



**ST BERNARD'S
HIGH SCHOOL**

Year 9 Options Curriculum Information for GCSE

Examination in 2028

Issued: February 2026

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

At Key Stage Four we aim to ensure that all students receive a broad, balanced and relevant educational experience; one which fits them for life long learning in an ever changing technological society. In addition, as a school with a religious character, we also believe that the spiritual and moral dimension of education is essential. The structure of the curriculum provides students with the opportunities they need to progress to further study and prepares them to make informed choices about their future.

In Key Stage Four, students follow a core curriculum:

English Language	Mathematics
English Literature	Combined Science
Religious Studies	PSHE

In addition, all students at Key Stage Four will study Sex & Relationships Education (delivered as part of the PSHE programme).

The curriculum offer at St Bernard's includes the following non-GCSE examination subjects for all students:

- Citizenship (delivered as part of the PSHE programme)
- Physical Education

Students will choose three subjects from the list below.

OPTIONS

Business	Geography	Music
Classics	Graphic Communication	Physical Education
Dance	Health and Social Care	Photography
Drama	History	Psychology
Economics	Media	Separate Science
Fine Art	French	Sociology
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Spanish	Textile Design

Restrictions

The following combinations of subjects cannot be studied together (students may only choose one subject from each list):

- Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Photography
- Business, Economics
- Psychology, Sociology, Health and Social Care

Entry Requirements

Most of the options subjects are open to all students, but the following subjects have specific entry requirements:

- Separate Sciences: Grade 5- in Science options exam (students with a Grade 4 may apply and will be considered by the Science department).
- Psychology: Grade 4- in Science options exam.
- Music: Students need to be competent, creative musicians.
- Physical Education: Students must routinely play at least one sport, ideally two sports.
- Classics: Grade 4- in English in the progress report in January 2026.

Other Staff Involved From Whom Advice Can Be Sought

Form Tutor 9A	Ms Rush
Form Tutor 9C	Mrs Maple-Waller
Form Tutor 9F	Mrs Evans and Ms Cahill
Form Tutor 9H	Mrs William
Form Tutor 9M	Mrs Hunter
Form Tutor 9R	Mr Cotter and Mr Palmer
Head of Year	Miss Nice
Careers Coordinator	Mrs Phillips
Options Coordinator	Miss March
EAL Coordinator	Ms Wagstaff
Learning Mentors	Ms Courtney, Mrs Belcher, Miss Green, Mrs Palmer, Miss Thorne

Curriculum Guidance

At St Bernard's, the Core Curriculum ensures students have a broad and balanced base from which they can progress to Further and Higher Education/Apprenticeships and future employment.

When choosing options subjects there are a number of areas to consider:

- The EBacc
- Thinking about Higher Education
- Oxford and Cambridge Applications
- Future career aspirations
- Vocational direction

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc subjects are: English language and literature, Mathematics, Combined/Separate Science, History or Geography and a foreign language. These subjects are considered essential to many degrees and open doors to many opportunities.

If you already have a particular career in mind, it is important to understand which qualifications will be necessary for further study, e.g. Architecture courses often require Art A Level, and therefore an Art GCSE would be important.

If you think you will want to apply to the top Universities including Oxford and Cambridge, then it is going to be important that you achieve grades at GCSE to the best of your ability in order to put yourself in the strongest possible position. We know that these Universities often like to see students with a grade profile of mainly 7-9 grades. In the 9-1 grading system for GCSE, grades 8 and 9 are the highest grades.

Many college courses will require Grade 4 or above in 5 GCSEs including English and Mathematics.

If you are uncertain about what you want to do post 16 or post 18, the curriculum structure at St Bernard's will ensure you have a wide range of options available to you.

Making Your Choices What to do Next

1. You should enjoy the subjects you choose or, in the case of a subject you have not studied before, you need to enjoy the type of work involved and find out what the subject is about.
2. You should have shown some ability in the subject or in related subjects.
3. You should take possible careers into account.
4. You should keep a balance of subjects which will give you a broad education.
5. Make the choice to suit yourself, not just because a friend is choosing it.
6. Talk over your plans with the following people, all of whom are ready to help:
 - Parents/Carers
 - Form Tutor
 - Head of Year
 - Subject Teachers
 - Learning Mentors
7. Remember to visit the Careers Coordinator, Mrs Phillips to seek information about possible careers and subjects you are considering.

If you have any problems please see your Form Tutor or your Head of Year as soon as possible. They will try to help you.

Finally, if after you have made your choices you have doubts, let Miss March know as soon as possible; changes may be possible and **most of all we want students to make the right choices.**

The timeline for the options process is as follows:

November	Careers workshops - "Making Good Post-14 Choices"
4th February	Year 9 Assembly with Miss March - Introduction to Options
5th February	Options Evening—Information shared with students and parents
2nd March	Year 9 Taster Day for GCSE options subjects
5th March	Year 9 Parent Consultation Evening
February/March	Year 9 PSHE lesson on GCSE options
March	Students submit options choices. Deadline: 1pm on Friday 27th March
April-June	Classes and staffing allocation
June	Allocated subjects confirmed by email to parents/carers and students

Course Information

Information concerning subjects is to be found on the pages shown together with the name of the teacher best placed to offer detailed advice.

Course	Page	Contact
---------------	-------------	----------------

Core Subjects

English Language/Literature	8	Mrs Barrett-Porter
Mathematics	10	Mr Miller
Personal, Social & Health Education	11	Mrs Thomas
Physical Education	12	Mr Phillips
Religious Studies	13	Miss Simmonds
Sciences (Combined Science)	14	Ms Campbell

Options Subjects

Business	16	Mrs Cousins
Classics	17	Mr Toms
Dance	19	Mrs Alexander
Drama	20	Mrs Bell
Economics	21	Mrs Cousins
Fine Art	22	Mrs Every
Food Preparation and Nutrition	23	Mrs Gayner
Geography	24	Mrs Armstrong
Graphic Communication	26	Mrs Stanborough
Health and Social Care	27	Mr Toms
History	28	Ms Lynch
Media	30	Mrs Barrett-Porter
Modern Foreign Language—French	32	Miss Dubois
Modern Foreign Language—Spanish	33	Miss Dubois
Music	34	Mrs Githu
Photography	35	Mrs Every
Physical Education—GCSE	36	Mr Phillips
Psychology	38	Miss Bower
Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	40	Ms Campbell
Sociology	43	Mrs Perkins
Textile Design	44	Mrs Stanborough

Core Subjects

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8700

Specification:

This is a linear course. It consists of two externally examined components and one endorsement for Spoken Language. Students must complete all assessment in the same series.

Students will study a range of 20th–21st century non-fiction texts (including literary non-fiction; develop skills to analyse, evaluate and compare non-fiction extracts; develop transactional writing skills for a variety of forms, purposes and audiences and use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of the total GCSE)

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text (40marks)

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing (40 marks)

Assessment duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Writer's' views and perspectives (50% of the total GCSE)

Section A: Reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text (40marks)

Section B: Writing

- transactional writing to present a viewpoint (40marks)

Assessment duration 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks)

Separate endorsement: Spoken Language

What's assessed

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

Tiers of Entry:

Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9-1)

Career Opportunities:

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have English GCSE. It is an important foundation for many of the courses you may take in employment or Further Education, and a requirement for many University courses. English will be invaluable, particularly in areas such as Teaching or Law.

