

durrington

Durrington High School

Student guide

*Decisions about courses in
years 10 and 11*



FEBRUARY 2015

Please note

This brochure indicates the courses that Durrington High School is offering for September 2015.

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.

Dear Student

You have reached a very important stage in your education.

In the next few weeks you will need to decide which subjects you will 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 double science. In addition, all students have lessons in: SME (social and moral education) and PE.

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

Most students take 9 GCSEs in total. For some, a mix of GCSE and vocational courses will be more suitable. For others, it may be better to study fewer subjects and have opportunities for other kinds of supported learning.

To help make these decisions, 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 make sure you are best prepared for future changes, you will need to choose at least one of the following to study in years 10 and 11, triple science, French, Spanish, history, geography or computing. All written exams will be taken at the end of the course. New GCSEs in English Language, English Literature and mathematics will be taught in all schools from September 2015.

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
Headteacher**

How to complete your decisions form

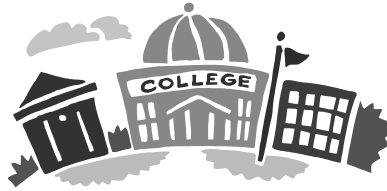
1. Read this booklet carefully and discuss with your teachers your best options. Remember, you do not want to give up any areas of the curriculum at this stage unless you are absolutely certain of your future direction.
2. Decide on the order of your choices. Which is your first choice in a particular 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 9 February	Booklets posted home
9 February	Assembly introducing decisions
11 February	Parents' option evening
24 February	Parents' evening
2 March	Last date for return of decisions form



Options – frequently asked questions

I want to go on to college after year 11 and possibly university. What should I do?

If there is a subject you want to study more than anything at university, you should usually choose that or a similar subject. You will need 5 GCSEs or more at C grade or above to study 3 A-levels at college – and you will need to get three good A-levels at college to study a degree at university.

I don't have any career plans yet. What should I do?

Choose the subjects you enjoy and do well at – as much of a mix as possible. What matters to many employers is that you have as many GCSEs as possible, not always what they are. It's worth going to the careers office to see if your career plans develop before you complete your form.

How do I know if I'm good enough to study a subject at GCSE level?

Broadly speaking, you should be getting level 4 or above in reports and assessments to be able to cope with a GCSE. You can always ask your subject teacher what they think of your achievements – or the Head of Department of that subject.

Should I risk trying out new studies like media or business studies that I've never done before or stick to subjects I know?

Think of whether they interest you – or fit in with your career plans – even your hobbies! Ask the teachers in charge about them. You'll be offered more new subjects if you go to college or university – so why not?

Who should I speak to for advice on my option choices?

The people that know you best – your subject teachers, form tutor, older brothers and sisters, parents and best friends.

Will I be with my friends next year?

Even if you take exactly the same options as your friends, there is no guarantee you will be in the same group as them. You will no longer be taught with your tutor group.

What things should I think about when choosing a GCSE or other subject for the upper school?

Do you do well? Do you enjoy it? Do your teachers tell you you're doing well? Do you find it interesting or want to try it at a higher level? Do you enjoy the homework? Are you good at writing or more hands-on subjects? What are your career plans? Is there a lot of, or little, controlled assessment?

Will I get all the option choices I ask for?

The school will try to accommodate your wishes but it is impossible to give all students everything they want. Courses that don't get enough students may be cancelled and over-popular courses may mean that not all students get a place. Likewise, you may be advised to take more or fewer subjects – or to change ones that may not suit your abilities. This is why it is important you make some second choices.

I don't get on with my subject teacher this year but want to choose that subject. Will it matter?

Teachers don't generally get to choose which students they get - it is all dictated by the timetable – so don't assume you will get your year 9 teacher again. However, you might do so this might be a time to get back on their side as you might have to ask for their help with work next year!

Is class behaviour good in GCSE classes?

In most cases, yes. There is much more pressure at key stage 4 so students tend to work harder – and tell off those who could harm their results. In option subjects, classes are made up generally of students who enjoy the subject and have chosen to be there.

