

Durrington High School

Options 2017



Decisions about courses in years 10 and 11
Parent / carer and student guide

Please note

This brochure indicates the courses that Durrington High School is offering for September 2017.

The school will do its best to meet all reasonable requests, but courses will not run if they are undersubscribed.

There is a restricted number of places on some courses because of the need for specialised staff or resources.

Some courses will be by invitation only, based on specific learning needs.

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 Courses Booklet

Students have reached a very important stage in their education.

In the next few weeks they will need to decide which subjects to study in year 10 and 11.

There are some subjects all students have to study at GCSE. At Durrington these are: English Language, English Literature, mathematics and combined science. In addition, all students have lessons in: SME (social and moral education) and PE.

After these subjects, students have a choice and it is very important that they choose carefully.

Most students take 9 GCSEs in total. For others, it may be better to study fewer subjects and have opportunities for other kinds of supported learning.

To help make these decisions, students you may wish to consider these questions:

What are you good at and what do you enjoy?

Where can you use your talents best?

What do you want to do in the future and what qualifications do you need?

The government are constantly reviewing the qualifications that students are offered. They are putting more emphasis on students leaving school with a broad range of GCSEs which includes English, mathematics, science, a foreign language and either geography or history. Currently Universities are not using this as an entry requirement, but this could change. To ensure you are in the best possible position for the future, some of you will need to study either history or geography and a language. The rest of you will need to study one of history, geography, computing, French or Spanish.

Reformed GCSEs

All of the subjects students study from September will be new GCSEs, graded from 1 - 9 with 9 being the highest grade. All written exams will be taken at the end of year 11.

Students please keep an open mind and read this booklet carefully!

Go through it and discuss it with your parents / carers, your teachers and form tutor. Think about what you have recently been told about different courses at key stage 4. (Some of them are quite different from what you have done in key stage 3). Discuss your options at the forthcoming Parents' & Options Evening.

You have many great opportunities at Durrington!

Think carefully and make the right choices!

Ms S Marooney

How to complete your decisions form

1. Read this booklet carefully and discuss with your teachers your best options. Remember, you do not want to give up any areas of the curriculum at this stage unless you are absolutely certain of your future direction.
2. Decide on the order of your choices. Which is your first choice in a particular column? We will try to give you as many of your first choices as we can so it is important that you think carefully about the order of your choices.
3. Make a list of teachers you particularly want to see and why, then tick off their names when you have talked to them.

Teachers	Advice

Make sure you stick to all the deadlines and share this booklet with your parents / carers so that they can help you in making your choices.

Key dates

January onwards	Subject briefings in lessons and assemblies with opportunities to ask questions
w/c 13 February	Booklets posted home
13 February	Assembly introducing decisions
13 February	Parents' option evening
2 March	Parents' evening
6 March	Last date for return of decisions form

What do I have to study in years 10 and 11?

Everyone has to study the core subjects

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined science

You must also take

- Physical education
- Social and moral education

You must include

- Four other subjects chosen from the four other columns of the choices form

Additional English

The school may feel that it would be better for you to take fewer subjects and have the opportunity to undertake a support programme made up of:

1. Basic skills - this is designed to help you improve your skills in reading, writing and understanding.
2. Developing social skills and self esteem.

You can only choose this if you have received a letter to say that the school feels this is a suitable choice.

Attendance

Attendance is important throughout a student's schooling. There is a strong link between attendance and achievement in school. In year 10 and 11 absences from school have an even greater impact. Coursework takes place throughout the school year and therefore no holiday or similar absences are authorised by the school.

High achieving students

Courses for next year have been arranged to give you a real chance to succeed in your chosen areas. It will usually be possible to choose 4 courses in which you will achieve high results and in which you are particularly interested.

Most students study for, and take, nine GCSE subjects.

Your future career needs will be better served by consistently high grades in nine GCSEs spread over a sensible range of subjects rather than a more varied set of grades spread over more than nine subjects.