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8702

Specification:

This is a linear course. It consists of two externally examined components. Students will study a Shakespeare play and a post-1914 British play or novel; develop skills to analyse how the language, form, structure and context of texts can create meanings and effects and develop skills to maintain a critical style and informed personal response.

Assessment: Component 1

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40% of the total GCSE)

- **Shakespeare play**
- **The 19th century novel**

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Assessment duration: 1 hour 45 minutes (total number of marks available is 64)

Assessment: Component 2

Section A : Modern texts: Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B : Poetry:

Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C : Unseen poetry:

Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Closed book (texts are not allowed in the examination).

Assessment duration: 2 hours 15 minutes (total number of marks available is 96)

60% of the total GCSE

Tiers of Entry:

Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9-1)

Career Opportunities:

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have English GCSE. It is an important foundation for many of the courses you may take in employment or Further Education, and a requirement for many University courses. English will be invaluable, particularly in areas such as Teaching or Law.

SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 1MA1

Specification:

GCSE Mathematics covers a lot of basic skills that you will need to use in a variety of ways all through your life and because of this it is a compulsory subject for all students in Years 10 and 11.

The knowledge and skills are grouped into five areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
- Geometry and Measures
- Statistics and Probability

You will use a lot of what you learn in GCSE Mathematics in the other GCSEs that you study; for example, in Science, you may be asked to use formulae and solve equations and in other subjects you may need to handle statistics and draw and interpret charts and diagrams.

Assessment:

Three written examinations of equal weighting. (The use of a calculator is not permitted in the first of these exams), there is no Controlled Assessment or Coursework. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. Each paper has 80 marks.

Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier - grades available 9-4

Foundation Tier - grades available 5-1

(There is an overlap in the tiers at grades 4 and 5. Students who fall slightly below the grade 4 boundary on Higher Tier may be awarded a grade 3).

Career Opportunities:

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have Mathematics GCSE. It is an important foundation for many of the courses you may take in employment or Further Education, and a requirement for many University courses.

**SUBJECT: PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH
EDUCATION**

EXAMINATION BOARD: N/A

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: N/A

Specification

Our approach to supporting pupils' and delivering a well-planned PSHE curriculum, is informed by and is threaded through the school's Christian vision and Mission Statement.

"Love one another. As I have loved you."

John 3:34

PSHE provides a breadth and depth of study that allows students to have a wide and varied knowledge base that enriches their life experience empowering them in their choices for higher education, employability, and global citizenship. It will openly teach skills and knowledge in a learning sequence that delivers students' progress.

The impact of our PSHE curriculum will ensure our young people are prepared for life now and for their next steps. It will create confident, engaged, independent learners who are experience, skill, knowledge, and language rich. Students should understand what constitutes, staying safe, to recognise risk and are aware of the support available to them.

Students explore themes including rights and responsibilities as a member of our society, issues of citizenship, sex and relationship education, mental and physical health education, independent careers guidance, work experience and an opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills which are considered essential to living in the 21st Century and those required for industry. Within this, a positive focus on relationships and lifestyle is taught, in line with the ethos of the school.

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

EXAMINATION BOARD: N/A

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: N/A

Specification:

All students are required to follow the compulsory Physical Education course, which is aimed towards preparing and encouraging students to be physically active and inspire them to participate in exercise or structured sport in the local community, once they have left St Bernard's.

We believe that it is important for all students to lead an active lifestyle in order to maintain a good level of fitness and maintain their general health and well being. We therefore look to equip students with the knowledge and skills to make healthy lifestyle choices and develop a confidence and passion for being physically active which they continue into adulthood.

The focus of the Year 10 Physical Education curriculum is 'Building mental health and managing pressure'. Alongside the development of skills and tactics in sports, emphasis will also be placed on having fun, increased self-esteem and stress release.

The focus of the Year 11 Physical Education curriculum is 'Making active lifestyle choices and balance'. The focus will be on exercising for enjoyment, increased self-esteem and stress release. Links will also be made to the importance of continuing participation in physical activity and sport when students leave school and in order to maintain a balanced approach to sport and study.

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

**EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: SPECIFICATION B
- Linear**

Specification:

Paper 1: Component 1: Catholic Christianity

Content overview:-

Catholic beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression in relation to six topics:

- Creation
- Incarnation
- The Triune God
- Redemption
- Church
- Eschatology

The examination will last for 1 hour and 45 minutes and is worth **50% of the qualification**

There are 96 marks available in this paper, plus 3 for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Paper 2: Component 2: Perspectives on Faith

Content overview:

1. A study of the Jewish religion with focus on:

- Beliefs and Teachings
- Practices

2. Religious, philosophical and ethical studies with focus on:

- Religion, relationships and families
- Religion, human rights and social justice

The examination will last for 1 hour and 45 minutes and is worth **50% of the qualification**

There are 96 marks available in this paper, plus 3 for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Assessment:

The course is assessed as follows in Year 11. 100% examination.

Two written papers:

Paper 1 50% - 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2 50% - 1 hr 45 mins

Tiers of Entry:

Common papers

Career Opportunities:

Useful in a number of areas due to the skills learned e.g. Law, Teaching, Politics, Social Work, Nursing, Medical professions and Research work as the subject encourages learners to look at issues from different perspectives and research information.

SUBJECT: SCIENCES (Combined Science)

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: Combined Science
(Trilogy) 8464

Specification:

This course emphasises scientific literacy. It focuses on the knowledge and understanding with which students need to engage, as informed citizens, with science based issues. This course is designed to focus on the topics of Science which are relevant to the modern world, and to explore, research, and discover just why Science is so important in the 21st Century.

Students will become aware of many of the topics of study, since there is a strong emphasis on the way Science is reported in the media, such as newspapers, television, radio and the internet.

The course is split into 24 units across three chapters:

- **Biology:** Cells Biology, organisations, infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution.
- **Chemistry:** Structure and periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, Quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, Energy changes. The role and extent of chemical changes, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry and the atmosphere and using resources
- **Physics:** Energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnets

Assessment:

This course is examined in May/June of Year 11. It leads to an award equal to two GCSEs in Science.

There are 6 papers all of 1 hour 15 min duration. Each paper has 70 marks contributing 16.7% of the total mark. Two papers each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

To gain the award students will be given the opportunity to carry out experimental and investigative work throughout the course.

Tiers of Entry:

Two grades are issued as this award equals two GCSEs

Higher Tier - grades available are 9-9, 9-8, 8-8, 8-7, 7-7, 7-6, 6-6, 6-5, 5-5, 5-4, 4-4

Foundation Tier - grades available are 5-5, 5-4, 4-4, 4-3, 3-3, 3-2, 2-2, 2-1, 1-1

Career Opportunities:

This course provides a sound foundation for students intending taking 'A' levels in either Physics and /or Chemistry and /or Biology. Science qualifications at 'A' level and University level are the cornerstone of many fields of employment including those in:

- medicine and other health related roles, agriculture, forensic science
- the engineering and communications industries, banking and finance
- the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The logical and analytical skills developed are also valued in many non-science roles.