Subject specific FAQ

History and geography

Can I take history and geography together?

Yes, you can and they can complement each other. However, they are both literary subjects with a lot of writing.

Design & technology

In DT do I have to be safe and responsible?

Yes, you do. It is very important.

Is food technology just about cooking and how to cook?

No, it's not just about cooking. See your teacher for more details.

Do I need food ingredients for this subject?

Yes, and you will be advised in advance which ingredients you need to bring for each lesson.

How much writing and practical work is involved in DT?

60% is coursework (30% designing / 30% making) 40% is exam (written).

Is textiles just about sewing?

No.

Can boys and girls do DT?

Yes.

Will I have to study mathematics and English when I leave school at the end of Year 11?

Yes if you have not achieved at least a grade C in either subject. If you have achieved a grade C then you do not need to study the subjects unless they are part of your course.

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

Everyone has to study the core subjects

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science - core and additional

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

Learning support

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 and controlled assessments take 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, A / A*, 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.

Vocational studies

The school may feel it would be better for you to take fewer subjects and follow a more vocationally based course. Some students attend college one day a week and others attend a work experience placement one day a week. Parents will be contacted if the school feels this is the best choice for you.

You can only choose this if the school has told you they feel this is a suitable choice for you.

Art and Design

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: Art and Design (unendorsed) 4201

What will you be learning?

- This is a very exciting course which offers you the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials, techniques and processes
- You will paint, print, sculpt, design and make
- Observational drawing, use of sketchbooks and looking at the work of other artists, designers and crafts people are fundamental to the course. You will have the opportunity to visit local, national and international galleries in London, Venice and New York

Equipment needed

- Sketchbook
- Camera
- Drawing and painting equipment

Assessment

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

What happens when you have finished?

- AS / A2 in an art or design related course
- BTEC diploma in art or design at post 16 further education colleges
- Art Foundation course
- Degree in fine art, graphics, illustration, fashion and textiles or 3D design

What else might you need to know?

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

Art - Graphics

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: Graphics Communications 4203

What will you be learning?

- This is a very exciting course which offers you the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials, techniques and processes, including large scale work
- You will creatively solve commission-based projects e.g. designing Japanese banners and creating graphics for shop window displays
- Observational drawing, use of sketchbook and looking at work of other artists are fundamental to the course
- You will have the opportunity to visit local, national and international galleries in London, Venice and New York

Equipment needed

- Sketchbook
- Camera
- Drawing and painting equipment

Assessment

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

What happens when you have finished?

- AS / A2 in an art or design related course
- BTEC diploma in art or design at 16+ further education colleges
- Art Foundation course
- Degree in fine art, graphics, illustration, fashion and textiles, or 3D design

What else might you need to know?

- Students are expected to attend one after-school session per week
- The graphics room is open most days after school for students to work on coursework and receive any required additional support

Art - Textiles

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: Textiles Design 4204

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, 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.

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)

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

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: 2BS01

What will you be learning?

- Unit 1 - Introduction to small businesses - the role of an entrepreneur / putting a business idea into practice / spotting a business opportunity
- Unit 2 - Controlled assignment - investigating small businesses
- Unit 3 - Building a business looking at all aspects of business organisation, from marketing to managing people

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

- Unit 1 - 45 minute multiple choice test questions
25%
- Unit 2 - Controlled assignment - research 6 hours on a specific business, write up 3 hours
25%
- Unit 3 - 1 1/2 hour written exam, a combination of multiple choice, short and extended answers
50%

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?

- This GCSE looks in greater depth at the business world
- 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: 2CS01

What will you be learning?

The key themes are

- Rights & responsibilities (including identities and diversity)
- Power, politics and the media (including democracy and justice)
- The global community
- 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:

- Single tier entry (A*-G)
- 2 written papers each 20% of final grade
- Two controlled assignments: each 30% of final 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

Computing

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: OCR – For more information see –
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computing-j275-from-2012/>

Requirements: You must be capable of achieving a B grade or above for maths and English GCSE.

