



Abbots Bromley School

GCSE Information
2019-2020

Making Choices

At Abbots Bromley School, we have a three year Key Stage 4. GCSE subject teaching begins in Year 9, and all students study the following core subjects:

- English Language and English Literature (with possible alternative qualifications for those students whose first language is not English)
- Mathematics
- Biology, Chemistry and Physics (leading to either GCSE Combined Science or GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics)
- Games
- Personal, Social, Health & Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

There is a choice of up to four further subjects, so that your interests and talents can be developed. These are known as options and this booklet is designed to help you make decisions about your options.

Recent Government reforms mean that you will take the full suite of new GCSE courses, which will be graded 1 to 9 (with 9 being the highest).

The courses you will complete over the next three years will potentially gain you up to nine GCSEs, plus a short course qualification in Religious Studies. All types of GCSE are considered valid by all universities, including those in the Russell Group. The BTEC awards in Performing Arts (Dance) and Equine Studies are the equivalent of two GCSE grades.

Careers

Careers Education is part of the PSHCE programme in Years 9, 10 and Year 11. The aims are:

- To discuss attitudes and preferences in relation to work
- To develop career management, self-reliance and self-presentation skills
- To re-assess personal skills and qualities

The Careers Advisor, Mrs Wheeldon, is in school every day and is based in the Library. She will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Core Subjects

GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics are essential requirements for the majority of Further Education courses and are what employers demand before all other subjects. A good grade in these subjects will be fundamental to your employment and education prospects, which is why they form part of the core curriculum and are allocated so much time.

Regulations state that students not obtaining a standard pass at GCSE in either English Language or Mathematics should continue to study these subjects in Year 12, regardless where this further education takes place. The Department for Education currently defines a standard pass as grade 4 and a strong pass as grade 5.

All students who are native English speakers will be entered for **GCSE English Language** and **GCSE English Literature**. All assessment is based on terminal examinations in Year 11. There is no coursework. Students who are not native English speakers follow the **English as an Additional Language** syllabus.

The Sciences are also studied as core subjects, and all students have separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics lessons taught by subject specialist teachers, regardless of the GCSE route for which they opt.

Grading new GCSEs from 2017

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

English Language

We follow the AQA GCSE English Language specification, leading to examination in two papers, each weighted at 50%:

- A fiction paper to generate analysis of language and structural techniques, and students' own creative writing;
- A non-fiction paper, including a text written before 1900, to test the skills of summary, analytical and extended essay writing.

In addition, there will be one Spoken Language assessment, which does not contribute to the GCSE grade but is compulsory.

The specification is designed to ensure that all students can read fluently and write effectively, demonstrating confident use of Standard English. Students will read a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism, developing students' ability to:

- Critically read and evaluate texts and make comparisons between texts;
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts;
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing;
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately;
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately;
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language;
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

Examination Board: AQA

English Literature

For the AQA GCSE English Literature specification, students can expect to study four texts from the genres of poetry, prose and drama. These include a play by Shakespeare, a 19th century novel, an anthology of poetry, and a modern text (either prose or drama).

There are two examination papers, both closed-book, each testing students' knowledge and understanding of two texts:

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century novel (40% of marks)
- Paper 2: Modern prose or drama, poetry anthology, and unseen poetry (60% of marks)

In studying the set texts students will develop the following skills:

- Literal and inferential comprehension skills: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events
- Critical reading: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation
- Comparing texts: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context, style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above;
- Writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references
- Use accurate Standard English: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Examination Board: AQA

English as an Additional Language

The English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department at Abbots Bromley School offers a comprehensive grounding in English for those students for whom English is not the first language. Focusing on the four key skills of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing, the programme is run concurrently with the main school syllabus with the aim of entering students into the internationally recognised Cambridge English examinations. These examinations run from the Key English Test (KET), an elementary level test, all the way to the Cambridge Advanced and Proficiency certificates. Those students wishing to go on into the Sixth Form also have the option of being prepared for the International English Language Testing System examination (IELTS) by the end of Year 13 alongside their A-Level courses, in order to gain acceptance at a British University.