Options Subjects

SUBJECT: BUSINESS

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: (9–1) in Business
IBSO/01 and IBSO/02

Specification:

You will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about planning, finance, marketing and economics and discover some of the methods and techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance. This will be covered in two themes

Theme 1 concentrates on the key business concepts, issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business

Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship

Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity

Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice

Topic 1.4 Making the business effective

Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2 focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, with emphasis on aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources

Topic 2.1 Growing the business

Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions

Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions

Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions

Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

Assessment:

There are two written examinations where a variety of tasks are undertaken. Both papers are divided into three sections and consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Theme 1 (Investigating Small Business) is examined by written examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. The paper consists of questions totalling 90 marks and is worth 50% of the qualification. Paper code 1BS0/01.

Theme 2 (Building a Business) is examined by written examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. The paper consists of questions totalling 90 marks and is worth 50% of the qualification.

Paper code 1BS0/02.

Tiers of Entry:

Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

Students complete all assessment in May/June of the final year

Career Opportunities:

A GCSE in Business allows students to understand more about the business world and provides a strong foundation for employment, with students progressing, with further training, to a wide range of careers such as banking, sales, product management and general management.

Students can progress from this qualification to a number of different academic and vocational qualifications at Level 3, Business, History, Geography, Economics and Psychology.

SUBJECT: CLASSICS

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: QN603/0768/7

Specification:

Classics focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is a wide ranging subject involving the study of literature, art, artefacts, archaeological sites, and the ancient historical context. You don't need to know any languages, all the texts are translated, and it doesn't matter if you haven't studied the Greeks and Romans since primary school; all you need is an interest in the Ancient World and its cultures. From women in the Ancient World, to the study of religious beliefs and ancient ideas about war, Classics involves a range of interesting discussions about things that are still important today.

One of the best things about Classics is how many different things there are to study. If you enjoy subjects such as History, English, Philosophy, Politics and Sociology, then Classics lets you do a bit of everything whilst studying two of the most important civilisations of the Western world that still influence our societies to this day.

Classics is just as useful as other humanities subjects like History, Geography and Religious Studies and in many ways complements these subjects. A subject like Classics gives you good skills such as essay writing and source analysis, and can teach you how to structure a good argument. Classics will develop your thinking and evaluative skills, and also develop an interest in people and cultures.

Topics Covered:

Women in the Ancient World

This component involves a comparative study of ancient Greece and Rome. Students will examine the realities of life as a woman (historical and fictional) in these societies; both women who are portrayed as living a respectable, ideal life of virtue, and those who created more scandal. Including: Helen of Troy, Pandora, Medea, Penthesilea and the Amazons, Aspasia, Clodia, Cleopatra and many more.

The Homeric World

This component contains two elements;

- One in-depth cultural study of the Mycenaean world;
- One study of related literature: the Homeric epic '*The Odyssey*'. An adventure including gods and monsters.

Assessment:

There will be two examination papers at the end of the course, worth a total of 100% of the final grade.

Component Group 1: Thematic Study

Women in the Ancient World (J199/12)
1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of the final grade

Component Group 2: Literature and Culture

The Homeric World (J199/21)
1 hour 30 minutes, 50% of the final grade.

Tiers of Entry:

All students sit the same papers at the end of the course.

SUBJECT: CLASSICS (continued)

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: QN603/0768/7

Career Opportunities:

If you are planning to go on to sixth form then Classical Civilisation GCSE is great preparation for A Levels in a wide variety of subjects, from Art to History to Politics to Law. It is usually counted alongside your other humanities choices when sixth forms are looking at your application. If you want to go on to do vocational courses at sixth form, Classical Civilisation gives you a really wide range of knowledge and skills that you can use. Employers will be able to see that you are someone with broad interests who can communicate their ideas well.

Classics lends itself to a wide variety of roles, and employers will be able to see that you are someone who has a wide skill set. Classics may be useful for all of these careers: Academic Researcher, Museum/Gallery Curator, Archivist, Barrister, Solicitor, Civil Service, Local Government, Politician, Editorial Assistant, Heritage Manager, Higher Education Lecturer, Market Researcher, Newspaper Journalist, Secondary School Teacher, Archaeologist, Author and many more.

SUBJECT: DANCE

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8236

Specification:

The specification focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the processes of performance, choreography and appreciation. Dance develops creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities.

Learning Outcomes

The course encourages students to:

- Learn to choreograph, perform and appreciate dance as an art form.
- Inform their development as creative and artistic individuals and broaden their aesthetic, social and cultural experience through a holistic engagement with dance.
- Engage as choreographers through creative and imaginative response to a range of stimuli. Application of knowledge, skills and understanding of choreographic forms and devices.
- Engage as performers through the application of knowledge, skills and understanding of performing; development of physical, technical and expressive skills. Communication of choreographic intention and artistry.
- Appreciate dance through the articulation of knowledge and critical reflection to inform artistic practice; critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts and critical analysis, interpretation, evaluation and appreciation of professional dance works.

Assessment:

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Performance—30% of GCSE, 40 marks (14 marks for set phrases and 26 marks for duet/trio performance)

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration)

Choreography—30% of GCSE, 40 marks

- Solo or group choreography—a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for 2-5 dancers (three to three and a half minutes).

Component 2: Dance Appreciation—40% of GCSE, written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks

Questions based on students' own practice in performance and choreography and the GCSE Dance Anthology, including:

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
- Critical appreciation of own work.
- Critical appreciation of professional works.

Career Opportunities:

Dancer, Choreographer, Teacher, Arts Administrator, Therapist, Performer, Presenter, Education Outreach Worker and further education to gain a degree in Dance and the Performing Arts.

SUBJECT: DRAMA

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8261

Specification:

Drama is an exciting, energetic and rigorous GCSE. It provides opportunities for students to develop a passion for Drama and Theatre and to understand how culture and society is enriched by it. It encourages a growth in confidence and an ability to work with a range of different people. Students will continue to develop the strength and range of their vocal and physical performance skills and explore a variety of styles and genres across the 2 year course.

Within the course we look at a wide variety of plays, with most of the work being approached through practical workshops. Students will explore the potential of styles, such as physical and grotesque theatre and how the work of practitioners and playwrights have influenced theatre as we know it today.

Students will study and explore one set text and at least one free choice text. Visits to the theatre to see a broad range of productions is an important part of the course, and generally take place out of school hours. We do our best to keep the costs down. Students are required to see at least one live production over the course of the two years.

Around assessment time, some rehearsals will take place out of school hours. Students must realise that they are expected to attend all rehearsals and commit themselves fully to the subject.

A student does not need a special talent for this course but certainly requires passion, commitment, and a willingness to try their hardest in every element of the course.

Good attendance is essential for this GCSE.

Tiers of Entry: N/A

Assessment:

Practical Components

1. Acting (scripted)—performing 2 extracts from a play text of the student and teacher's choice (20%) (externally assessed).
2. Devising Drama—written devising log (30%) and devised performance (10%).

Written Component 40% (1 x 1 hour 45 minutes paper)

Answering these areas of study:-

1. Multiple choice questions about the theatre industry.
2. Study of a set of text.
3. Evaluation of a piece of live theatre.

Controlled Assessment:

The Devising Drama unit (40%) takes place in the spring term of Year 10 and the Scripted Acting unit (20%) takes place in the spring term of Year 11.