Specification: There are 3 units of study in total for this GCSE

What will you learn?

Unit A451: Computer systems and programming

- This unit covers the body of knowledge about computer systems

Unit A452: Practical investigation

- An investigative computing task, chosen from a list provided by OCR, which assesses how computing is used in the outside world focusing on research & technical understanding, suggesting methods where programs could be developed and improved followed by recommendations and evaluations

Unit A453: Programming project

- Students will need to understand standard programming techniques, be able to design a coded solution to a problem, including the ability to:
 - Develop suitable algorithms
 - Develop simple input and output formats
 - Identify suitable variables and structures
 - Identify test procedures

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:

- Unit A451 Computer Systems and Programming - 80 marks and the examination is 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 40% of the final grade
- Unit A452: Practical investigation - This is a controlled assessment and is 45 marks and worth 30% of the final grade
- Unit A453: Programming project -This is also a controlled assessment and is worth 45 marks and 30% of the final 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
- Trends in Computing. Students are expected to research a computing-related technology (such as mobile phones, social networks)

Design Technology - Food

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4545

What will you be learning?

- Nutrition and healthy food choice
- Functions of ingredients
- Practical food-handling skills (making)
- Researching ideas and creative designing
- Analysis and evaluation of processes and products
- Use of CAD and CAM in product manufacture
- Preservation and processing

Equipment needed

- All basic food preparation equipment is provided

Students will need:

- Ingredients
- Containers or dishes to make in or carry home in
- Basic writing equipment including pencil, crayons and fine liners
- Useful to have a PC and internet access at home, but not essential

Assessment

- Unit 1: creative designing and making activity
Worth 60% of the GCSE grade (30% designing; 30% making)
- Unit 2: examination paper (1 ½ hours)
Worth 40% of the GCSE grade

What happens when you have finished?

- Further education courses in catering and hospitality, or catering and food manufacture
- A level in home economics: food and nutrition is another post 16 'follow-on' course
- Employers in the food industry generally value the GCSE food technology qualification for the creative, technical and transferable skills acquired

What else might you need to know?

- Over the course of two years, students will develop a range of creative, designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding related to food products and invaluable transferable skills such as problem-solving and time-management
- Students must be prepared for a subject that includes both high quality practical food work and a detailed analytical written element

Design Technology - Product Design

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4555

What will you be learning?

- This is a fantastic course that will give you the opportunity to gain a wide variety of skills including drawing, annotating, researching, ICT and modelling. You will be designing products on paper and using 3D CAD software to present your solutions. You will be modelling your designs using a range of different materials, tools and CAM equipment. You will begin the course with a diverse and exciting range of design briefs aimed at improving your design and making skills in the workshop. The second half of the course is centred on the completion of your controlled assessment, a piece of coursework worth 60% of your final GCSE grade

Equipment needed

- Designing / drawing equipment for presenting your ideas
- A willingness to work hard to solve problems and be creative

Assessment

- 60% coursework project (set brief)
- 40% written exam

What happens when you have finished?

- Lots of colleges offer design-related courses at AS / A2, BTEC diplomas including furniture design, engineering, mechanics, construction and product design.

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

Drama

Qualification: GCSE Drama

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: 2DR01

What will you be learning?

- Drama skills such as still images, narration, action and reaction etc
- Team work
- Communicating and presenting ideas
- Evaluation skills
- Characterisation and acting skills
- Self confidence

Equipment needed

- Yourself
- Pen and notebook for some lessons
- Enthusiasm

Assessment

- 6 hour workshop (internally assessed) based on a theme - 20%
- 6 hour workshop (internally assessed) based on a script - 15%
- Coursework – (controlled assessment)
 - A theatre review (2,000 words) - 10%
 - Evaluation of script workshop (1,000 words) - 5%
 - Evaluation of themed workshop (2,000 words) - 10%
- Performance exam in groups to an external examiner - 40%

What happens when you have finished?

