easily and efficiently than those who speak a single language. Learning the language and culture of another European and global language can improve your competitiveness in the job market, earn you more money and give you a new perspective on life through the opening up of social and cultural opportunities. Furthermore, when travelling, often people you meet will speak Spanish, if they do not speak English.



Science

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Stapleton

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

WHY CHOOSE ALL 3 SCIENCES?

Separate Sciences will open up a whole world of scientific careers, including medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing. It will also make A-level sciences easier, taking some of the pressure off in Year 12. See the science staff for more details.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN SCIENCE:

There are 10 **chemistry** units: including atomic structure, periodic table, organic chemistry and chemistry of the atmosphere.

The 7 **biology** units are: cell biology, organisation, immune system, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance & evolution, and ecology.

The 7 **physics** units include forces, energy, waves, electricity, electromagnetism and atomic structure.

There are compulsory practical skills which are tested in the final exams.

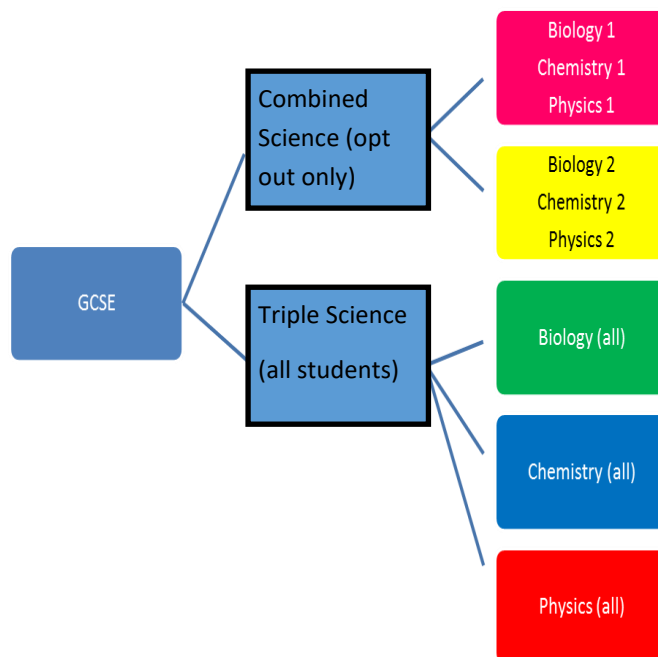
All routes are linear, with examinations taken at the end of the course.

HOW YOU WILL BE

ASSESSED IN SCIENCE:

In the 3 single (triple) sciences you will get 3 separate GCSE grades based on the average of the 2 papers in each subject.

In combined (double) science you will get 2 GCSE grades. The grades will be an average calculated from the 6 exam papers, eg 5-5, 7-6, 4-3.



Chemistry

- the study of the history of the periodic table and developments in science relating to chemical reactions and substances that are essential in everyday life, whether in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals or computer parts. Examples include production of, reactions of and uses of oil, plastics, gases in the air, metals, rocks.
- Careers: pharmacy, medicine, forensics, biotechnology, cosmetics, teaching, law and many, many more.

Biology

- the study of living things and the environment, divided into many specialised fields that cover their morphology, physiology, anatomy, behaviour, origin and distribution. Humans, and their interactions with their surroundings and their impacts on the planet, are studied in great detail.
- Careers: sports scientist, ecologist, dentist, GP, nurse, surgeon, midwife, forensics, physiotherapist, teaching and many, many more!!

Physics

- the study of the non-living world and its effects, the study of the laws of nature. Its principles underlie all the sciences, such as astronomy, biology, chemistry and geology, and ultimately, every subject/activity known to man. Everything you study in physics is relevant to your life and the world around you.
- Careers: meteorologist, lab technician, mechanic, nuclear physicist, architect, teaching, aerospace, engineering and many, many more!

What has SCIENCE done for you lately?

Plenty. If you think science doesn't matter much to you, think again. Science affects us all, every day of the year, from the moment we wake up, all day long, and through the night. Your digital alarm clock, the weather report, the road you drive on, the bus you ride in, your decision to eat a baked potato instead of chips, your mobile phone, the antibiotics that treat your sore throat, the clean water that comes from your taps and the light that you turn off at the end of the day have all been brought to you courtesy of science. The modern world would not be modern at all without the understandings and technology enabled by science.