Career Opportunities:

Media, Journalism, Acting, Teaching, Directing, Producing, Stage Management, Scriptwriting and many more.

SUBJECT: ECONOMICS

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8136

Specification:

Year 10 – Micro economics - How markets work:

- Economic foundations
- Resource allocation
- How prices are determined
- Production, costs, revenue and profit
- Competitive and concentrated markets
- Market failure

Year 11 – Macro economics - How the economy works:

- Introduction to the national economy
- Government objectives
- How the government manages the economy
- International trade and the global economy
- The role of money and financial markets

Assessment:

There are two written examinations where a variety of tasks are undertaken. Both papers consist of calculations, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

Paper 1 – How markets work

Written paper – Micro economics – 80 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2 – How the economy works

Written paper – Macro economics – 80 marks – 1 hour 45 minutes

Tiers of Entry:

N/A

Career Opportunities:

Actuarial analyst, Chartered accountant, Compliance officer, Data analyst, Economist, External auditor, Financial risk analyst, Investment analyst, Political risk analyst, Risk manager, Statistician, Stockbroker, Business development manager, Civil Service fast streamer, Data scientist, Diplomatic service officer, Local government officer, Management consultant, Policy officer, Quantity surveyor

SUBJECT: FINE ART

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8202

Specification:

The research, design and practical activities within Art and Design seek to develop creativity and confidence in the student's ability to explore, experiment, reflect and express their ideas using a range of equipment and materials, both two-dimensional and 3-dimensional. The possibilities for personal expression are endless. The qualification can lead to Art and Design related employment or apprenticeships or to courses such as A Level and Vocational Art courses which, in their turn, can lead to Higher Education Courses.

Areas of study:

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of fine art, such as those listed below:

- drawing
- painting
- sculpture
- installation
- photography
- printmaking
- mixed media
- land art
- digital media

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed holistically meaning that all work produced can be submitted for assessment. Students must produce the following units;

Component 1 / Portfolio / 60% of GCSE/ Non-Exam Assessment.

A portfolio that evidences explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It also includes a sustained project showcasing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the course. Students submit this before Christmas in Year 11.

Component 2 / Exam / 40% of GCSE / Externally Set Assignment.

Students respond to an externally set assignment paper from which they choose a theme to explore. At the end of the assignment students sit a 10 hour practical examination where they are required to realise their intentions into a practical outcome. They are required to work independently during the examination.

Career Opportunities:

Photographer, Interior Designer, Product Designer, Set Designer, Display specialist, Freelance Artist, Commercial Artist, Fashion Designer, Architect, Make-up artist, Stylist, Game Designer, Illustrator, Teacher, Tattoo artist, Film maker, Special effects artist, Costume designer, Landscape Gardener.

SUBJECT: FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: J309

Specification:

OCR's GCSE (9-1) in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting qualification, that is relevant to the world of food today. It replaces the previously taught qualification of 'Food Technology'. This qualification aims to equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, food provenance, nutrition and healthy eating. It will encourage learners to cook and make informed decisions about their food choice that not only are relevant to the examination, in this subject, but also develop and foster life skills that enable them to feed themselves and others well and affordably, now and in later life. Furthermore Food Preparation and Nutrition could form the foundation to a wide range of career opportunities.

Students will be encouraged to:

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

Assessment:

GCSE (9-1) in Food Preparation and Nutrition Assessments

Written Examination Paper—1 hour 30 minutes, examination paper—50% of GCSE

Food investigation task—15% of GCSE (NEA)

Food preparation task—35% of GCSE (NEA)

Both NEA (Non-examined Units) are completed in lesson time

Tiers of Entry:

No tiers

Careers:

A wide range of food based career opportunities exist. The Food Industry is one of the biggest employers in the UK. Potential career paths include the Catering Industry, Food Retailing, Medicine and NHS and Private Health Services, Health & Fitness, Journalism, Adult Education, Teaching and Child Care.

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

EXAMINATION BOARDS: Edexcel

**EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: GCSE (9-1)
Geography B (1GB0)**

Specification:

The Edexcel B GCSE in Geography is a newly designed course that is issues-based and counts towards the English Baccalaureate.

Unit 1: Global Geographical Issues. This component focuses on three topics: Topic 1 is Hazardous Earth. The students will study global atmospheric circulation and the different ways in which heat is distributed around the Earth, along with the natural and human causes of climate change. They will then go on to study Tectonic activity across the world. Topic 2 is Development Dynamics, and involves the study of different countries' development status, and how the development of a country is measured. This topic will focus on a case study of India and its uneven development. Topic 3 is Urban Challenges. This topic looks closely at the challenges and opportunities that occur within increasingly populated urban areas.

Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues. This component consists of three topics: Topic 4 is the UK's Evolving Physical landscape, and will include the study of the UK's changing coastal landscape, and the processes that are affecting these changes. It will also look at the costs and benefits involved in managing these changes. This will be followed by the study of the UK's rivers and the challenges involved with issues linked to rivers. For example, the increasing risk of flooding. There will also be a case study of the River Severn. Topic 5 is the UK's Evolving Human Landscape, and will include the study of the challenges and opportunities of changing urban and rural areas, with a focus on the city of Birmingham and its surrounding areas. Topic 6 is Geographical Investigations. This topic involves a human and physical fieldwork investigation, where students have to carry out investigations based on a key hypothesis or enquiry question.

Unit 3: People and Environment Issues-Making Geographical Decisions. This component includes topic 7, which is People And The Biosphere. This topic looks into the location and challenges linked to the world's largest biomes, and how to manage these challenges. Topic 8 is Forests Under Threat, which involves the case study of two contrasting forest biomes, Tropical rainforests and the Taiga forest. Students will study the challenges faced by both of these forest biomes, and why it is important to manage these challenges. Topic 9 is Consuming energy Resources. This topic looks at the increasing demand for resources, including energy. The students will study the contrasting ways in which energy can be provided, and why there is a real need to switch from fossil fuel energy to renewable energy.

Assessment:

The students will take three separate examination question papers based on each study component. The questions in each paper will combine short response questions and questions that require critical thinking with extended writing responses required. The examinations will take place during the summer period of Year 11 studies.

There will be no coursework linked to the GCSE Geography studies.

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY (continued)

EXAMINATION BOARDS: Edexcel

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: GCSE (9-1)
Geography B (1GB0)

Assessment cont:

Component 1: Global Geographical issues

Written examination :1 hour and 30 minutes

37.5% of the qualification

94 marks

Assessment overview:

Section A Hazardous Earth

Section B Development Dynamics

Section C Challenges of an urbanising world

Component 2: Geographical issues

Written examination 1 hour and 30 minutes

37.5% of the qualification

94 marks

Section A The UK's evolving physical landscape

Section B The UK's evolving human landscape

Section C Geographical investigations, including coastal change (physical Geography) and Dynamic urban areas (human Geography)

Component 3: People and Environment issues—making Geographical Decisions

1 hour and 30 minutes

25% of the qualification

64 marks

Section A People and the biosphere

Section B Forests under threat

Section C Consuming energy resources

Section D Making a geographical decision

Tiers of Entry:

All students sit the same papers at the end of the course.