The classes taught at Abbots Bromley School use a variety of teaching methods, but are delivered by native speakers of English and work from trusted textbooks intermixed with 'real-life' experiences and materials so that the students are not only equipped academically for English, but develop a natural, idiomatic way of using English, equal to that of their peers.

Examination Board: Cambridge Assessment English

Mathematics

Mathematics, like its good friend English, is a core subject at school, we must all keep studying them until we have achieved, at least, a grade 4 at GCSE.

But mathematics is so much more than just a compulsory subject.

Everyday Life

Mathematics surrounds us. It teaches us to think logically; to identify and state a problem clearly; to plan how to solve it; and then to apply the appropriate methods to evaluate and solve the problem. It also helps us to develop critical thinking and analysis skills.

Analytic Skills

We are surrounded by a large number of statistical data both in the media and in advertisements. To be an informed citizen, we should be able to evaluate statements made and the data they present in order to decide what is true or reasonable. An understanding of statistics and probability helps us to do this.

Where Else is Maths Applicable?

Mathematics is “the universal language”. It is absolutely essential in STEM subjects, but is also needed in many other fields such as psychology and sociology, many of the arts and humanities disciplines including art and music as well as business and the computing industry. Numbers and mathematics help us to measure money, time and distance as well as weights in cooking and baking.

Mathematics at AB

At Abbots Bromley School we believe that every student deserves the chance to achieve their very best in Mathematics. To this aim we have many opportunities for students to obtain extra assistance if required. We also organise many enriching activities where students are given the opportunity to study Mathematics in more depth. There are many possibilities to enter nationally recognised competitions and challenges.

GCSE Mathematics contains six core areas number; algebra; ratio, proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures; probability; and statistics. There is no coursework and assessment is based on three final examinations. Foundation and higher tiers are available.

Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes) – Non Calculator.

Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes) – Calculator Required

Paper 3 (1 hour 30 minutes) – Calculator Required

Examination Board: AQA

Sciences

"We live in a society exquisitely dependent on science and technology, in which hardly anyone knows anything about science and technology"

Carl Sagan

- How does your tablet work?
- How do planes stay up?
- Where will Earth's increasing population get their food and energy in the future?

During the next three years, in your Science lessons, you will develop the critical thinking and scientific enquiry skills needed to answer these sorts of questions. Science is the most fundamental subject there is, covering every aspect of our lives whether we realise it or not. You will be part of the revolution in understanding why things are the way they are. An understanding of science is needed for many careers including medicine, nursing, dentistry, telecommunication, engineering, veterinary science, teaching, hair and beauty, marine biology, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, forensic science and food science.

At Abbots Bromley School, there are two routes available for the study of Science.

AQA Separate Sciences

Three GCSEs are gained, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Examination is at the end of Year 11 and comprises two papers in each subject with the details, including topics studied listed below.

Biology

Paper	Topics Assessed	How it is Assessed
Biology 1	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics	Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes 50% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Biology 2	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology	Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes 50% GCSE Higher and Foundation

Chemistry

Paper	Topics Assessed	How it is Assessed
Chemistry 1	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes	Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes 50% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Chemistry 2	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.	Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes 50% GCSE Higher and Foundation

Physics

Paper	Topics Assessed	How it is Assessed
Physics 1	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.	Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes 50% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Physics 2	Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; Space Physics	Written Exam 1 hour 45 minutes 50% GCSE Higher and Foundation

AQA Combined Science (Trilogy)

Two GCSEs are obtained encompassing all the three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Examination is at the end of Year 11 and comprises of six papers, as outlined below.