All subjects will include the necessary skills and subject matter for you to get the highest grades, if you are capable of those grades. These grades require consistent study and coursework, as well as ability. You **will** be expected to work in your own time.

Every year at Durrington, large numbers of students gain GCSEs with high and consistent grades. Many others get top grades in the subjects in which they feel confident.

Art and Design - Fine Art

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8201

What will you be learning?

- This is a very broad and exciting course which encourages you to work with a wide range of materials, techniques and processes
- You will build up a portfolio of artwork which may contain painting, sculpture, print making, photography, textiles and graphics
- Drawing, sketchbooks, A1 study boards and looking at the work of other artists, designers and crafts people are all fundamental to the course
- You will have the opportunity to attend enrichment workshops offered by Worthing College and Northbrook College
- There are trips to London, Venice and New York

Equipment needed

- Drawing equipment and a sketchbook

Assessment

- 60% coursework – 3 projects
- 40% exam board set task – 10 hour practical exam

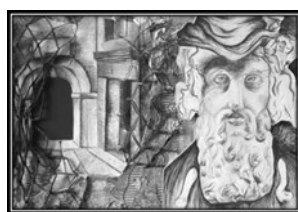
The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- A Level art & design related courses
- BTEC Diploma in art & design related courses at Northbrook College or Chichester
- Art Foundation at City College Brighton or Northbrook College
- Degree in a range of subjects such as Fine Art, Graphics & Illustration, Photography, Multi Media, Fashion & Textiles or 3D Design.
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- You are expected to attend one weekly after school enrichment session and have the option of attending a Saturday in April of Year 11



Art and Design - Three Dimensional Design

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8205

What will you be learning?

- This is a new and innovative course which develops your sculptural skills to design and make using paper relief, clay, wire, willow and card
- You will investigate materials, tools and techniques to produce a selection of 3D outcomes exploring form, scale and proportion, texture, structure, composition and spatial awareness
- You have the opportunity to analyse a Three Dimensional design brief and investigate different ways of turning a 2D drawing into a 3D object
- You will have the opportunity to visit local, national and international galleries

Equipment needed

- Drawing equipment and a sketchbook
- A pair of safety gloves

Assessment

- 60% coursework – 3 projects
- 40% exam board set task – 10 hour practical exam

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- A Level 3D design related courses
- Art, Design and Media course at Chichester college
- Degree in a range of subjects such as WMCP, Sculpture and Multi-media
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- You are expected to attend one weekly after school enrichment session and have the option of attending a Saturday in April of Year 11

Art and Design - Graphic communications

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8203

What will you be learning?

- This course offers you the opportunity to analyse a Graphic design brief through designing for an intended audience/market
- You will use colour, line, tone, shape and form in a variety of materials and techniques including 2D/3D and media technology
- You will work with typography and illustration using signs and symbols linked to graphic designers of historical, vocational and cultural contexts
- You will have the opportunity to visit local, national and international galleries

Equipment needed

- Drawing equipment and a sketchbook

Assessment

- 60% coursework – 3 projects
- 40% exam board set task – 10 hour practical exam

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- A Level Graphic design related courses
- UAL Level 3 - Diploma/Extended Diploma in Art & Design – Graphic Design and Illustration at Northbrook College
- Graphic Communication A Level at Chichester college
- Graphic Design and Communication A Level at BHASVIC College Brighton
- Degree in a range of subjects such as Graphics, Illustration and Multi-media
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- You are expected to attend one weekly after school enrichment session and have the option of attending a Saturday in April of Year 11



Art and Design- Textile Design

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8204

What will you be learning?