Career Opportunities:

Useful in most areas due to the skills learned and the opportunity to work towards obtaining the English Baccalaureate. The course promotes a strong international, as well as UK outlook and cross-cultural awareness—the tools students need to move into the global market place. Students cover most units in detail and develop personal learning and thinking skills which will help with their intended further study and career paths. This course will provide the ideal preparation for A levels and a wide range of careers including Civil Servant, Diplomat, Pollution Analyst and Town Planner.

SUBJECT: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8203

Specification:

Graphic communication is defined here as the process of designing primarily visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given or self-defined brief. The research, design and practical activities within this subject seek to develop creativity and confidence in the student's ability to explore, experiment, reflect and communicate their ideas using a range of equipment and materials. Students will not only learn new skills and techniques, but also grasp the importance of innovative thinking within the Graphics industry. There continues to be a range of creative opportunities that lie within this industry, which lead to varying disciplines such as graphic design, editorial design, illustration, web design, UX/UI design, and motion graphics.

Areas of Study:

In component 1 and component 2 students are required to work in one or more areas of graphic communication, including:

- communication graphics
- design for print
- advertising and branding
- illustration
- package design
- typography

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed holistically meaning that all work produced can be submitted for assessment. Students must produce the following units;

Component 1 /8204C: Portfolio/60% of GCSE/ Non-Exam Assessment.

A portfolio that evidences explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It also includes a sustained project showcasing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the course. They explore briefs in typography, infographics and product promotion, before starting their sustained project. Students submit this before Christmas in Year 11.

Component 2 /8204X: Externally Set Assignment/40% of GCSE.

Students respond to an externally set assignment paper from which they choose a brief to explore. At the end of the assignment students sit a 10 hour practical examination where they are required to develop their ideas into a practical outcome. They are required to work independently during the examination.

Career Opportunities:

Employment opportunities and career opportunities are varied and include: Graphic designer, animator, creative director, illustrator, game designer, UX/UI designer, editorial designer, web designer, set designer, and more. The transferable skills developed from this subject include: creativity, communication skills, time management, research skills, presentation skills and analytical skills, which could lend themselves well to a wide range of careers.

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

EXAMINATION BOARD: OCR Cambridge Nationals

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: J835

Specification:

The Cambridge National Health and Social course is a GCSE equivalent. It differs in the grade names, where GCSE is graded 1 to 9, this course is graded from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 - Distinction* (please note it has the equivalent tariff value).

The key components of the Health and Social Care course are:

The **Supporting Individuals Through Life Events** assignment - this component looks at human lifespan development, including life stages and development, life events and their impact on individuals, and sources of support that meet the needs of the individual.

Advisory – students must interview a family member about their life events.

The **Creative And Therapeutic Activities** assignment – this component covers the benefits of therapies, creative activities and their benefits. You will plan and deliver a creative activity for an individual or group in a health and social care setting. Then, evaluate your performance.

Advisory – students must present their plan and undertake it with a variety of people.

The **Principles Of Care In Health And Social Care Settings** examination - in this component students will explore the rights of service users in health and care settings, person-centred values, the importance effective communication and protecting services users, and providers.

Assessment:

- 40% examination. There is one examination.
- 60% coursework. There are 2 pieces of coursework, each worth 30%.

Tiers of Entry:

No tiers of entry.

Career Opportunities:

The Health and Social Care sector is the largest employment sector in the UK. A qualification provides you with the skills and knowledge to progress to a wide range of careers. With qualifications designed to prepare you for real-life working experiences.

You will gain many transferable skills such as communication, research, planning, and presentation. These can be used across a variety of employment sectors such as business, finance, IT communications, the Arts, and retail.

This qualification helps towards careers in psychology, nursing, midwifery, and social work, to mention a few. However, it is not limited to careers in the Health and Social Care sector as many pupils gain a Health and Social Care qualification progressing to A Levels and apprenticeships within the business, finance, IT Communications, retail, and the Arts.

SUBJECT: HISTORY

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 1HI0

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

- develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history; and of the wide diversity of human experience
- engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers
- develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context
- develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them
- organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions

Specification:

Paper 1

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

Students will complete a thematic study, covering:

- Crime and punishment in medieval England
- Crime and punishment in early modern England
- Crime and punishment in eighteenth and nineteenth century Britain
- Crime and punishment in modern Britain
- Whitechapel, c1870-c1900: crime, policing and the inner city

Paper 2

Early Elizabethan England 1558-88

Students will complete a depth study of Elizabethan England, covering the following:

- Queen, government and religion, 1558-69
- Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad, 1569-88
- Elizabethan society in the Age of Exploration, 1558-88

The American West c1835-c1895

Students will complete a period study, exploring:

- The early settlement of the west, c1835-c1862
- Development of the Plains, c1862-c1876
- Conflicts and conquests, c1876-c1895

Paper 3

Weimar and Nazi Germany

Students will complete a modern depth study, exploring:

- The Weimar Republic, 1918-29
- Hitler's rise to power, 1919-33
- Nazi control and dictatorship, 1933-39
- Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-39

SUBJECT: HISTORY (continued)

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 1HI0

Assessment:

The course is assessed by three written papers totalling 100%

Examination: Year 11

Paper 1—1hr 20 mins

Paper 2—1hr 45 mins

Paper 3— 1hr 20 mins

Career Opportunities:

Studying History helps develop many transferable skills which are essential to many future careers, such as critical thinking, analysis, research, communication, problem solving, creating an argument, justifying a point of view, and thinking critically about sources of information.

History is particularly useful for entering careers like Law, Journalism, Research with Radio and Television, Administration, Management and Local Government, as well as for work specifically to do with History such as the Museum Service, Archives or Teaching.

SUBJECT: MEDIA

EXAMINATION BOARD: WJEC Eduqas

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: C680QS

Specification:

This is a linear course. It consists of two externally examined components and one practical non-exam assessment.

Learners study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

- **Media language:** how the media through their forms, codes and conventions communicate meanings
- **Representation:** how the media portrays events, issues, individuals and social groups
- **Media industries:** how the media industries' processes of production, distribution and circulation affect media forms and platforms
- **Audiences:** how media forms target, reach and address audiences; how audiences interpret and respond to them, and how members of audiences become producers themselves

The following forms are studied in depth through applying all areas of the framework: newspapers, television, music video and online, social and participatory media. Advertising and marketing, film, video games, radio and magazines are studied in relation to selected areas of the framework.

Assessment and Career Opportunities:

On next page

SUBJECT: MEDIA (continued)

EXAMINATION BOARD: WJEC Eduqas

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: C680QS

Assessment:

Component 1 Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30minutes —40% of qualification

- **Section A: Media Language and Representation**
This section assesses media language in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements. There are two questions in this section.
- **Section B: Exploring Media Industries and Audiences**
This section assesses two of the following media forms: film, newspapers, radio, video games. It includes:
 - **One** stepped question on media industries
 - **One** stepped question audiences

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination : 1 hour 30 minutes — 30% of qualification

- **Section A: Television**
 - **One** question on **either** media language **or** representation which will be based on an extract from one of the set television programme episodes.
 - **One** question media industries, audiences or media contexts
- **Section B: Music (music videos and online media)**
 - **One** question on **either** media language **or** representation
 - **One** question on media industries, audiences or media contexts

Component 3: Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment - 30% of qualification

An **individual** media production for an intended audience in response to a **choice of briefs set by WJEC Eduqas**, applying knowledge and understanding of **media language** and **representation**.