Performing Arts

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss Hawley

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel (Pearson)

SPECIFICATION LINK: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/performing-arts/2017/specification-and-sample-assessments/9781446939628_BTEC_L1L2_AWD_PA_SPEC.pdf

WHY CHOOSE PERFORMING ARTS?

Choose performing arts if:

- You enjoy performing
- You enjoy acting, dancing and singing
- You want to perform musicals from the West End
- You want to increase your confidence and communication skills in all areas
- You want the opportunity to develop your performance skills

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN PERFORMING ARTS:

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts:

In this unit you will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes and practices that contribute to a range of performance styles. This unit will help you to understand the requirements of being a performer across a range of performance genres. You will develop transferrable skills, such as research and communication.

Component 2 - Developing Skills and Techniques:

This highly practical unit will give you a taste of the world of the musical. You will take part in practical workshops, which will improve your technical and interpretive skills in each discipline. You will then bring these skills together to work on repertoire from a chosen musical that you will rehearse and perform in front of an audience.

Component 3 - Performing to a Brief:

This unit will give you the opportunity to work as part of a group to research, create and develop a performance in response to a given brief and stimulus. You will creatively use and apply the skills and techniques learnt on the course to a performance for a selected audience of your choice.

You will need to demonstrate your technical ability in each discipline and will have opportunities to perform each skill equally.

You will be encouraged to understand your own strengths, identify areas for your development and, as a result, set targets for your improvement. This unit is assessed internally.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN PERFORMING ARTS:

Components 1 and 2 of the course are assessed internally and component 3 is assessed externally. In the internally assessed units you will be assessed on both your practical skills and development as well as written work. The written work consists of rehearsal logs and evaluations, a research portfolio and presentations of your findings. You will be recorded and assessed on your practical skills in all 3 areas (singing, dancing and acting) and how your skillset develops over time. Your final performances will also be assessed.

In component 3 you will be assessed on how you respond to the given scenario set by the examination board. You will be marked on your rehearsal process, the final performance and the written evidence you create to support this.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

- Communication
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Performance
- Physical and interpretive
- Creativity

CAREERS

- Performer
- Events management
- Backstage/technical
- Arts administrator
- TV/radio production
- Make up artist

STUDY

- Level 3 qualification in Performing Arts
- Degree in performance related subject
- Professional performance training

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The BTEC Tech Award is the equivalent to 1 GCSE.



Mathematics

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Booth

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300

WHY DO WE NEED TO STUDY MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be.

Mathematics should encourage students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.



WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN MATHEMATICS:

Number

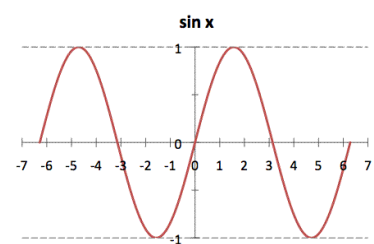
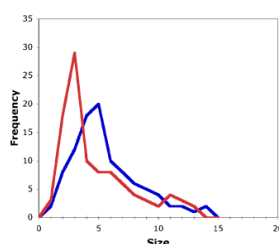
Algebra

Ratio, proportion and rates of change

Geometry and measures

Probability and Statistics

Within each of these areas students will need to be able to recall, select and apply mathematical formulae to solve problems and apply mathematical techniques to multi-step functional problems.



HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN MATHEMATICS:

Mathematics is assessed using examinations only. You will have three exams, each of which is 1½hrs long.

Paper 2 is a non-calculator paper.

Papers 1 and 3 are calculator papers.

Mathematics is split into two levels.

Foundation covers grades 1 to 5 and

Higher covers grades 4 to 9

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Problem Solving
Critical Thinking
Communication
Team work
Perseverance
Analytical Thinking

CAREERS

Accountant
Aerospace engineer
Architect
Chemist
Civil engineer
Computer scientist
Construction managers
Economists
Environmental scientists
Financial analysts
Engineer
Systems analysts
Teacher

STUDY

Mathematics A level
Further Maths A level
Physics A Level
Science A level
Statistics A level
Core Mathematics
Functional skills

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

You will need to use a scientific calculator (we recommend using Casio shown in the picture)



MUSIC PRACTICE

SUBJECT LEADER: Mrs Tosini

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel (Pearson)

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2017/teaching-and-learning-materials/btec-tech-award-in-music-mini-guide.pdf>

WHY CHOOSE MUSIC PRACTICE?