- This is a very exciting course which offers you the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials, textile techniques and processes, including - fabric printing, batik, spraying, transfer printing, fabric construction, stitching, felting and fabric manipulation
- Observational drawing, use of sketchbook and looking at the work of other textile / fashion designers are fundamental to the course. You will have the opportunity to visit local, national and international galleries in London, Venice and New York to support your studies
- You will have opportunities to attend enrichment workshops offered by Worthing College and Northbrook College

Equipment needed

- Designing / drawing equipment
- Sketchbook
- A willingness to work hard and be creative

Assessment

- 60% coursework 2 - 3 units and portfolio work
- 40% controlled test - a practical exam (10 hours)

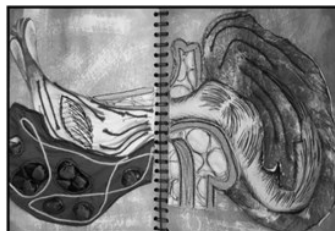
The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Lots of colleges offer design-related courses (AS / A2, BTEC, etc.) including fashion design, interior design, photography etc.; but you may just enjoy the experience gained from doing a practical subject
- Degree in fashion/textiles, interior design/surface pattern design
- Jobs and apprenticeships that require creativity and practical skills

What else might you need to know?

- Students are expected to attend one after-school session per week and have the option of attending two designated Saturday enrichment days



Business Studies

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 1BS0

What will you be learning?

1BS0/01 Theme 1: Investigating small business—50% of the qualification—90 marks

The paper is divided into three sections Section A is 35 marks, Section B is 30 marks and Section C is 25 marks.

Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship

Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity

Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice

Topic 1.4 Making the business effective

Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

1BS0/02 Theme 2: Building a Business—50% of the qualification—90 marks

The paper is divided into three sections Section A is 35 marks, Section B is 30 marks and Section C is 25 marks.

Topic 2.1 Growing the business

Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions

Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions

Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions

Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Equipment needed

- All students studying this subject must have a general thirst to understand what is happening in the business world. Students will actively engage in the study of business and economics to develop as effective and independent students and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds

Assessment—Both written papers

• **Theme 1—Investigating small business**

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper. Calculators may be used in the examination.

• **Theme 2—Building a business**

The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the paper. Calculators may be used in the examination.

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the highest.

What happens when you have finished?

- No matter what you decide to do when you leave school, the chances are you will be involved in some way in a business. Business studies helps you to understand more about how and why businesses operate in the way they do.
- This GCSE will allow students to prepare themselves to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices.

What else might you need to know?

- Where possible, the course offers a practical approach to the subject. You will be asked to use your enterprise skills on a regular basis. Field research, guest speakers and site visits are an integral part of the course.

Citizenship Studies

Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification: ICSO

What will you be learning?

The key themes are

- A. Living together in the UK
- B. Democracy at work in the UK
- C. Law & Justice
- D. Power & Influence
- E. Taking citizenship action

You are encouraged to develop an interest in topical and controversial issues, and ethical considerations.

You should engage in discussion and debate; have a firm grasp of the differences between facts and opinions and their significance; and be able to recognise bias.

Equipment needed:

- Basic equipment such as pens, pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, eraser, highlighter

Assessment:

Two written examinations, each 1 hour and 45 minutes and each 50% of the final GCSE grade.

- **Paper 1:** questions based on Themes A, B, and C
- **Paper 2:** questions based on an in-depth citizenship action that you will have carried out as part of your GCSE course (Theme E Taking citizenship action) and Theme D

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- You will learn lots of skills that will be useful in later life and there are lots of opportunities to put these skills to work. Whatever you do next, you will find that citizenship is an integral part of life

What else might you need to know?

- It is expected that you will be aware of what is happening in the world (local, national and international) by watching, reading or listening to current affairs programmes on a regular basis

Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: OCR

Specification: J276

What will you learn?

Computer Systems (01)

- A written paper, this unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems, systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, system software, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02)

- A written paper, this unit covers Algorithms (which will be assessed across all units) programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages and data representation

Programming project (03)

- Students will need to understand standard programming techniques, be able to design a coded solution to a problem, including the ability to develop and design programs, analysis of ideas, and testing/evaluating ideas

Equipment needed:

The following equipment is not necessarily required but recommended:

- A home computer with internet access. If this is not possible then the department will make provision for after-hours access
- A memory stick to transfer work from home to school
- Python software (free to download)
- Microsoft office (preferably 2010) mainly Excel and Word

Assessment:

- (01) Computer systems- 80 marks and the examination is 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 40% of the final GCSE
- (02) Computational thinking, algorithms and programming– 80 marks and the examination is 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 40% of the final GCSE
- (03) Programming project -This is a non-exam assessment and is worth 40 marks and 20% of the final GCSE

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Through the introduction of programming students can expand their problem-solving skills
- This course offers an ideal platform to further study in Computing beyond GCSE at A' Level and technical knowledge can be transferred into practical skill

What else might you need to know?