Paper	Topics Assessed	How it is Assessed
Biology 1	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 16.7% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Biology 2	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 16.7% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Chemistry 1	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 16.7% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Chemistry 2	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 16.7% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Physics 1	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 16.7% GCSE Higher and Foundation
Physics 2	Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism	Written Exam 1 hour 15 minutes 16.7% GCSE Higher and Foundation

Students do not have to choose which route they wish to study until the end of Year 9, at which point they will have a better understanding of the course and content. We encourage students to opt for the route which best suits them, based upon their current achievements in Science, their interests and career plans and their wider school commitments. Students may choose to progress to A Level sciences through either route.

Option Subjects

We currently offer the following option subjects:

- Art
- Business
- Equine Studies (BTEC)
- Geography
- History
- Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)
- Music
- Performing Arts – Dance (BTEC)
- Photography
- Physical Education

The majority of students are able to study four subjects of their choice, one from each of the following blocks:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
French	Art	Business	Equine Studies (BTEC)
Photography	Geography	History	Performing Arts (BTEC) *
Spanish	Music		Physical Education
			Religious Studies

* Performing Arts should only be selected by students enrolled on the vocational dance course.

Please be aware that if some groups are too small to make the educational experience viable, these classes will not run.

The options form can be found inserted into this booklet.

Art and Design

Do you love...

Being creative, enthusiastic and imaginative?

Visiting galleries, museums, workshops and studios?

Experimenting and taking risks with your work?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then GCSE Art and Design is the ideal subject for you.

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. You will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of art, craft and design from the past and recent times, including European and non-European examples, which should be integral to the investigating and making process. Responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate the learner's understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. There will be opportunities to visit museums, art galleries, artist workshops and other places of interest to enhance your knowledge, skills and understanding.

A good grade at GCSE will prepare learners for AS or A Level Art and Design. Apart from being an important vehicle for self-expression and creativity, a GCSE in Art and Design opens the door to many diversified opportunities, particularly the aesthetic and visual fields, including: architect, animator, art exhibition administrator, art therapist, fashion designer, fashion illustrator or freelance designer, fine artist or sculptor, graphic designer, illustrator or photographer, interior designer, product designer, theatre/TV set designer, TV/Film maker or advertising, make-up artist, visual/special effects designer, web author/designer, costume designer, and art teacher or lecturer.

Examination Board: OCR

Business

Would you like to set up your own business and be a successful entrepreneur?

Would you like to work in a fast moving and exciting vocation in the future?

Are you interested in current affairs issues like Brexit and Globalisation?

Do you watch television programmes like 'The Apprentice' or 'Dragon's Den'?

Would you like to study Economics, Accountancy, Marketing or Business at university?

If you even considered the answer 'yes' to any of the above questions, GCSE Business could well be the subject for you.

Business looks at how businesses work and how they interact within the global economy. Students study the following topics:

- Entrepreneurship and business activity;
- Marketing;
- Managing and motivating people;
- Operations;
- Finance;
- The economic climate and globalisation;
- Ethical and environmental issues;
- The interdependent nature of business.

Students follow the OCR GCSE 9-1 specification and develop a range of skills including the numerical skills required for the Finance section.

Business is not just a theory based subject; every topic is based on real business examples and you learn about how they operate in today's society. You will be introduced to the world of small business and the largest global corporations. You will learn about leadership and managing people as well as fast-moving issues like globalisation.

The subject runs alongside enrichment enterprise activities and increasingly includes activities and visits.

Examination Board: OCR

Geography

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future”

Michael Palin

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, sustainable food production, natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis, the spread of disease, the reasons for migration and the future of energy resources are just some of the great challenges facing the next generation of geographers.

The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of these issues which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

There are so many ways of learning in Geography. It is very practical with opportunities to learn new skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, role play and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

Fieldwork, or working outside the classroom is a really important part of geography. It allows you to experience some of the things you have learnt about in class, conduct scientific investigations, develop a deeper understanding of the issues covered and of course have fun.

We will be following the OCR GCSE Geography A specification. This qualification is linear which means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The students will take assessments in all of the components:

Component 1: Living in the UK	Component 2: The world around us	Component 3: Geographical skills
Landscapes of the UK	Ecosystems of the planet	Fieldwork skills
People of the UK	People of the planet	Cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills
UK environmental challenges	Environmental threats to our planet	

Employers love the mix of technical and social skills people get from studying Geography, which they see as very transferable. Due to the skills gained in Geography you will find geographers working in a wide range of jobs, from the City to planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism or in international charities or retail.