Choose music practice if:

- You enjoy performing music as a soloist and in a group
- You want to develop your musical skills and techniques
- You want to learn more about different musical styles
- You want to increase your understanding of the music industry and the opportunities available to you

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN MUSIC PRACTICE:

Component 1– Exploring Music Products and Styles:

In this unit you will develop your understanding of the different styles and genres of music, including the different aspects of the music industry. You will take part in practical workshops to develop your understanding of the varied musical stylistic features and characteristics. You will develop transferrable skills, such as research, communication and team work.

Component 2– Developing Skills and Techniques:

This highly practical unit will develop your skills in the three disciplines of performance, creating original music and music production. You will take part in practical workshops, which will improve your technical and interpretive skills in each discipline. You will then choose two in which to specialise applying the skills and techniques learnt to create your own performance and development portfolio.

Component 3-Performing to a Brief:

This unit will give you the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given commercial music brief as a

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN MUSIC PRACTICE:

Components 1 and 2 of the course are assessed internally and component 3 is assessed externally. In the internally assessed units you will be assessed on your performances, your own compositions and production work as well as written work. The written work underpins all of your practical projects and regular logs, reflective journals and evaluations track your progress. This forms a part of a larger portfolio of your work, including all recordings. You will be recorded and assessed on your practical skills and knowledge in all 3 areas (performing, playing and music technology) further demonstrating how your skillset develops over time. Your final performances will also be recorded and assessed.

In component 3 you will be assessed on how you respond to the given scenario set by the examination board. You will be marked on your rehearsal process, the final performance and the written evidence you create to support this.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

- Communication
- Confidence
- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Performance
- Problem solving
- Creativity
- Reflection

CAREERS

- Performer/composer
- Producer
- Backstage/technical
- Marketing/Promoting
- Video/sound engineer
- Studio technician
- Teacher

STUDY

- Level 3 qualification in Music or Music Technology
- Music-related degree
- Professional performance training
- Apprenticeships

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The BTEC Tech Award is the equivalent to 1 GCSE.



Geography

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss Hodgson

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

WHY CHOOSE GEOGRAPHY?

- The study of geography **stimulates an interest in** and a **sense of wonder about places**.
- ♦ It will help you **make sense of a complex and changing world** – a world that could be very different in the future due to issues today.
- ♦ Understanding more about our natural and man-made environments and how they can impact on our lives will allow you to **develop as a global citizen**, able to **view issues from a wider perspective**.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN GEOGRAPHY:

1. Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

Section B: The living world

Section C: Physical landscapes in the UK

2. Challenges in the human world

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

3. Geographical Applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN GEOGRAPHY:

The course is **100% external exam**.

Paper 1 (1hr 30min)	35%	Living with the physical environment
Paper 2 (1hr 30min)	35%	Challenges in the human world
Paper 3 (1hr 15min)	30%	Issue evaluation (a topic booklet is published 12 weeks before the exam) Geographical Fieldwork skills (both familiar and unfamiliar fieldwork)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Independent research and data collection skills.

Formulate ideas and solve problems using creative thinking.

Use a wide range of information including cartographic, pictorial and graphical sources and ICT.

Debate moral and ethical issues

CAREERS

Cartographer

Conservation

Education

Environmental Consultant

International Development

Journalism

Law

Surveyor

Tourism

Urban planning

STUDY

Geography

Geology

Biology

Environmental Sciences

Coastal management

International Development

Law

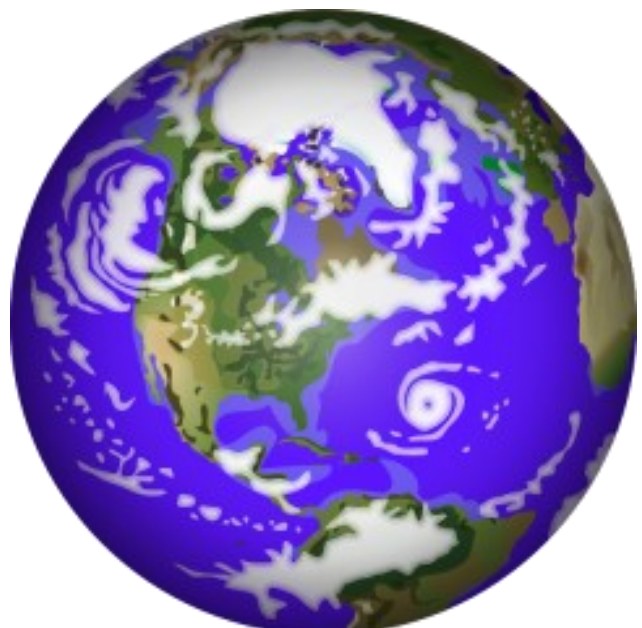
Meteorology

Tourism

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

There will be compulsory fieldwork to be completed.