- Hardware, software and logic. This provides a good overview of the workings and functions of a computer, and the function of an operating system and different types of software
- Programming. Students must plan, write, test and evaluate a simple program

Dance

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8236

What will you be learning?

- Critical appreciation of own dance work
- Critical appreciation of professional works
- Healthy lifestyle and safe dance practice
- Choreographic processes for both solo and group pieces. Students will learn how to respond creatively to an externally set stimulus, to choreograph their own complete dance
- Performance skills - students must develop and apply the knowledge, understanding and skills required to perform dance as a soloist and in a duet / trio

Equipment needed

- 2 x black cotton leggings
- 2 x black cotton, sleeveless, slim-fit t-shirts
- Lined notebook and classroom based equipment

Assessment

- Written paper 40%
- Performance 30% 40 marks (15 marks for set phrases and 25 marks for duet/ trio performance)
- Choreography 30% 40 marks (solo or group choreography)

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Prepares you for AS / A2 level in dance
- Prepares you for BTEC National Diploma in dance
- With further training you could become a professional dancer, choreographer or teach dance

What else might you need to know?

- We would highly recommend that students have a strong background in dance if they are to undertake this course
- Students will be expected to participate in extra-curricular dance activities such as Rock Challenge

Design Technology

Qualification: GCSE

Exam board: AQA

Specification: 8552

What will you be learning?

- GCSE Design and Technology is a new and exciting course aimed to prepare you for an increasingly technological world. You will learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.
- Throughout the course you will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. There is a large emphasis on designing for real life problems, modelling and prototyping. The use of mathematical skills is a key requirement (15% of written exam).

Equipment needed

- Designing/drawing equipment for presenting your ideas
- Access to a laptop/computer

Assessment

- 50% NEA - Substantial Design and Make Task
- Contextual challenges will be released annually by AQA, you will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates the following criteria:
 - Investigating
 - Designing
 - Making
 - Analysing and Evaluating
- 50% exam - Un-tiered written exam. 2 hours.

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Many local colleges offer design-related courses at AS/A-level including: Architecture, Product Design, Furniture design, 3D Design, Graphic design/communication, Computer Aided Design, Aircraft maintenance, Mechanical Engineering, Electronic Engineering and Motorsport Engineering.

What else might you need to know?

- There are a lot of different activities and skills involved with the course; you will create an extensive portfolio to take to interviews.
- You will gain a wide variety of skills including drawing, annotating, researching, ICT and modelling. You will be designing products on paper and using 2D and 3D CAD software to present your solutions. You will be modelling your designs using a range of different materials, tools and CAM equipment.

Drama

Qualification: GCSE Drama

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 1DR0

What will you be learning?

- Drama skills such as still images, narration, action and reaction etc
- Responding to live theatre and analysing texts
- Team work and personal skills such as communicating and presenting ideas
- Evaluation skills
- Characterisation and acting skills
- Self confidence

Equipment needed

- Yourself
- Pen and notebook for some lessons
- Enthusiasm

Assessment

- Devising - non-exam assessment 40%
 - Portfolio—45 marks (15 for evaluation and 30 for process)
 - Performance—15 marks
- Performance from Text—20% 2 extracts from the same play
- Written exam - 40%
 - Section A - Bringing texts to life - responding to set texts
 - Section B - Live theatre evaluation

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- The communication skills, creative skills and group work skills you use in drama are highly valued in every field of work. Also, the physical and intellectual confidence that comes from exploring ideas through drama will aid you in whatever you end up doing. We aim to teach the course in as practical way as possible to equip you for the exam whilst retaining the essence of the subject

What else might you need to know?