Examination Board: OCR

History

“The lack of a sense of History is the damnation of the modern world.”

Robert Penn Warren

History, the study of the past, is all around us; we are all continually making history through our thoughts, words and actions. History is personal and global; it is about everyday life and momentous occasions. History is about people. Through our study of the past, we can understand how our own world works. We can also understand how and why things happen to us.

The study of GCSE History will also help you to develop skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs. To employers, you will have proved that you can understand what motivates people that you know how to gather information and that you can communicate clearly and effectively. Those who study history are rounded individuals who develop an understanding of both the past and the present.

You will learn the following skills:

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of evidence.
- How to communicate and apply your knowledge.
- How to describe and analyse the key features of the period studied.
- Critical thinking and problem solving.

We will be following the AQA course in History (8145).

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world, with modules in:
Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and dictatorship
Conflict and tension 1918-1939

Paper 2: Shaping the nation with modules in;
Britain - Power and the people c1170 to the present day
Elizabethan England c1568-1603

The study of History can be a stepping stone to careers in politics, journalism, law, the civil service, broadcasting, restoration work, the heritage industry, costume design and archaeology. You might also consider working in a museum or library or as an archivist in a records office.

Examination Board: AQA

Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Equine Studies

The BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Equine Studies is delivered by specialist colleagues at AB Equine. This course has been designed for students who want to focus their learning and career development within the equine industry and who are looking for an engaging and stimulating qualification which supports transition directly into employment and/or into further study. The course includes compulsory work experience and covers a range of specialisms within the world of equine management.

The qualification consists of a core of six mandatory units and one optional unit. The mandatory units provide the underpinning knowledge and practical skills to support students' work with horses which include:

- Equine tack and equipment
- Introduction to equine health and biology
- Equine work placement
- Principles of working with horses
- Equine preparation and plaiting
- Practical yard duties

This qualification provides a sound basis for students to progress further in the industry - to a level 3 Technical Level qualification in horse management, to an apprenticeship, or direct entry to employment. Ambitious students are well prepared for a wide spectrum of occupations within the industry, including competition groom, exercise rider, stud hand, foaling attendant, transporter, assistant yard supervisor, equestrian sales or race track staff.

Examination board: Pearson

Level 2 BTEC Performing Arts (Dance)

The BTEC Performing Arts (Dance) course is available to all students enrolled with the Alkins School of Dance, and students have the potential to achieve the equivalent of two GCSE grades. The course has a very high practical level of dance, and whilst students need not have a very high level of dance to begin the course - in fact, they can be complete beginners - they must be prepared to dance daily to cover the guided learning hours of the course. There is, therefore, a significant time commitment outside of academic lessons.

The course comprises seven units, of which one is a fully written component and six involve a combination of written and practical study. For one of these units, a performing or production role can be taken.

The units are:

Unit 4 - Dance Skills

This unit must be completed before other specialist dance units are undertaken. It involves practical dance classes in two dance styles, for example Jazz, Contemporary, Tap, Classical Ballet. Records are kept by staff and students on their practical progress in each style. The unit is completed after a performance in each style and an evaluation of each. Written logs are kept by the students, however the majority of this unit is practical dance classes in each style.

Unit 1 - Individual Showcase

Based on stimuli set by the board each September, students choreograph two of their own dances in response to an audition advertisement for a performing arts school. The two dances must be in contrasting styles. These are videoed and sent to the board for marking, along with a letter answering the advertisement and applying for the course offered. The letter is written under examination conditions and must be typed on a computer.

Unit 2 – Preparation Performance and Production

Each student takes on either a performing or production role in a live performance to an audience. This is developed and created by the students with the assistance of the dance staff. Video evidence of preparation and performance are sent to the board along with the student's notes, logs and ideas.

