



Options Booklet

2022-2024

Be the best we can be

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Important

When reading the programme of study please be aware of the level of qualification.

Course name: English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

All students will study AQA's English Language (8700) and English Literature (8702) syllabuses.

What are the reasons for studying this?

As part of their Literature GCSE, students will study a range of texts from the Literary Heritage: Macbeth by William Shakespeare, An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley, a selection of poems dating from the nineteenth century, and Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The study of these texts will involve exploration of plot, characterisation and theme, along with the way the Writer's time, culture and intentions have shaped the text.

The English Language course further develops many of the skills of the Literature exams.

Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing, presents students with an extract from a 21st Century prose text and asks them to analyse and evaluate choices made by the writer. They then write their own descriptive narrative. Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives, presents students with two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how different viewpoints influence the reader. They write their own persuasive piece.

AQA is a well-established and highly regarded exam board nationally. All English GCSE exams are now single tier entry so all students will be prepared for the same exams. Having said this, we have selected the AQA exams because the questions are phrased clearly, along with bullet points which prompt responses, and are therefore supportive in nature for all students.

How is the course assessed?

Both courses are 100% exam assessed.

Language:

1. Creative reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%
2. Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%

Literature:

1. Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel – 1 hour 45 minutes – 64 marks – 40%
2. Modern Texts and Poetry – 2 hours 15 minutes – 96 marks – 60%

Spoken Language (speaking and listening) – additional qualification:

Teacher assessment of presenting skills, ability to respond to questions and use of Standard English.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

English is very much a facilitating subject for most careers. Employers and educational establishments will use English GCSEs as a way of gauging a student's ability to communicate effectively. Beyond this, there are many specific careers which would rely on GCSE English as a starting point: journalism and media-based careers, teaching, careers in politics, acting...the list is endless!

Course name: GCSE Mathematics

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE Mathematics (linear) course code 8300

What are the reasons for studying this?

Just look around. Some of civilisation's most prized and proud achievements are wholly reliant on mathematics. Planes flying seamlessly through the air, high availability of complex medicines, even the computer you are using now: all of these increasingly vital commodities rely on the use and study of numbers. At University, Mathematics is a reasonably neutral subject and so it is easily combined with other courses. Joint Honours like Mathematics & History, Mathematics & English, Mathematics & Spanish or Mathematics & Music are but a few of the increasingly broad range of Mathematics based courses available. This rich selection of study areas shows that a Mathematics degree does not have to be purely numerical, but can involve the arts to offer literary, musical or scientific nourishment.

Maths is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and [problem-solving skills](#). Not only will studying maths help give you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems, it will also help you develop logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively.

"Not everything that counts can be counted. Not everything that can be counted counts." Albert Einstein

How is the course assessed?

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same exam series (summer 2021).

Each paper is worth 80 marks and is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Paper 1 is non-calculator and papers 2 and 3 are calculator.

A brief course overview by topic:

Number, Algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Post 16 courses that are supported by GCSE Mathematics are AS/A levels in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Business Studies and Statistics amongst many others.

All college courses and apprenticeships require students to achieve a grade 4 or higher in GCSE Maths or students will be required to re-sit the GCSE alongside their chosen post 16 qualification.

Being a competent mathematician could lead to a career

in: [accounting](#), [medicine](#), [engineering](#), forensic pathology, [finance](#), business, consultancy, teaching, [IT](#), [games development](#), scientific research, programming, the civil service, design, [construction](#) and astrophysics to name a few.

There are a number of career paths for which the study of maths would be compulsory.

These include being an actuary, a business analyst, a software engineer, a technology analyst, an information engineer, a speech technology researcher, or a maths teacher.

Course name: Combined Science GCSE (Trilogy) 2 GCSEs

Which course/ syllabus will I be following? AQA Combined Science Trilogy

What are the reasons for studying this?

Science has something to offer everyone. As a core subject, it offers the opportunity to explore our world and beyond, enabling us to understand our place within it and our responsibilities to it.

In your Science lessons, you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will visit topics and themes to investigate how and why things happen, using data and observations to support your ideas. You will get the opportunity to share your ideas and listen to others, helping you to form your own ideas on topics as diverse as evolution and new super materials like graphene.