- You must be required to work as part of a team, you do not have to be the next best performer but must be enthusiastic and committed

English Language

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8700

What will you be learning?

- Reading for understanding (students will learn to analyse a variety of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts)
- Writing to suit different purposes and audiences
- Appreciation of a variety of texts

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, ruler, your own fiction reading book

Assessment

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
Section A: Reading - one literature fiction extract
Section B: Writing - descriptive or narrative writing
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes - 80 marks - 50% of GCSE
- Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
Section A: Reading - one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
Section B: Writing - writing to present a view point
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes - 80 marks - 50% of GCSE
- Non-examination assessment: Spoken Language
Presenting, responding to questions and feedback, use of standard English - teacher set throughout the course

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1 - 9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- English is a basic requirement for most college courses and apprenticeships, but there are many courses that you can build on from English GCSE, including, English Language / Literature A levels, sociology and psychology

English Literature

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8702

What will you be learning?

- Analysis and appreciation of a variety of contemporary poetry as well as pre-19th century poems by a selection of poets
- Analysis and appreciation of modern texts and pre-20th century prose text
- Analysis and appreciation of Shakespeare's work and other playwrights

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, ruler, your own fiction reading book
- Set text - to be announced

Assessment

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel
Shakespeare play - a 19th-century novel
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes - 64 marks - 40% of GCSE
- Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
Modern prose or drama texts - the poetry anthology - unseen poetry
Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes - 96 marks - 60% of GCSE

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1 - 9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- English is a basic requirement for most college courses and apprenticeships, but there are many courses that you can build on from English GCSE, including, English Language / Literature A levels, sociology and psychology

Geography

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8035

What will you be learning?

The AQA GCSE course provides a wide array of geographical topics and contemporary issues, to give you an in depth knowledge of both UK and Global Geography. Content includes:

- Natural hazards - the causes and effects of events such as earthquakes, and hurricanes
- Climate change
- Physical landscapes such as coasts and rivers
- Ecosystems — rainforests, hot desert and cold environments
- Challenges of large urban areas
- World development - reasons for the gap between the rich and poor, and how to close this
- Resources - focus on how to manage the worlds valuable resources such as water.

Equipment needed

- A willingness to work hard and solve problems

Assessment

3 exam papers:

- Physical Geography (1 hr 30 mins) = 35%
- Human Geography (1 hr 30 mins) = 35%
- Issue Evaluation and Geographical Application (1 hour) = 30%

The Issue Evaluation and Geographical Application has replaced the controlled assessment and coursework unit of the previous course. This exam will involve you writing about a piece of geographical field work you complete in year 11.

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Geography offers the widest route into different higher educational subjects
- Wide educational and employment opportunities. Geography is highly valued by employers, with 74% Geography Graduates earning more than £20,000 in their first year of work

What else you might need to know?

- Excellent engaging field trips, including one residential trip
- “Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exiting and adventurous and valuable subjects to study today” (Michael Palin, President of the National Geographic)
- Many of the worlds current problems are based in Geography and will be solved by future geographers
- A GCSE in Geography opens doors to A-Level and University Geography qualifications, highly valued by employers
- Geography is a very popular and engaging subject at Durrington High School
- Much of the work you have done at KS3 has been designed to prepare you for GCSE geography, and the course will build on this knowledge such as your work on Ecosystems at the start of year 9

History

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 1HIO

What will you be learning?

The new Edexcel History specification offers students an opportunity to study a broad and diverse range of issues related to the history of Britain and the wider world. It provides students with the necessary skills to help them progress to further study in history as well as in a wide range of other subjects.