Career Opportunities:

During the GCSE Media course student develop and practise a range of skills which will equip them for progression to A Level study, in particular, subject areas such as Film, English, Humanities and Social Sciences. Over one hundred universities offer courses in Media, Communications and Cultural Studies in the UK. An A Level qualification in Media Studies, informed by study at GCSE level, helps students move towards these courses, as well as to those in a range of other areas. Career opportunities in the media include: TV and film production, advertising, journalism, interactive media, and digital marketing, technical production, special effects, web design and post-production.

SUBJECT: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (FRENCH)

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 1FR

Specification and Assessment:

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. The use of dictionaries is not permitted. For Paper 2 this includes during the preparation time.

Paper 1: Speaking in French

Internally conducted and externally assessed:

Foundation tier: 7-9 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks

Higher tier: 10-12 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks

25% of the qualification

Task 1: Read aloud (12 marks)

Task 2: Role play (10 marks)

Task 3: Picture task (12 marks) with conversation (16 marks)

Paper 2: Listening and understanding in French

Foundation tier: 45 minutes, including 5 minutes' reading time, 50 marks

Higher tier: 60 minutes, including 5 minutes' reading time, 50 marks

25% of the qualification

Section A: Listening (40 marks)

Section B: Dictation (10 marks)

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in French

Foundation tier: 45 minutes, 50 marks

Higher tier: 60 minutes, 50 marks

25% of the qualification

Section A: Reading and Understanding (40 marks)

Section B: Translation into English (10 marks)

Paper 4: Writing in French

Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes; 50 marks.

Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes; 50 marks.

25% of the qualification

Thematic contexts

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Tiers of Entry:

Each paper is available at Foundation Tier or Higher Tier. Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.

Career Opportunities:

A modern foreign language will be invaluable, particularly in areas such as work abroad, International Business, Law and International Law, Teaching, Journalism, Interpreting, Translating and Tourism. It is also looked upon favourably by the Russell Group Universities.

SUBJECT: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (SPANISH)

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDEXCEL

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 1SP

Specification and Assessment:

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) consists of four externally examined papers based on the following skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The use of dictionaries is not permitted.

Paper 1: Speaking in Spanish

Foundation tier: 7-9 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks

Higher tier: 10-12 minutes plus 15 minutes' preparation time; 50 marks

25% of the qualification

Task 1: Read aloud (12 marks)

Task 2: Role play (10 marks)

Task 3: Picture task (12 marks) with conversation (16 marks)

Paper 2: Listening and understanding in Spanish

Foundation tier: 45 minutes, including 5 minutes' reading time, 50 marks

Higher tier: 60 minutes, including 5 minutes' reading time, 50 marks

25% of the qualification

Section A: Listening (40 marks)

Section B: Dictation (10 marks)

Paper 3: Reading and understanding in Spanish

Foundation tier: 45 minutes, 50 marks

Higher tier: 60 minutes, 50 marks

25% of the qualification

Section A: Reading and Understanding (40 marks)

Section B: Translation into English (10 marks)

Paper 4: Writing in Spanish

Foundation tier: 1 hour 15 minutes; 50 marks.

Higher tier: 1 hour 20 minutes; 50 marks.

25% of the qualification

Foundation Tier

- Question 1: picture-based task (8 marks)
- Question 2: one of two open-response questions, set in formal context (14 marks)
- Question 3: one of two open-response questions, set in informal context (18 marks)
- Question 4: translation into Spanish (10 marks)

Higher Tier

- Question 1: one of two open-response questions, set in informal context (18 marks)
- Question 2: one of two open-response questions, set in formal context (22 marks)
- Question 3: translation into Spanish (10 marks)

Thematic contexts

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs.

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

Tiers of Entry:

Foundation Tier or Higher Tier. Students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.

Career Opportunities:

A modern foreign language will be invaluable, particularly in areas such as work abroad, International Business, Law and International Law, Teaching, Journalism, Interpreting, Translating and Tourism. It is also looked upon favourably by the Russell Group Universities.

SUBJECT: MUSIC

EXAMINATION BOARD: EDUQAS

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: C660

Specification:

This comprises of 3 units:

Unit 1 : Performing - 30%

Any combination of voice or instrument.

1 solo - recorded for assessment

1 ensemble - recorded for assessment

Total duration of performances must be 4 – 6 minutes

Unit 2 : Composing - 30%

1 free composition

1 composition set to a brief

Total duration of composition: 3-6 minutes

Unit 3 : Appraising - 40%

Musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

4 Areas of Study :

Area of study 1 - Musical Form and Device

Area of study 2 - Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3 - Film Music

Area of study 4 - Pop Music

Students taking GCSE Music need to be **competent, creative musicians who enjoy performing** as 60% of the course is performance and composition. Music is also an academic subject as there is a focus on the study of networks in different areas of study.

Assessment:

Practical – Two days are set by for recording of individual and ensemble pieces and compositions

Written – Approximately 1 hour 15 minutes

Deadlines:

2 compositions starting Spring Year 10 and finish end of February Year 11

Tiers of Entry: N/A

Career Opportunities:

Teacher, Music Therapist, Music Administrator/Concert Organiser, Recording Engineer, Instrument Designer/Dealer, Performer, Composer and Publisher.

SUBJECT: PHOTOGRAPHY

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8206

Specification and Assessment:

GCSE Photography offers students an exciting opportunity to develop their creative voice while mastering the technical skills behind compelling imagery. Through hands-on exploration of both traditional and digital techniques, learners experiment with composition, lighting, and visual storytelling to produce thoughtful and imaginative work. The course encourages students to think critically about the power of images in contemporary culture, helping them build confidence as independent artists and visual communicators. Whether students aspire to pursue further study in the arts or simply want to broaden their creative horizons, GCSE Photography provides a dynamic and inspiring foundation.

Areas of study:

Students are required to work in one or more areas of photography, such as those listed below:

- Portraiture
- Location photography
- Studio photography
- Experimental imagery
- Documentary photography
- Animation and moving image
- Fashion photography.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed holistically meaning that all work produced can be submitted for assessment. Students must produce the following units:

Component 1 / Portfolio / 60% of GCSE/ Coursework

A portfolio that evidences explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It also includes a sustained project showcasing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the course. Students submit this before Christmas in Year 11.

Component 2 / Exam / 40% of GCSE / Externally Set Assignment.

Students respond to an externally set assignment paper from which they choose a theme to explore. At the end of the assignment students sit a 10-hour practical examination where they are required to realise their intentions into a practical outcome. They are required to work independently during the examination.

Career Opportunities:

Fashion photographer, Content creator, Commercial photographer, Photojournalist, Forensic photographer, Gallery curator, Sports photographer, Portrait photographer Architectural photographer, Documentary photographer, Photo editor, Media creator, Medical or Scientific photographer.

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL EDUCATION—GCSE

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8582

Specification:

If you love playing sport, enjoy watching sport and discussing current affairs in sport then Physical Education is for you! Students that study GCSE PE improve their performance through learning how to move, train, eat and control their mind better. Many GCSE PE students continue to study the subject at A-Level and some continue this at university. There are a huge amount of sport and leisure related careers in addition to being a professional athlete!