Your study will look in more depth at topics such as food nutrition and material science, which will compliment your studies in other curriculum areas, such as DT. By using and applying data, you will be practising your numeracy skills while writing and analysing news articles, letters, books and stories will support the development of your literacy skills. Science is also great at building up transferrable skills such as teamwork and communication. During your lessons, you will also get the opportunity to work with a wide variety of different people with different skills and ambitions, mirroring the world outside the school gates.

How is the course assessed?

Combined Science trilogy (double GCSE) is assessed at the end of year 11 in 6 exams each lasting 75 minutes. There are 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics papers, each assessing half of each subject's curriculum.

Each paper consists of 15% knowledge recall, such as formulae, equations, facts, and 85% Data analysis, making conclusions and evaluating experiments.

There are Physics and Chemistry equations that you will have to memorise and 22 required practical experiments that you must undertake and comment on in exams.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Students completing this course often go on to study Science to a higher level post 16. 6th form Science subjects are popular choices and grades of 6+ in double Science will allow you to study A-level Science at most 6th forms.

Science is also required for many other courses, particularly vocational courses such as nursing, animal care and engineering of any type.

A good grade in GCSE Science will enable you to access a wide range of exciting post 16 courses.

Course name: Separate Science GCSEs: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics (3 GCSEs)

Which course/ syllabus will I be following? AQA

What are the reasons for studying this?

Studying separate Science qualifications enables you to explore topics much more deeply than with Combined Science – you will also receive 3 separate GCSEs (one in each Science) at the end of the course. By taking these courses, you will come to understand some of the fundamental principles of the universe and understand more about how these fit and work together in the world we know around us.

Separate Science is right for you if like to know ‘why’ and ‘how’ systems work. If you enjoy examining the microscopic and macroscopic world around us, you will enjoy GCSE Biology. If you enjoy the wonder chemical reactions and understanding concepts such as material science, you will enjoy the depth of GCSE Chemistry. If you dream of space exploration, love making circuits or marvel at the feeling of forces, Physics is a great place to start. Whatever your interest, there is something for you in this suite of qualifications.

How is the course assessed?

Each GCSE is assessed at the end of year 11 in 2 exams each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes (6 papers in total across the 3 GCSEs). There are The two papers are called ‘paper 1’ and ‘paper 2’, each one assessing half of the subject’s curriculum.

Each paper consists of 15% knowledge recall, such as formulae, equations, facts, and 85% Data analysis, making conclusions and evaluating experiments.

There are Biology, Physics and Chemistry equations that you will have to memorise and 22 required practical experiments that you must undertake and comment on in exams.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Students completing this course often go on to study Science to a higher level post 16. 6th form Science subjects are popular choices, and grades of 6+ at GCSE will allow you to study A-level Science at most 6th forms.

Science is also required for many other courses, particularly vocational courses such as nursing, animal care and engineering of any type.

A good grade in any GCSE Science will enable you to access a wide range of exciting post 16 courses.

Course name: Art

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE Art

What are the reasons for studying this?

The Art course develops your practical and analytical skills from Year 9, allowing you to learn new techniques and produce a personal portfolio of work for assessment. Art is a practical, skill-based subject – you should have developed a good range of art skills across a range of media, as well as excellent drawing ability.

Through the course, you will be able to learn more about the work and approaches of different artists from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures. It will also develop your ability to explore and explain how ideas, meanings and intentions can be communicated through artwork using formal elements including, colour, line, form, tone and texture. You will be expected to show an understanding of the effect of using different media, materials, techniques and processes through the choices you make in your own artwork. The joy of studying Art at GCSE is that you get to critically interrogate and analysis sources in order to strengthen your ideas as an artist; you also get the time to develop and refine your own idea through experimentation – something which there has been little time for until this point.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (60%)

- From Autumn Year 10 until Autumn Year 11, you will develop an extensive portfolio of individual work, including technical studies, experimentation, artist research, media testing, and ultimately working up to a final piece.
- Your portfolio will show a ‘journey’ through the chosen theme, allowing you to showcase your personal development as your work progresses.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- From January of Year 11 you will produce a smaller portfolio based on a theme set by the exam board, which will culminate in a final piece produced under exam conditions in May of Year 11.
- The exam lasts for ten hours over two days but must be supported by a thorough portfolio of preparatory work.

There is no written exam in Art, although some written analysis is expected as part of the portfolio.

Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

GCSE Art is good preparation for A-level Art, vocational qualifications in design, graphics and fine art, as well as being a good contrasting subject for those following traditionally academic routes.

Being creative in terms of both practical skills, but also mind-set and your view and interpretation of things is a transferable skill in many situations.

Course name: Creative Media Production

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award

What are the reasons for studying this?

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.

This course is a practical introduction to life and work in the media industry, with an emphasis on the use of digital technologies. You will explore different areas of the media sector whilst developing technical skills and techniques to create range of digital media products for radio, TV, film, and online sectors, including interactive products and platforms. The course offers exciting opportunities to explore potential careers in the media industry.

How is the course assessed?

The course has two internally assessed components (30% weighting each), and one externally assessed component (40% weighting).

Component 1 – Exploring media products. This unit investigates a range of media products across a range of sub-sectors:

- **Audio/moving image**, including, TV programmes, films, video shorts, animations, radio broadcasts. You will study how films, TV and radio programmes are produced, including exploring the use of camerawork, lighting, sound and editing techniques.
- **Publishing**, including newspapers, magazines, books, e-magazines, and comics. You will explore layout and design, photographic and image editing techniques.
- **Interactive media**, such as websites, mobile applications, mobile games, video games, and online games. You will explore different features of these products, including user interfaces, playability, sound design, 3D and user interactivity.

Component 2 - Developing digital media production skills. This unit focuses on developing technical skills and techniques for the audio/moving image, publishing or interactive sector. The focus at OBHS will be on audio/moving image. You will develop skills using a range of industry standard software and equipment. You will be assessed on both units by completing a *portfolio* of evidence. This can be submitted using a variety of formats, including written reports, blogs, workshop recordings, photographs, presentations and teacher observations.

Component 3 - Creating a media product in response to a brief.

You will create a media product in response to a brief, applying the digital skills and techniques you have learnt. The set task is completed during 9 hours of supervised classroom based sessions in a period timetabled by the exam board (in Year 11).

Overall results are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 - Distinction* (equivalent to Grade 8.5 GCSE), Distinction (Grade 7 GCSE), Merit (Grade 5.5), Pass (Grade 4).

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

This course will prepare you for a range of post-16 qualifications, including Media and Communication, Graphic Design, Photography and Art and Design. The course also teaches essential IT skills useful in all routes of employment, including competency in using a wide range of application software, time management and efficient working practices.

Course name: Drama

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

GCSE Drama (AQA)

Reason

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum.) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

How is the course assessed?

The course is made up of 3 components:

Component 1 (40%) – Devising Theatre

You will participate in the creation, development, and performance of a piece of devised theatre.

You will produce:

A portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process

A performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group) An evaluation of the final performance or design. *This is an internally assessed assignment.*

Component 2 (20%) - Performing from a Text.

You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design.

You will produce: A performance lasting between 5-14 minutes using sections of text from both extracts. *Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.*

Component 3 (40%) – Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

You will answer: Section A: Set Text - A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.

Section B: Live Theatre Review – One question from a choice of two, analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course. *Externally assessed examination.*

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

With GCSE Drama you can continue onto further academic study either in the form of Level 3 courses or Higher Education and A-Levels, or for those who are considering an apprenticeship within the performing arts sector, the GCSE is the perfect choice for those who want to pursue performance arts as a vocation.

You can also use the skills you have learnt over the course for your future – communication, teamwork, self-reflection, problem solving; things that are part of any job you could have.

Course name: Enterprise and Marketing
<p>Which course/ syllabus will I be following? OCR Level 2 Cambridge Nationals in Enterprise and Marketing</p>
<p>What are the reasons for studying this?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Marketing and Enterprise course is a technical qualification which focusses on the marketing and enterprising concepts of new and small businesses. • The course is aimed at learners aged 14-16 • The course is equivalent to a GCSE in terms of both size and rigour
<p>How will my work be assessed?</p> <p><i>RO64 Externally set and marked exam (1hr 30mins) - Enterprise and marketing concepts (50%)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 will focus on the exam content and theory for the coursework. • The exam is sat early in year 11 (January) and there is the opportunity of a resit in May the same year. <p><i>RO65 Assignment - Design a business proposal (25%)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners will be designing a business proposal relating to an externally set case study. • This will be marked internally and externally moderated. <p><i>RO66 Presentation - Market and pitch a business proposal (25%)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners will be pitching a costed business plan relating to their RO65 assignment to two external moderators.
<p>Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate progression onto Level 3 qualifications, apprenticeships and employment. This may include A Levels and Btec courses • Entrepreneurial pursuits • The running of small start-up businesses • Business-related degree courses

Course name: Food Preparation and Nutrition

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

What are the reasons for studying this?