The content includes:

Thematic study and historic environment

- Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000—present
- Whitechapel c1870-1900: crime, policing and the inner city

Period study and British depth study

- Super power relations & Cold War 1941-91 (Period study)
- Anglo Saxon & Norman England (British depth)

Modern Depth Study

- USA 1954-75 Conflict home and abroad

Equipment needed

- OCR GCSE Modern World History Revision Guide by Wayne Birks and Ben Walsh ISBN - 978 0 340 99220 3
- Pens, pencils, colour pencils / felt tip pens
- 'Revise Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Anglo-Saxon and Norman England Revision guide and workbook ' - ISBN: 9781292169743

Assessment

Three exam papers but no controlled assessment (in-line with other GCSEs)

- Thematic study and historic environment -1 hour and 15 minutes; 52 marks (30%)
- Period study and British depth study -1 hour and 45 minutes; 64 marks (40%)
- Modern depth study -1 hour and 20 minutes; 52 marks (30%)

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Students may wish to continue their studies onto A level History. The Edexcel course has been specifically designed to link into A Level specifications
- Qualification is recommended for the following careers, as students have learnt vital skills which are highly thought of – journalism, accountancy, government, TV, law, army, police, research and teaching are just some of the careers which history supports

What else might you need to know?

- This is an exciting course which allows students to develop their analysis and interpretation skills
- An interest in history and a willingness to engage in debating and thinking skills is essential for this course

ICT qualification

ICT - CiDA

Qualification: Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA) is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

Examination board: Edexcel

For more information see the Edexcel website; www.edexcel.com/DiDA

Specification: Not yet released

What will you learn?

- Unit 1 – Developing web products
- 2.5 hour practical exam
- Worth 25% (externally assessed)

Students will then complete one additional coursework unit which is worth 75% and internally Assessed.

- Unit 2 - Creative Multimedia
- Unit 3 - Artwork & imaging
- Unit 4 - Game Making

Equipment needed: The following equipment is not necessarily needed, but strongly recommended:

- A home computer with internet access. If this is not possible then the department will make provision for after-hours access
- A memory stick to transfer work from home to school
- Microsoft Office (preferably 2010) mainly Excel and Word
- Macromedia/Adobe Suite (if possible)

Assessment: 25% practical exam and 75% coursework

What happens when you have finished?

This option gives young people the skills they need to support future learning and to exploit the creative and commercial employment opportunities on offer in the digital world in which they are growing up. It provides a broad and solid foundation for further study of various aspects of creative computing, such as graphic design, web design, computer games design and interactive media.

It supports progress to further study, including:

- GCE in Media: Communication and Production
- Level 3 BTECs in Creative Media Production
- Level 3 BTECs in IT
- Level 3 Principal Learning in Creative and Media.

What else might you need to know?

The Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications has been designed to engage and enthuse young people with an interest in creative computing, for example digital graphics and animations, interactive multimedia products and computer games. Coursework requires self-motivation, good attendance and an ability to meet deadlines.

Languages - Spanish and French

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: French 1FRO Spanish 1SPO

What will you be learning?

All the topics below will be studied in the context of the UK and the target language countries' cultures.

- Identity and Culture
- Local area holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

Equipment needed

- Bi-lingual dictionary
- Revision guide (available from your MFL teacher)
- Online resources, smartphone/tablet apps are also available to download (your teacher will provide a list)

Assessment

- Listening - 25% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)
- Speaking - 25% of the final GCSE grade (teacher conducted)
- Reading - 25% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)
- Writing - 25% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)

Each of the four assessments are available at Foundation tier (5-1) or Higher tier (9-4). Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- After completion of the course you may opt to study French or Spanish at AS and A2 level and a language GCSE is a desirable additional qualification for entry into further education. Both French and Spanish are major world languages

What else might you need to know?

- Each of the four skills is worth 25% of the final mark and the speaking exam is conducted by your languages teacher on a specific date agreed in advance. The other papers are taken as a final exam.

Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8300

What will you be learning?