Physical education has clear links with a range of other GCSE courses some being, Health and social care, psychology, science and food and nutrition.

Component 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Component 2: Social-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Component 3: Practical Performance in physical activity **across 3 activities** and sport & Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in **one activity**.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course. **Students who select to study GCSE PE must routinely play at least one sport/ideally two and are required to attend all practices for the practical activities they are to be assessed in.**

Assessment:

Component 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes

30% of the qualification

78 marks

Content Overview

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology

Topic 2: Movement analysis

Topic 3: Physical training

Topic 4: Use of data

Assessment Overview

The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. Students must answer all questions.

Component 2: Social-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes

30% of the qualification

78 marks

Content Overview

Topic 1: Sport psychology

Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences

Topic 4: Health, fitness and well-being

Topic 4: Use of data

Assessment Overview

The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. Students must answer all questions.

SUBJECT: PHYSICAL EDUCATION—GCSE (continued)

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8582

Assessment cont:

Component 3: Two elements

- 1. Practical Performance in physical activity and sport**
- 2. Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity**

Content Overview:

Skills during individual and team activities
General performance skills

Practical Performance in physical activity and sport

Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated.
30% of the qualification
75 marks

Assessment Overview

The assessment consists of students completing **three** physical activities from a set list.

One must be a **team** activity.
One must be an **individual** activity.
The final activity can be a **free** choice.

Students must participate in three separate activities.

Students will be assessed against set assessment criteria found in the AQA list of approved sporting activities. These will be assessed by the teacher in class and moderated by AQA.

Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity

10% of qualification
25 marks

Students will also be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity. Evidence can be written or verbal (audio visual recording must be provided for moderation if verbal).

Career Opportunities:

You can then build on this knowledge, leading towards a number of exciting career opportunities including:

- Sport
- Fitness
- Teaching / coaching
- Health and well-being
- Industry specific
- Outdoor education
- Leisure Industry
- Physiotherapy
- Sports nutrition

SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGY

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8182

Specification:

Psychology is one of the most interesting and dynamic fields in the world currently. With the increasing prominence of mental health and related issues, psychology has never been more important to the national discussion. Through Psychology, we can examine the human mind in terms of mental behaviours and psychological functions. Psychologists will then try to understand how it functions, responds, if it can be improved and how it can be kept in a stable state. Studying GCSE psychology, you will get to grips with the core principles and theories that underpin this social science.

Paper 1: Cognition & Behaviour

Memory

This includes the process, structure and process of memory. You will explore the different kinds of memory and how they are formed. You will also touch on how memories can influence our reality, including accuracy of memories, false memories and context.

Perception

Perception refers to the way we organise and interpret sensory information. You will study the difference between sensation and perception, Gibson's direct theory of perception including the role of motion parallax in everyday perception. You will also explore Gregory's constructive theory of perception, studying the influence of nurture and the perceptual effects of culture, motivation, emotion and expectation.

Development

Developmental psychology examines how and why human beings change over the course of their life. You will understand the four stages of development and the role of these stages in education, egocentricity and social interactions. Originally concerned with infants and prepubescent children, the field has expanded to include adolescence, adult development, aging, and the entire lifespan.

Research methods

This module teaches you how to carry out scientific research including how to form a testable hypothesis, the types of variables and sampling methods. You will also understand planning research, ethical considerations and the importance of data.

Paper 2: Social Context & Behaviour

Social influence

Social influence explores the affect of conformity and major influence on an individual depending on a variety of factors. Including anonymity, peer group, personality and others. You will also study the concepts of obedience and prosocial behaviour that influences the individual in order to alter behaviour.

Language, thought & communication

This module examines the relationship between language and thought and how this can alter your view on the world. You will study the differences between human and animal communication as well as the significance of non-verbal communication in human interactions.

Brain & neuropsychology

You will study the structure and function of the nervous system. This is essential to understanding our fight or flight response and the James-Lange theory of emotion. You will also study the structure of neurons and the brain itself and their respective roles to play in our conscious and unconscious lives.

Psychological problems

Psychological problems is an introduction to mental health issues, the significance of these challenges and the impact they can have on society. You will also look at clinical depression, therapies, the characteristics of addiction and theories underpinning that.

SUBJECT: PSYCHOLOGY (continued)

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8182

Assessment:

This qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their examinations at the end of the course. There are two written examination papers, both are 105 minutes long and each examination is worth 50% of the course. All four sections including multiple choice, short answer & ext. writing Qs. (25marks per section). No coursework.

AO1 – knowledge & understanding 35%; AO2 – application 35%; AO3 – analysis & evaluation 30%.

Research methods questions are 20% of the overall marks with half of those marks (10% of the overall marks) being mathematics based.

Tiers of Entry:

There are no tiered examinations. All students take the general level.

Career Opportunities:

Studying GCSE psychology is an excellent way to give yourself a foundational knowledge of how the human mind works, understand social behaviour and human development. GCSE psychology will also give you the basis upon which to build deeper knowledge in the form of A Level psychology and an undergraduate degree.

If you're interested in human behaviour, then GCSE psychology can go some way to answering your questions and providing valuable insight. It will help you to understand human behaviour and what compels people to make the decisions they do.

You can then build on this knowledge, leading towards a number of exciting career opportunities including:

- Clinical psychologist.
- Counselling psychologist.
- Educational psychologist.
- Forensic psychologist.
- Health psychologist.
- High intensity therapist.
- Occupational psychologist.
- Teacher.

The expertise that you will possess as a psychologist will assist you in a range of sectors, including mental health, social work, education, business and even sport and fitness. Indeed, psychology will help you in any work that involves working with, or for people—so that's most jobs!

SUBJECT: SEPARATE SCIENCES —BIOLOGY

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

**EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: GCSE (9–1) in Biology
8461**

Specification:

This course, *taken alongside GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics*, is an optional alternative intended for students who have an enthusiasm for the Sciences and would appreciate the opportunity of extra time to broaden their studies.

This course emphasises scientific literacy. It focuses on the knowledge and understanding with which students need to engage, as informed citizens, with science based issues. This course is designed to focus on the topics of Biology which are relevant to the modern world, and to explore, research, and discover just why Biology is so important in the 21st Century.

Students will become aware of many of the topics of study, since there is a strong emphasis on the way Science is reported in the media, such as newspapers, television, radio and the internet.

The course is split into 5 topics with 18 chapters.

- Cells and organisation: Cell structure, Cell division, Digestion, Organisation
- Disease and Bioenergetics: Communicable / Non communicable, Photosynthesis, Respiration
- Biological Response: Hormones, The Nervous System, Homeostasis
- Genetics and reproduction: Reproduction, Variation, Evolution, Genetics
- Ecology: Adaptations, Interdependence and Competition, Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Assessment:

This course is examined in May/June of Year 11. It leads to the award of a GCSE in Biology.

There are 2 written papers, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and each contributing 50% to the total mark. Each paper has 100 marks.

To gain the award students will be given the opportunity to carry out experimental and investigative work throughout the course.

Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier - grades available are 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4

Career Opportunities:

The progression routes are the same as for Combined Science.

This combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCSE provides a sound foundation for students intending taking 'A' levels in either Physics and /or Chemistry and /or Biology. Science qualifications at 'A' level and University level are the cornerstone of many fields of employment including those in:

- medicine and other health related roles, agriculture, forensic science
- the engineering and communications industries, banking and finance
- the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The logical and analytical skills developed are also valued in many non-science roles.