This course is an introduction to food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will learn and practise the following principles:

- effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food
- the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understanding the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrating knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understanding and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

How is the course assessed?

Component 1:

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content as listed in the specified GCSE content.

Section A: questions based on stimulus material.

Section B: structured, short and extended response questions to assess content related to food preparation and nutrition.

Component 2:

Non-examination assessment

Assessment 1: 8 hours 15% of qualification

The Food Investigation Assessment A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment 2: 12 hours 35% of qualification

The Food Preparation Assessment Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Food and Nutrition can lead on to a variety of vocational courses including Catering, Food Technology, Manufacturing, Nutritionist, Dietetics, Health & Social Care and Leisure & Tourism. It has strong links with Science and can be studied to degree level.

Course name: Geography AQA

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

GCSE Geography AQA 8365

What are the reasons for studying this?

The course was chosen as it has a good balance of human and physical geography and the topics covered are more dynamic and interesting. It also offers a lot of opportunity for you to become more critical thinkers in our ever-changing world. Examples of topics that studied are tectonics, urban issues and challenges, challenges of resource management, the changing economic world, coasts, rivers ecosystems and weather hazards.

The course is studied by a number of schools in the Trust which is beneficial as it means that we can share ideas and resources and moderate exam papers.

Looking through past papers and the specification, this course is well suited to the needs of our learners as not only are there opportunities to stretch and challenge those people who excel in Geography, but the structure, language and format of the questions and exam content makes it accessible to all.

How is the course assessed?

The course is 100% exam based and includes 3 papers:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment-1 ½ hour paper worth 35% of the GCSE

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment-1 ½ hour paper worth 35% of the GCSE

Unit 3: Geographical application and skills-1 ¼ hour paper worth 30% of the GCSE

Throughout the two years the students are assessed termly using sample and past assessments from the exam board.

The students have to undertake two field work experiments with this specification – this is assessed within the paper in unit 3.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Geography is a broad subject covering many topics and developing many skills which are transferable and applicable to a number of career paths including areas such as cartography, GIS, town planning, conservation, environmental planning, teaching, development studies, working with the local authority, recycling and waste management and environmental consultancy.

Post 16 courses:

The course links closely with elements of Sociology, Critical Thinking, Environmental Science, Environmental Technology, Business Studies, Economics, Global Development, Government And Politics, History And Travel And Tourism.

Course name: Health and Social Care

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

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

What are the reasons for studying this?

You should consider studying this course if you have an interest in a career in the caring profession including, health care, social care and the criminal justice system. The course will provide you with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve your learning and own personal development.

This course will introduce you to the specialist knowledge and skills needed to work in the care sector. This will particularly focus on core values, including communicating with individuals in order to maintain their dignity and sense of being valued, understanding the body and how it works, learning how to support individuals to maintain their rights, the importance of values of care and the impact of legislation and personal hygiene, safety and security measures.

The care sector is the biggest employment sector in the UK, and this course will allow you to explore the role it plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals of all ages. You will also be able to develop a range of transferable skills including the ability to empathise with others, communicate effectively with individuals, team work, making informed decisions, analysing and evaluating important information and essential life skills of First Aid.

How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through four units of study.

Unit 1 covers essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings. *This is assessed through a 1 hour written paper which is worth 25% of your overall grade and is externally assessed.*

Unit 2 covers communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years' settings. This is assessed through an assignment where you will be expected to explain communication techniques and demonstrate these in action. *This unit is worth 25% of your overall grade and is internally assessed.*

Unit 3 covers creative activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years' settings. This is assessed through an assignment where you will be expected to learn how to plan, carry out and evaluate appropriate activities. *This unit is worth 25% of your overall grade and is internally assessed.*

Unit 4 covers understanding the nutrients needed for good health. This is assessed through an assignment where you will be expected to create a dietary plan for individuals with specific dietary needs and prepare an appropriate meal. *This unit is worth 25% of your overall grade and is internally assessed.*

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

This course will help you to prepare for many care courses post 16, including a range of A-Levels or Vocational course. This could include courses in Health and Social Care, Adult Care and Early Years and Child Care.