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Ratio proportion and rates of change
- Statistics
- Probability
- To apply your knowledge, skills and understanding to relevant real-world situations
- To communicate maths effectively
- How to pose questions and develop convincing arguments
- To interpret and evaluate problems

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator – Casio FX83 or FX85 recommended
- Protractor
- Pair of compasses
- Ruler

Assessment

- Foundation tier (grades 1 - 5) or Higher tier (grades 4 - 9) where 9 is the highest grade
- Paper 1 - non-calculator - 1 1/2 hour - 33 1/3%
- Paper 2 - calculator - 1 1/2 hour - 33 1/3%
- Paper 3 - calculator - 1 1/2 hour - 33 1/3%

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Higher GCSE prepares you for an AS / A2 level in mathematics or statistics
- With further training you could become an accountant, finance clerk, teacher or payroll officer

Media Studies

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8572

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, coloured pens and a ruler, memory stick

What will you be learning?

- How to deconstruct (take to pieces) and analyse different forms of media
- How products communicate with their target audiences
- How to use still cameras, publisher and other computer programs
- How to be an active rather than a passive consumer of the media

How it's assessed

Controlled assignment

Practical skills relating to the media format of your choice. Students produce; a statement of intent and a media product for an intended audience

- A choice of topics related to the over-arching (annually changing) theme
- 30% of GCSE
- Assessed by teachers. Moderated by AQA

Exam

Paper 1 - Questions will focus on three areas of the theoretical framework: industries, audiences and representation.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of GCSE
- Multiple choice questions assessing breadth of knowledge.
- Short answer questions assessing in depth knowledge.
- An extended response question assessing in depth knowledge.

Paper 2 - Questions will focus on media language and contexts of the media. Students will be expected to analyse media products both in relation to the theoretical framework and their contexts.

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 35% of GCSE
- Multiple choice questions assessing breadth of knowledge of language.
- Short answer questions assessing in depth knowledge of language.
- Stepped response questions assessing breadth of knowledge of language.
- Extended response questions assessing in depth knowledge of all elements of the media studies course.

What happens when you have finished?

- Media Studies combines practical and theoretical knowledge – particularly the value of pre-production work and production skills with a focus on issues that relate to your everyday lives.
- You gain a valuable insight into the way the media works
- The opportunity to be creative in areas that interest you like film, TV and magazine. Including pre-production and planning skills like storyboarding, scripting, flat plans, news selection, mock-ups and sketching
- Analyse and understand things that you might otherwise have taken for granted, such as how the opening minutes of a film, radio show or game are designed to grab an audience's attention.
- Develop an appreciation, decision making skills and critical understanding of the media and its role in daily lives.
- Provides a relevant, grounding for careers in TV, film, radio, gaming, publishing, journalism and advertising.
- Media Studies supports the humanities subjects and English.

Music

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: EDEXCEL

Specification:

What will you be learning?

- The GCSE course focuses on solo and group performances and individual composition
- Music GCSE gives an opportunity to learn about many musical genres
- Students develop instrumental and vocal skills through solo and group performances
- During the GCSE course, students are able to explore a broad range of compositional techniques
- The listening skills are based on elements of music such as melody, harmony, tonality, structure, texture and rhythm.
- Students study the elements of music through set works within the following strands; popular and 20th Century music; world music; western classical music

Equipment needed

- Textbooks are provided for the course
- Students are expected to bring in their instruments for the practical lessons

Assessment

- Component 1: Understanding music - exam 1 1/2 hours - 40%
- Component 2: Performing music - solo and ensemble performance - 30%
- Component 3: Composing music - composition to a brief and composing music - 30%

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Music GCSE offers the opportunity to further your qualifications through A level or BTEC courses

What else might you need to know?

- Students are expected to learn one instrument or have singing lessons with a peripatetic instrumental teacher
- Students are required to be involved with at least one extra-curricular music activity

Physical Education

Qualification: GCSE PE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 8582

What will you be learning?

- The human body and movement in physical activity and sport
- Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data
- Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport
- Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health fitness and well-being
- Practical skills in a range of key activities
- Analysis of performance

Equipment needed

- Perfect PE kit for every practical lesson
- Classroom based equipment

Assessment

- 30% practical
- 60% theory examinations - 2 exams each - 1 hour 15 minutes
- 10% analysis of performance and controlled assessment coursework

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Good preparation for AS level sport and BTEC courses

What else might you need to know?