- You will gain the opportunity to refine work in order to access higher grades. 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

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 non-fiction texts)
- Writing to suit different purposes and audiences
- Appreciation of a variety of texts and multi media

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, ruler etc

Assessment

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
Section A: Reading - one literature fiction text
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 etc
- Set text - to be announced

Assessment

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel
Shakespeare plays - The 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: A 9030

What will you be learning?

This specific course mixes academic credibility with understanding of interesting global issues. Some of the areas are:

- Dynamic coastal environments
- Built-up thriving cities
- The restless earth, including plate tectonics
- The impacts of natural hazards
- The ways in which plants and animals adapt to different ecosystems
- Exploration of places on a global scale
- Exploration of places on a local scale
- Industry and employment opportunities

Equipment needed

- A willingness to work hard to solve problems and be creative

Assessment

- Two tiered entry, Higher (A*-D) and Foundation (C-G)
- Two papers, one on human geography, one on physical aspects of geography
- 25% controlled assessment based on a fieldwork investigation
- 75% examination at the end of the two year course

What happens when you have finished?

- Wide educational and employment opportunities
- Geography offers the widest route into different higher educational subjects
- Employment opportunities

What else might you need to know?

- This is an exciting course based on viewing the real world. Geography is the most eye-opening subject that exists, as it seeks to make sense of the world. The subject at GCSE level builds on year 8 and 9 studies of fantastic places, moving and changing environments, dramatic landscapes and impacts on real people's lives
- Excellent engaging field trips, including one residential trip
- Choose GCSE geography if you want a fun, interesting and challenging course. Packed full of real life examples and case studies ready to stimulate your learning and prepare you for the real world

History

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: OCR

Specification: J417A History B (Modern World)

What will you be learning?

- Cold War - Origins - Cuban missile crisis - Vietnam war
- Germany 1918 – 1945
- Liberal reforms (Britain 1890 - 1918)
- Women's suffrage movements
- Home front WW1
- The USA 1919 - 1941 depth study

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

Assessment – all sat in Year 11

- Unit A971 - International Relations and Depth Study - 45% of overall GCSE - 2 hour examination
- Unit A972 / 21 - British Depth Study - 30% of overall GCSE - 1 hour 30 minute examination
- Unit A973 controlled assessment question based on Germany 1919 - 1945 depth study - 25% of overall GCSE, word count 2000

What happens when you have finished?

- Students may wish to continue their studies onto A level History
- 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 - 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: GCDA, September 2015 SPB (when 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.

ICT - GCSE

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: Edexcel

Specification: The Edexcel GCSE in ICT comprises of two units

What will you be learning?

Unit 1 - Living in a digital world (40%)

- In this unit students explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. They learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts (learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and wellbeing and on the move)

Unit 2 - Using Digital Tools (60%)

- This is a practical unit. Students broaden and enhance their ICT skills and capability. They work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts. They learn to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice

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 make provision for after hours access
- Microsoft Office (preferably 2010)

Assessment

- Units 1 is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute examination paper - 40%
- Units 2 is a controlled assessment completed over 40 hours in class which is built up using 4 activities covering a wide range of software skills - 60%

What happens when you have finished?

- You will have an extensive knowledge of industry standard software – a great grounding for college or work

What else might you need to know?

- Up-to-date, engaging content
- Clear and flexible modular structure
- Straightforward assessment
- Single tier examination paper
- Key Stage 4 National Curriculum Programme of Study for ICT embedded
- Functional Skills ICT embedded
- Controlled assessment briefs for Unit 2 and Unit 4 are available to download

For more information visit

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/gcse10/ict/Pages/default.aspx>

Languages - Spanish and French

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: French 4655 Spanish 4695

What will you be learning?