SUBJECT: SEPARATE SCIENCES —CHEMISTRY

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: GCSE (9–1) in Chemistry 8462

Specification:

This course, *taken alongside GCSE Biology and GCSE Physics*, is an optional alternative intended for students who have an enthusiasm for the Sciences and would appreciate the opportunity of extra time to broaden their studies.

This course emphasises scientific literacy. It focuses on the knowledge and understanding with which students need to engage, as informed citizens, with science based issues. This course is designed to focus on the topics of Chemistry which are relevant to the modern world, and to explore, research, and discover just why Chemistry is so important in the 21st Century.

Students will become aware of many of the topics of study, since there is a strong emphasis on the way Science is reported in the media, such as newspapers, television, radio and the internet.

The course is split into 4 topics with 15 chapters :

- Atoms and bonding: Atomic structure, Periodic Table, Bonding, Chemical Calculations
- Chemical Reactions and Energy Changes: Chemical changes, Electrolysis, Energy changes
- Rates and Equilibrium: Organic Chemistry, Crude Oil, Organic Reactions, Polymers
- Earths Resources: Chemical analysis, Earths Atmosphere, Earths Resources, Using Resources

Assessment:

This course is examined in May/June of Year 11. It leads to the award of a GCSE in Chemistry.

There are 2 written papers, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and each contributing 50% to the total mark. Each paper has 100 marks.

To gain the award students will be given the opportunity to carry out experimental and investigative work throughout the course.

Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier - grades available are 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4

Career Opportunities:

The progression routes are the same as for Combined Science.

This combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCSE provides a sound foundation for students intending taking 'A' levels in either Physics and /or Chemistry and /or Biology. Science qualifications at 'A' level and University level are the cornerstone of many fields of employment including those in:

- medicine and other health related roles, agriculture, forensic science
- the engineering and communications industries, banking and finance
- the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The logical and analytical skills developed are also valued in many non-science roles.

SUBJECT: SEPARATE SCIENCES —PHYSICS

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: GCSE (9–1) in Physics 8463

Specification:

This course, *taken alongside GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Biology*, is an optional alternative intended for students who have an enthusiasm for the Sciences and would appreciate the opportunity of extra time to broaden their studies.

This course emphasises scientific literacy. It focuses on the knowledge and understanding with which students need to engage, as informed citizens, with science based issues. This course is designed to focus on the topics of Physics which are relevant to the modern world, and to explore, research, and discover just why Physics is so important in the 21st Century.

Students will become aware of many of the topics of study, since there is a strong emphasis on the way Science is reported in the media, such as newspapers, television, radio and the internet.

The course is split into 4 topics with 16 chapters:

- Energy: Conservation and dissipation, Energy transfer by heating, Energy resources
- Particles: Electric Circuits, Electricity in the home, Molecules and matter, Radioactivity
- Forces: Forces in balance, Motion, Forces and Motion, forces and pressure
- Waves: Wave properties, Electromagnetic waves, Light, Electromagnetism, Space

Assessment:

This course is examined in May/June of Year 11. It leads to the award of a GCSE in Physics.

There are 2 written papers, each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and each contributing 50% to the total mark. Each paper has 100 marks.

To gain the award students will be given the opportunity to carry out experimental and investigative work throughout the course.

Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier - grades available are 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4

Career Opportunities:

The progression routes are the same as for Combined Science.

This combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCSE provides a sound foundation for students intending taking 'A' levels in either Physics and /or Chemistry and /or Biology. Science qualifications at 'A' level and University level are the cornerstone of many fields of employment including those in:

- medicine and other health related roles, agriculture, forensic science
- the engineering and communications industries, banking and finance
- the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

The logical and analytical skills developed are also valued in many non-science roles.

SUBJECT: SOCIOLOGY

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8192

Specification:

Following on from the success of A Level Sociology, currently studied in the sixth form, we are excited to offer our students the opportunity to study Sociology at GCSE.

Exam board and syllabus

- Exam board will be inline with the A Level course which is AQA
- This is a GCSE course where students will get the opportunity to study the sociology of education, families and households' crime and deviance and research methods.

Outline of the specification

The key components of the Sociology course are:

- Students study key ideas of classical sociologists including Durkheim, Marx and Weber, referencing their view of the world and their contribution to the development of sociology.
- Students will learn how to develop opinions and new ideas on social issues surrounding education, families and households and crime and deviance.
- Students will be able to draw on their own experiences and apply these to various sociological themes.
- Students will have the opportunity to debate, and tackle thought provoking issues within our society.
- Although the subject is not studied at key stage three there are crossovers with several other subjects including, History, Geography, Religious Education, PSHE, English and Maths

Assessment:

- 100% exam based with no non-exam assessment.
- Two equally weighted components of one hour and 45 minutes, worth 100 marks each.
- Our assessment will use a mixture of question styles such as multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions.

Tiers of Entry:

N/A

Career Opportunities:

A sociology qualification can give you the practical skills and knowledge to progress to your chosen career. With qualifications designed for working in several different sectors.

Many transferable skills are gained such as communication, research, planning, and presentation. These can be used in a whole range of careers and jobs.

Careers that this qualification will help you towards include doctor, nurse, midwife, social worker, psychologist, support worker, counsellor, lawyer, politician, policy maker, teacher and social planning.

SUBJECT: TEXTILE DESIGN

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

EXAMINATION SYLLABUS: 8204

Specification:

The research, design and practical activities within this subject seek to develop creativity and confidence in the student's ability to explore, experiment, reflect and communicate their ideas using a range of equipment and materials. Students will not only learn new skills and techniques, but also grasp the importance of innovative thinking within the Textiles and Fashion industry. There continues to be a range of creative opportunities that lie within this industry, which lead to varying disciplines such as fashion design, print design, interior design, styling, fashion promotion and many more.

Areas of Study:

In component 1 and component 2 students are required to work in one or more areas of textile design, including:

- Art textiles
- Fashion design and illustration
- Costume and accessory design
- Constructed textiles
- Printed and dyed textiles
- Surface design
- Stitched and/or embellished textiles
- Soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors
- Digital textiles

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed holistically meaning that all work produced can be submitted for assessment. Students must produce the following units;

Component 1 /8204C: Portfolio/60% of GCSE/ Non-Exam Assessment.

A portfolio that evidences explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It also includes a sustained project showcasing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the course. Students submit this before Christmas in Year 11.

Component 2 /8204X: Externally Set Assignment/40% of GCSE.

Students respond to an externally set assignment paper from which they choose a brief to explore. At the end of the assignment students sit a 10 hour practical examination where they are required to develop their ideas into a practical outcome. They are required to work independently during the examination.

Career Opportunities:

Employment opportunities and career opportunities are varied and include: Fashion designer, textiles designer, costume designer, fashion writer, fashion buyer, interior designer and many other careers which demand an understanding, appreciation and application of design and the creative process pertaining to the Textile and Fashion industries.



St Bernard's High School
Milton Road
Westcliff on Sea
Essex SS0 7JS
Telephone No: 01702 343583 Fax: 01702 390201
Email: office@stbernards.southend.sch.uk