This is **NOT** coursework. The data collected will be **used in the Paper 3** examination.



History

SUBJECT LEADER: Miss Hodgson

EXAM BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION LINK: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>

WHY CHOOSE HISTORY?

How do you know who you are unless you know where you've come from? How can you tell what is going to happen unless you know what has happened before? History is **not just about the past**. It is about **understanding why we are here, who we are...**and about **where we may go in the future!**

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN HISTORY:

The course is split into 4 parts, which are examined in two papers. All parts require extended writing. You will also be examined on your source/interpretation analysis skills.

- **Period study:**
Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship
- **Modern depth study:**
Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939
- **Thematic study:**
Britain: Migration, empires and the people, c.790 to the present day
- **British depth study (including a historic environment):**
Elizabethan England, 1558-1603

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN HISTORY:

The course is **100% external exam**.

Paper 1 (2 hours)	50%	1A: Period study 1B: Wider World study
Paper 2 (2 hours)	50%	2A: Thematic study 2B: British depth study (including historic environment)

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Critical reasoning and analytical skills.

Independent research and group learning skills.

Ability to construct an argument and communicate findings in a clear, persuasive manner.

Capacity to objectively think about an issue.

CAREERS

Archaeologist

Archivist

Education

Heritage manager

Journalism

Museum curator

Solicitor/Lawyer

STUDY

History

History of Art

Archaeology

Politics

Communications

Law

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

"Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it"

Winston Churchill, 1948: British Prime minister



HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN MEDIA:

Component 1 Exploring the media

Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of qualification

Component 2 Understanding Media Forms and Products

Exam—1 hour 30 minutes—30% of qualification

Component 3 Creating Media Products

NEA Moderated coursework - 30% of qualification

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS

Teamwork

Analytical analysis

Creativity

Originality

Practical camera skills

CAREERS

Journalist

Games developer

Producer

Scriptwriter

Film or TV director

Blogger

STUDY

A Level Media Studies

A level Film Studies

Apprenticeship

BA Hons degree

BTEC Level 3 Media

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Media studies can assist with your knowledge of English and is an exciting way to help your understanding of the world around us. Trips are a bonus of media studies!



Religious Studies

SUBJECT LEADER: Mr Arif

EXAM BOARD: Edexcel B (2016)

SPECIFICATION LINK: [Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies B \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

WHY CHOOSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

GCSE RS is a lively course for students to reflect on essential components of what it means to be human and to live in society. Students are encouraged to engage with both religious and non-religious viewpoints to come to their own critical conclusions. RS is not about expressing a certain view as 'true' but developing a spirit of enquiry from which students can explore a wealth of different world views and form their own opinion on philosophical, religious and ethical matters. The beauty of this subject is that answers are very rarely 'right' or 'wrong' but that students are rewarded for developing skills in arguing, debating and justifying their viewpoints in an academic, respectful and emotionally intelligent way.

WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN GCSE RS:

PAPER 1	PAPER 2
Christian Beliefs	Muslim Beliefs
Christian Practices	Muslim Practices
Marriage & Family	Crime & Punishment
Life & Death	War & Peace



HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED IN RS:

Assessment – Edexcel Route B

- Paper 1 - Religion and Ethics (studied from the Christian/ non-religious perspective). 50% of final grade.
- Paper 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict (studies from the Muslim/non-religious perspective). 50% of final grade.

YOUR FUTURE

SKILLS	CAREERS	STUDY
Critical Thinking	Aid worker	Philosophy
Evaluation	Barrister	Religion
Research & presentation	Paralegal	Law
Confidence	Teaching	Ethics
Decision Making / Independence	Activist	Politics
Analytical Skills	Journalism	Economics

“A high-quality sequential religious education (RE) programme is essential...to teach a full curriculum that prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in modern Britain. “

(Religious Education in Church of England Schools; A Statement of Entitlement, 2019)