- A mixture of topics based on real life and developing your ability to communicate well when abroad. Topics include:
 - Personal information
 - Local area
 - School life
 - Travel and tourism
 - Environment
 - Sport and technology
 - Shopping and fashion
 - Work and money
 - Healthy living

Equipment needed

- Bilingual dictionary
- Revision guide
- Smartphone / tablet apps are also available to download

Assessment

All four skills will be examined:

- Writing - 30% of the final GCSE grade (completed during the course)
- Speaking - 30% of the final GCSE grade (completed during the course)
- Listening - 20% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)
- Reading - 20% of the final GCSE grade (final examination)

What happens when you have finished?

- After completion of the course you may opt to study French at AS and A2 level and a language GCSE is a desirable additional qualification for entry into further education

What else might you need to know?

- 60% of the exam is controlled assessment which is prepared and conducted under the supervision of your class teacher. You will be allowed a sheet with 40 words which will help you during the both the speaking and writing controlled assessments. You are also allowed to use a bi-lingual dictionary in your writing assessment

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%

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: 4810

What will you be learning?

- How to deconstruct (take to pieces) different forms of media
- How to design and produce film posters, magazines and adverts as well as other platforms of media
- How products communicate with their target audiences
- How to use still cameras
- How to use Publisher and other computer programs
- How to be an active rather than a passive consumer of the media

Equipment needed

- Pens, pencils, coloured pens and a ruler

Assessment

- 60% controlled assessment (based on three pieces of work)
- 40% exam on a previously released topic

What happens when you have finished?

- Media Studies is a relevant modern subject that allows students to increase their awareness of the world around them
- Media Studies provides a relevant, grounding for careers in TV, film, radio, gaming, publishing, web based media and journalism
- GCSE Media Studies supports all the humanities subjects and prepares students for A/S Media Studies

Music

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4270

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
- The areas of study include rhythm and metre, structure and form, timbre and texture, dynamics, melody and harmony
- 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
- Students study the area's of study through 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

- Two compositions based on the areas of study 40%
- One solo and one ensemble performance of your choice 40%
- One listening exam paper including all areas of study 20%

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

Performing Arts - Dance

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4230

What will you be learning?

- Critical appreciation of dance
- Performance skills for both solo and group pieces
- Choreographic skills for both solo and group compositions
- Healthy lifestyle

Equipment needed

- 2 x black cotton leggings
- 2 x black cotton, sleeveless, slim-fit t-shirts
- Lined notebook

Assessment

- Set dance (practical exam) 20%
- Performance in duo / group (controlled assessment) 20%
- Choreography (controlled assessment) 40%
- Written paper 20%

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

Physical Education

Qualification: GCSE PE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4890

What will you be learning?

- The role of the Participant
- Body Systems including skeletal, muscular, respiratory and circulatory.
- Personal health and a balanced healthy lifestyle
- Key influences on involvement in sport - e.g. media, schools, sponsorship,
- Practical skills in a full range of activities
- Analysis of performance
- Officiating and leadership

Equipment needed

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

Assessment

- 50% practical exam
- 40% theory
- 10% analysis of performance and controlled assessment coursework

What happens when you have finished?

- Good preparation for AS level sport and BTEC courses
- Public services courses

What else might you need to know?

- 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: Edexcel

Specification: 5R/S08/01 and 5RS01/01

What will you be learning?

- Investigate and evaluate religious beliefs and teachings about a wide range of topical issues
- Explore various moral stances regarding contemporary issues
- How to apply your knowledge, skills and understanding to relevant real life issues
- Communicate opposing arguments effectively
- Interpret and evaluate contemporary moral dilemmas
- Develop effective communication and debating skills using knowledge, understanding and empathy

Equipment needed:

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

Assessment:

- Single tier entry (A*-G)
- 2 written papers each 50% of final grade
- No coursework
- Regular exam practice

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

Double Science

Comprised of two separate GCSEs

Year 10 Science A

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4405

What will you be learning?