Unit 8 – Performing Arts Industry

Students study the wide range of knowledge needed to be successful in the performing arts. For example: types of theatres, unions, performance roles including actors, singers, dancers and musicians, production roles including stage management, directors, choreographers, lighting and sound technicians, and assisting roles including make-up artists, wardrobe and front of house staff. This unit is assessed by a one hour paper completed on a computer under examination conditions, and electronically submitted to the board for marking.

Unit 9 – Performance in Context

Students explore in practical dance classes and academic lessons the historical context of a chosen piece of performance material, and consider why the chosen piece might still be relevant today.

Unit 16 – Contemporary Dance Techniques

This is a fully practical unit supported by student and staff logs and research sheets. Students attend practical dance classes to develop a clear understanding of a chosen contemporary dance technique and eventually use this in a performance showing the correct style.

Unit 18 – Jazz Dance Techniques

This is similar to the unit 16 above but uses a chosen Jazz dance technique.

BTECs are a range of qualifications which have been firmly established in education for many years. They are designed to enable students to achieve a qualification which is directly linked to a profession. BTECs are an exciting alternative, but equivalent, pathway through education. They are nationally recognised by both employers and universities.

Examination Board: Pearson

Modern Foreign Languages

At Abbots Bromley, we offer French and Spanish at GCSE and we recommend that students study a language.

There are so many reasons why you should study a Modern Foreign Language here at AB:

- Learning a foreign language is an incredibly rewarding experience and a serious confidence booster. You will overcome some of your fears and doubts, learn more about yourself, meet new people, and perhaps travel to places you would never have dared to visit before.
- Learning a foreign language, even as little as a handful of phrases, will make your travel experiences so much better.
- Language skills improve your employability. We live in an increasingly globalised world and companies are constantly expanding overseas and dealing with clients from all over the world so knowledge of a foreign language is becoming increasingly valuable in the UK employment market. Between two candidates with the exact same skill set and experience, the person who is bilingual is the more attractive candidate. Additionally, knowledge of a foreign language increases your potential earning power.
- Getting soaked into an entirely new culture and world view is the surest way to become an open-minded, understanding individual.

The aim of the course is to enable you to read and listen to the kind of language you are likely to encounter in real life situations and to make yourself understood, in both the spoken and written form. You will acquire the skills to communicate in an increasingly competitive business environment. The topics, grammar and vocabulary studied during Key Stage 3 are expanded upon and consolidated, and you will be given ample practice in examination technique.

It is strongly advised that each student has their own bilingual dictionary for use in class and to help complete homework tasks. Teachers will advise as to which dictionary is the most suitable.

Students are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to visit other countries. AB students have participated in educational visits in recent years. These are exciting opportunities to experience the culture and language of the country and to form friendships with teenagers in other countries.

Examination Board: AQA

Music

Music GCSE will help you learn more about the music you love already and open your eyes to a world of music you did not know existed. It is an exciting course that will develop your confidence, creativity and expression through performance, composition and listening tasks.

The creative industries in the UK are thriving; GCSE Music is an excellent qualification if you are looking to a future in the creative sector. Universities and employers also understand that working as a part of a musical ensemble requires commitment, dedication and excellent teamwork skills.

To be successful at GCSE you will need to be of a grade 3+ standard on your first instrument or voice. Here is how the course looks in more detail:

Module	Studied	Assessment
Performing	Throughout the course. During your instrumental / vocal tuition.	Externally moderated: 30%
Composing	One piece in Year 10. One piece in Year 11.	Externally moderated: 30%
Listening and Appraising	Written examination. Summer Year 11.	Examination: 40% (externally set and assessed).

Performing 30%:

- One solo piece on your first instrument/voice - 15%
- One piece performed as part of an ensemble (e.g. orchestra, vocal group) - 15%

Composing 30%:

- Two compositions each worth 15%. One composition is free choice, the other will be a task set by the board, for example, “compose a title theme for a new crime drama for television using instrumentation of your choice”. Both compositions will be most likely completed on the computers using Garageband, Logic Pro, or Sibelius. Each composition will need an accompanying score (notation) or commentary (essay describing the processes you went through to compose your piece).