Career progression routes could lead to Childcare, Nurse, Health Visitor, Counsellor, Care Worker, Social Worker, Community Support Worker, Occupational Therapist, etc.

Course name: GCSE History

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel

What are the reasons for studying this?

GCSE History helps students make sense of the world we live in today by focusing on the key events, issues and people that have helped shape this world.

Thematic study and historic environment

- Medicine in Britain, 1250 to the present day
- The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Period study and British depth study

- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991

Modern depth study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

GCSE History equips students with transferable and employable skills, such as gathering and analysing data; evaluating and analysing sources and interpretations; formulating arguments; reaching judgements and communicating clearly.

Edexcel is a well-established and highly regarded exam board nationally. We have selected the Edexcel exam board due to the suitability and relevance of the syllabus it offers and how the questions are made more accessible for all students through the provision of bullet points which prompt student responses.

How is the course assessed?

GCSE History is externally assessed in three exams at the end of Year 11:

- Exam Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment-30% of the GCSE-1 hour 15 minutes
- Exam Paper 2: Period study and British depth study-40% of the GCSE-1 hour 45 minutes
- Exam Paper 3: Modern depth study-30% of the GCSE-1 hour 20 minutes

GCSE History assesses the following in the exams in questions which range from 4 marks to 20 marks:

- Knowledge and understanding (35%)
- The ability to explain and analyse (35%)
- The ability to analyse, evaluate and make judgements about sources/interpretations (30%)

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

History is relevant to a variety of careers, including Law, Journalism, TV and Radio, Politics and Local Government. Those considering a career in medicine or science may find the thematic study of particular interest.

Course name: GCSE French / GCSE German

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE

What are the reasons for studying this?

In year 9 you are already well on your way to studying a language at GCSE as we have introduced elements of the GCSE course since the start of this year to build your confidence and understanding.

An awareness of a foreign language is a life-long skill: you don't have to be fluent to make a difference. Having even just a little of another language gives you the freedom to travel and communicate with others, whether for business or pleasure, without seeming arrogant enough to expect them to speak English.

Learning a foreign language helps you improve and understand your own language better. Moreover, once you have learnt a one foreign language, it's much easier to pick up another, so it really doesn't matter which one you learn at school.

The act of learning a foreign language reflects keen determination, outstanding communication skills and good organisational skills. In business, it's great for public relations to be able to speak to different parts of a multinational company or its suppliers in their own language regardless of whether they can speak English fluently.

A language qualification says a lot about you as a person and your outlook beyond the place you live, having a language really makes you stand out from the crowd and can give you a competitive edge in future career choices – even if you don't know what those choices may yet turn out to be!

How is the course assessed?

GCSE languages are assessed by four final exams:

- Listening 25%
- Speaking 25%
- Reading 25%
- Writing 25%

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

- A level languages and university courses with an international module
- Travel and tourism
- Business management
- Marketing and sales
- Careers requiring excellent communication skills

Course name: Music

Which course / syllabus will I be following?

GCSE Music (EDUQAS)

What are the reasons for studying this?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum.) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

The Eduqas music GCSE course encourages an integrated approach to the three distinct disciplines of performing, composing and appraising through four interrelated areas of study. The four areas of study are designed to develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context. The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of Musical Forms and Devices (area of study 1), you should take the opportunity to explore these forms and devices further in the other three areas of study. Music for Ensemble (area of study 2) allows you to look more closely at texture and sonority. Film Music (area of study 3) and Popular Music (area of study 4) provide an opportunity to look at contrasting styles and genres of music.

How is the course assessed?

This course has 3 Components:

Component 1: Performing (30%)

A minimum of two pieces, lasting a total of 4-6 minutes, recorded in the year of assessment.

Component 2: Composing (30%)

Two pieces: One in response to a brief set by the exam board – there are 4 to choose from each year.

One free composition – ANY style you want to write in.

Both components 1 and 2 are both internally assessed assignments.