- Unit 1 - Biology 1 (BL1)
- Unit 2 - Chemistry 1 (CH1)
- Unit 3 - Physics 1 (PH1)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessment

- Unit 1 - Biology 1 (BL1) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 2 - Chemistry 1 (CH1) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 3 - Physics 1 (PH1) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 4 - Controlled assessment (SCA4)- 25% of final mark

Students can achieve A* - D grades in Higher tier papers and C - G in Foundation papers. In some cases students can achieve a B grade overall even if they only take Foundation tier papers.

What happens when you have finished?

- Awarded one GCSE

What else might you need to know?

- This GCSE is examined at the end of Year 11
- In Year 11 students take a second science GCSE - Additional Science

Double Science

This is the second GCSE of Double Science

Year 11 Additional Science

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4408

What will you be learning?

- Unit 1 - Biology 2 (BL2)
- Unit 2 - Chemistry 2 (CH2)
- Unit 3 - Physics 2 (PH2)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessment

- Unit 1 - Biology 2 (BL2) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 2 - Chemistry 2 (CH2) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 3 - Physics 2 (PH2) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 4 - Controlled assessment (AS4)- 25% of final mark

Students can achieve A* - D grades in Higher tier papers and C - G in Foundation papers. In some cases students can achieve a B grade overall even if they only take Foundation tier papers.

What happens when you have finished?

- This GCSE plus Science A GCSE, if taken at the higher level, will allow you to continue with Science at AS / A level

What else might you need to know?

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

Triple Science

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

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4401

Biology

What will you be learning?

- Unit 1 - Biology 1 (B1L)
- Unit 2 - Biology 2 (BL2)
- Unit 3 - Biology 3 (BL3)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessment

- Unit 1 - Biology 1 (BL1) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 2 - Biology 2 (BL2) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 3 - Biology 3 (BL3) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 4 - Controlled assessment (BL4) - 25% of final mark

Students can achieve A* - D grades in Higher tier papers and C - G in Foundation papers. In some cases students can achieve a B grade overall even if they only take Foundation tier papers.

What happens when you have finished?

- Entry to college if Higher paper taken to study AS / A level Biology
- Leads to a wide choice of careers including all medical and veterinary jobs (doctor, dentist, nurse, optician, pharmacist, vet) marine biologist, food scientist, agriculture and environmental related jobs. Also useful for many other careers

What else might you need to know?

- Assessment occurs at the end of Year 11
- The qualification leads to a wide choice of scientific careers

Triple Science

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4402

Chemistry

What will you be learning?

- Unit 1 - Chemistry 1 (CH1)
- Unit 2 - Chemistry 2 (CH2)
- Unit 3 - Chemistry 3 (CH3)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessment

- Unit 1 - Chemistry 1 (CH1) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 2 - Chemistry 2 (CH2) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 3 - Chemistry 3 (CH3) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 4 - Controlled assessment (CH4) - 25% of final mark

Students can achieve A* - D grades in Higher tier papers and C - G in Foundation papers. In some cases students can achieve a B grade overall even if they only take Foundation tier papers.

What happens when you have finished?

- Entry to college if Higher paper taken to study AS / A level Chemistry
- Leads to a wide choice of scientific careers including medical and veterinary jobs (doctor, dentist, pharmacist, vet), chemical engineering, pharmacology and analytical chemistry etc. Also useful for many other careers

What else might you need to know?

- Assessment occurs at the end of Year 11
- The qualification leads to a wide choice of scientific careers

Triple Science

Qualification: 1 GCSE

Examination board: AQA

Specification: 4403

Physics

What will you be learning?

- Unit 1 - Physics 1 (PH1)
- Unit 2 - Physics 2 (PH2)
- Unit 3 - Physics 3 (PH3)

Equipment needed

- Scientific calculator

Assessment

- Unit 1 - Physics 1 (PH1) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 2 - Physics 2 (PH2) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 3 - Physics 3 (PH3) - 1 hour written paper - 25% of final mark
- Unit 4 - Controlled assessment (PH4)- 25% of final mark

Students can achieve A* - D grades in Higher tier papers and C - G in Foundation papers. In some cases students can achieve a B grade overall even if they only take Foundation tier papers.

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