- The GCSE PE course changed last year with the amount of practical performance reduced - 30%
- You will need to have a keen interest in sport, play sport regularly outside of school and keep aware of any sporting issues/developments in the news
- Strengths in biology would be extremely helpful in the course
- To be successful on this course you will need to have a passion for sport, consider yourself a strong practical performer in a number of sporting activities, have excellent attendance, very good organisational skills and a desire to continually improve
- All students are expected to regularly attend at least one extra curricular club

Religious Studies

Qualification: GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

Specification: Religious Studies A (8062 - route A)

What will you be learning?

Beliefs, teachings and practices of two world religions:

- Christianity
- Islam

Four thematic studies based around:

- Relationships and families
- The existence of God and revelation
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment

Equipment needed:

- Basic equipment such as pens, pencils, coloured pencils, ruler, eraser, highlighter

Assessment:

- 2 written exams of 1 hour and 45 minutes each

The GCSE will be graded on a nine point scale (1-9) where 9 is the best grade.

What happens when you have finished?

- Religious Studies GCSE prepares you for an AS/A2 level in a variety of courses, including Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics etc

What else might you need to know?

- We welcome a variety of outside agencies to meet with us to discuss, and raise awareness of their views and organisations
- You will need to be able to communicate effectively and empathise with opposing views whilst remaining objective

Combined Science

Qualifications : 2 GCSEs

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 8464

What will you be learning?

Biology

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

Chemistry

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

Physics

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

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Combined Science

Assessment

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Biology paper 1

Biology topics 1–4: Cell biology; organisation; infection and response; and bioenergetics

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response

Biology paper 2

- Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response

Combined Science

Chemistry paper 1

Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry; chemical changes and energy changes

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response

Chemistry paper 2

- Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis; chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response

Combined Science

Physics paper 1

What's assessed

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response.

Physics paper 2

What's assessed

- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- Foundation (1-5) and Higher Tier (4-9) where 9 is the best grade
- 70 marks
- 16.7% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response

What happens when you have finished?

- Awarded two GCSEs

What else you might need to know?

- This GCSE is accepted by all colleges as two separate GCSEs

Triple Science

Triple Science leads to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Triple science is offered to those students who have been in a set 1 or 2 in Year 9. It is most suitable for those students who have a genuine interest in exploring science at a deeper level and / or studying the sciences at A level. There will be a limited number of places on this course and these will be allocated based on student performance. Any exceptions to this will need to provide an accompanying letter, to justify their application to the course.

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Exam board: AQA

Specification: 8461 - Biology

Biology

What will you be learning?

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

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessments

Biology paper 1

What's assessed

- Topics 1 - 4: Cell biology; organisation; infection and response and bioenergetics.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Biology paper 2

What's assessed

- Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response

Triple Science

Triple Science leads to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Exam board: AQA

Specification: 8462 - Chemistry

Chemistry

What will you be learning?

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

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessments

Chemistry paper 1

What's assessed

- Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry, chemical changes and energy changes.

How it's assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Chemistry paper 2

What's assessed

- Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

- Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response

Triple Science

Triple Science leads to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Exam board: AQA

Specification: 8463 - Physics

Physics

What will you be learning?

- Subject content
- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space physics (physics only)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessments

Physics paper 1

What's assessed

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Physics paper 2

What's assessed

- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Space physics

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Foundation and Higher Tier
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Triple Science

What happens when you have finished?

- Entry to college if Higher paper taken to study AS / A level Physics
- Leads to a wide choice of scientific careers including astrophysicist, weather forecaster, sound engineer, civil engineer, aeronautics, electronics, IT and telecommunications etc. Also useful for many other careers

What else might you need to know?

- Assessment occurs at the end of Year 11
- Qualification leads to a wide choice of scientific careers including engineering and astrophysics

Notes