Component 3: Appraising (40%)

During the course you will listen to a variety of music and learn how to identify the facts about what you hear. In the summer exam period of Y11 you will sit an exam where you answer questions on 8 pieces of music you hear.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

The GCSE Music Qualification allows you to progress to: Level 3 RSL and BTEC courses; A Level Music and Music Technology courses and higher education courses such as degrees in Music, Popular Music, Music Technology and Music Business.

Potential careers include performance, recording, music production, sound engineer, music business, band management, music journalism, music therapy, teaching in addition to many more.

Course name: PE

At OBHS, we are able to deliver both GCSE PE (Edexcel) and Cambridge Nationals There are 2 potential courses on offer: GCSE PE (Edexcel) and Cambridge Nationals Level 1 and 2 in Sports Studies.

Students will express an interest in studying PE at KS4 as part of the Options process, this is in addition to Core PE which all students continue with. We will determine the course it is best to offer. We will take into account students' strengths, the course content, and the other subjects chosen in order to determine the best fit on an individual basis.

The courses offers the opportunity for students delve deeper in to the world of sport. Whether that is through the study of contemporary issues in sport including funding, participation, ethics and sporting role models including investigating the relationship between sport and the media, or by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity.

Students will have the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge of different sports and physical activities, informed by their exploration or anatomy, physiology, physical training, health, fitness and well-being and sports psychology, and will also develop an understanding of the importance of sport locally and nationally – this will include considering the different ways you can be involved in sport and how these roles shape the sports industry.

Students will have the opportunity to develop their practical skills, performance and techniques through opportunities to develop their skills in both isolation and also within competitive situations. Furthermore, the students will develop leadership skills ensuring that they have an understanding of the rules in order to allow them to take on a number of officiating roles

<p>How is the GCSE PE course assessed?</p> <p>Two written papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper 1 Fitness and Body Systems, 1 hour 45 minutes (90 marks, 36%) <p>Paper 2 Health and Performance, 1 hour 15 minutes (70 marks, 24%)</p> <p>Practical Exam: 3 sports (1 individual, 1 team, 1 free choice) (105 marks, 30%)</p> <p>Written Coursework: Personal Exercise Programme (20 marks, 10%)</p>	<p>How is the Cambridge Nationals Sports Studies course assessed?</p> <p>There are 2 compulsory units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing sports skills. This will be assessed as a practical exam: students will be examined in two sports - one team sport and one individual sport. 2. Contemporary issues in sport. This will be assessed with a 1 hour written exam paper. <p>There then are 2 additional units which are assessed through task-based activities within school and moderated by the exam board.</p>
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Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

There is a natural progression through to A Level PE or other higher level Technical Awards. There are a wide range of job roles to progress into such as Personal Trainer, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist. This course will prepare students well to pursue a career in the Sport and Fitness industry.

Course name: Design and Technology – Product Design (Timbers)

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology

What are the reasons for studying this?

Product Design enables students to design and make products with creativity & originality using a range of skills & techniques. You will have access to a range of materials, from paper & card to wood, metal, plastic & even textiles. The study of design and technology seeks to prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable you to:

- develop realistic design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities and users' needs, wants and values
- use imagination, experimentation and combine ideas when designing
- develop the skills to critique and refine your own ideas while designing and making
- communicate your design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques
- develop decision-making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing your own project work
- develop a broad knowledge of materials, components & technologies and practical skills to develop high-quality, imaginative and functional prototypes
- consider the costs, commercial viability and marketing of products

This course encourages innovative design and enables you to follow your own interests, so is a good choice if you've enjoyed Product Design in Key Stage 3. We encourage the use of exciting new technology and modern materials and will develop your skills in CAD/CAM with laser & vinyl cutting as well as 3D modelling using 3D printing.

How is the course assessed?

You will complete a series of designing & making tasks in Year 10 that will explore a range of different materials, technology & equipment. You will develop your graphic & modelling skills & spend time learning the theory that is needed for the exam in Year 11.

NEA (50%): From June in Year 10 you will produce a portfolio that demonstrates how you have investigated, designed, manufactured and evaluated a product that helps solve a particular problem that you have identified using a real client and a real situation.

Exam (50%): This exam lasts 2 hours and you are expected to answer questions on a range of materials with additional specialist questions focussing on timbers.

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Design and Technology GCSE can lead to a range of different creative careers including Engineering, Architecture, Interior Design, & Industrial Design. You will develop creative, & problem-solving skills & an awareness of new technology which are all transferable to a range of university courses & apprenticeships.

Course name: Religious Studies

Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

OCR GCSE Religious Studies J625 AA

What are the reasons for studying this?

This course will take an in-depth look at the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam, as well as the wider philosophical and ethical themes arising from these, and other, religious and non-religious beliefs.

The course encourages students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to engage in debate and discussion about life in a modern, diverse society. Students will explore and understand personal values and beliefs, with an emphasis on careful analysis and the ability to construct balanced and informed arguments within the context of religious, philosophical and ethical awareness. Students will explore the intellectual tensions between religious and scientific explanations of the world; learn how to navigate through difficult issues in medical ethics, such as abortion and euthanasia; analyse the nature of God and its implications on belief; debate classical arguments for and against theism, attitudes towards wealth and poverty, prejudice and discrimination; and assess religious and non-religious responses to war and self-defence, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards these significant contemporary issues and cultivate crucial analytical and critical thinking skills.

How is the course assessed?

The course is 100% examined on three written papers. The examinations will include short open response questions as well as extended writing questions.

Religious Beliefs papers (2) - Beliefs, teachings and practices

from two religious perspectives; **Christianity** and **Islam**. *Both of the papers are out of 63 marks, one hour in length and worth 25% each of the total GCSE.*

Christian Ethics paper (1) – Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a **Christian** perspective. Four themes will be examined; relationships and families, the existence of God and the ultimate reality, religion, peace and conflict, dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes. *The paper is out of 126 marks, two hours in length and worth 50% of the total GCSE.*

Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Religious Studies or Philosophy and Ethics are a direct progression at A-Level.

As you enter the world of work, you will be expected to work alongside people with different beliefs from your own. Religious Studies will teach the skills and understanding needed to work with people of all faiths and cultures. These skills are vitally important in all careers especially professions such as the police, retail, social services, teaching, politics and the law, the caring and medical professions and the armed services, in fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people.

Course name: GCSE Statistics
<p>Which course/ syllabus will I be following? GCSE Statistics (linear) course code 1STO (Edexcel exam board)</p>
<p>What are the reasons for studying this? GCSE Statistics gives students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge in a key component of maths that is relevant to everyday life. They'll develop a core statistical grounding, as well as transferable skills and understanding that are applicable to a range of other subjects. It will also benefit those progressing to A-level subjects such as the Sciences, Geography and Psychology.</p>
<p>How is the course assessed? The work will be assessed by two written papers at the end of year 11. Exam papers are worth 50% each of the final grade and both are 1 hour 30 minutes long. In both exam papers a calculator is allowed. Each exam paper covers elements from the whole content of the course. <u>The course will follow the 3 aspects below:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The collection of data 2. Processing, representing and analyzing data 3. Probability <p>This GCSE is available at Higher and Foundation tier. We would anticipate that most students will follow the Higher tier by the end of the course.</p>
<p>Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for? Just a few of the careers that use statistics...</p> <p>An actuary is an expert in risk management. They use their mathematical skills to help measure the probability and risk of future events. This information is useful to many industries, including healthcare, pensions, insurance, banking and investments where a single decision can have a major financial impact.</p> <p>At one end of the scale, some forensic statisticians are employed by forensic science units specifically to analyse forensic data; at the other end, there are some researchers who specialise in carrying out statistical research on forensic matters and act as consultant forensic statisticians when required.</p> <p>Environmental statisticians are responsible for the analysis and interpretation of environmental data, for the design of environmental studies, and for the dissemination of statistical methods and concepts to staff working within the environmental sector.</p> <p>Market research statistician. Market research is, in very general terms, a means for providers of goods and services to keep themselves in touch with the needs and wants of those who buy and use the goods and services. It involves the systematic gathering, recording and analysing of information relating to the transfer and sale of goods and services from producer to consumer, together with systematic problem analysis, model building and fact finding for the purposes of improved decision making and control in marketing goods and services.</p>

Important Dates

January 24 th	Subject information website launch
January 24-28 th	Subject Assemblies
January 28 th	Straw Poll issued to students
February 2 nd	Deadline for return of Straw Poll
February 21 st	Assembly to hand out preference form and the explain the options process
February 22 nd	IAG evening
February 28 th	Deadline for return of the subject preference form
April 25-29 th	Subject interviews
May 12 th	Subject allocations released