Listening and appraising 40%:

- An examination which is 1 hour 30 minutes in duration is taken whilst listening to a CD of musical examples which you will be expected to comment on. The four areas of study for the exam are:
 - Western classical tradition 1650 -1910
 - Popular music
 - Traditional music
 - Western classical tradition since 1910.

Examination Board: AQA

Photography

The GCSE Photography course is designed to provide you with a broad and balanced study of photography. It will include:

- A broad range of different activities using various Photographic techniques, technologies (digital and analogue) and materials.
- Study of practitioners: contemporary, historical and cultural.
- Different learning approaches: individual, group, whole class.
- A pattern of working upon achievements and previous work.
- Methods of analysis, interpretation and presentation.

You will develop a wide range of both technical and creative photography skills studying:

- Viewpoints
- Composition
- Depth of field
- Location photography
- Studio lighting
- Traditional darkroom techniques
- Digital imaging.

Photography could lead to academic or vocational degrees relating to press photography, photojournalism, fine art, editing, fashion photography or styling, the film industry, forensic science, and curating. You will develop skills in creative and practical problem solving, developing ideas through research, practical application, analysis and critique. The transferable skills gained through study of Photography can be applied in many walks of life.

It is advantageous, but not essential, for Photography students to have their own DSLR camera.

Examination Board: OCR

Physical Education

“Everything I learned in life I learned in P.E.”

Unknown

How do I know if Physical Education is the right subject for me? The course will appeal to you if you:

- Have a keen interest in sport and always look forward to your Physical Education lessons;
- Take part in sport outside of class time;
- Want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through physical involvement;
- Want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise;
- Want to improve your own performance in a range of sporting roles;
- Want to study a course that has practical elements;
- Are considering a sport related career.

In Physical Education lessons, you will:

- Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities to build on skills established in your previous Physical Education and Games lessons;
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance;
- Find ways to improve your own performance through designing and completing a personal training programme;
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy active lifestyle through participation in physical activity;
- Appreciate the benefits of promoting “sport for all.”

The course will comprise of practical and theory lessons. The theory content will involve in-depth study and a high level of written work and independent research. Students will need to demonstrate a high level of commitment to the practical sport both during lessons and in their own time to develop sport specific skills as well as their level of fitness.

GCSE Physical Education is the ideal preparation for A level in Physical Education. The course develops not only your sporting abilities in a range of sports, but also offers you a chance to develop and demonstrate a range of transferable skills such as team work, leadership and independence, all of which employers value highly. Typical jobs taken by students who study GCSE Physical Education are: physiotherapy, coaching, fitness instruction and personal training, teaching, as well as being a professional athlete or joining the Armed Forces. It can also be useful combined with other subjects in careers such as the sciences or medicine.

Examination Board: Pearson

Religious Studies

The GCSE course covers a range of religions and philosophical and ethical themes. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth; enabling them to develop their own values and attitudes towards religious issues.

Students will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as the ability to work with abstract ideas.

The course is divided into two sections:

Section A: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions:

We opt to study Christianity and Buddhism

Within this section of the course, students examine the history and essential philosophical and ethical principles of each religion. They also learn about religious ceremonies, celebrations and rituals, so as to build a picture of what life is like for different kinds of religious believers.

Section B: Thematic studies - religious, philosophical and ethical studies:

Students are encouraged to understand and develop their own views about modern ethical matters, within four themes:

- Theme A: Relationships and families
Sexuality, Marriage, Families, Gender Equality
- Theme B: Religion, peace and conflict
Justice, War, Pacifism, Reconciliation
- Theme C: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice
Religious Freedom, Prejudice/Discrimination, Wealth and Poverty
- Theme D: Religion and Life
The Universe, The Environment, Abortion, Euthanasia

There is no coursework for this subject. The course is linear and all assessment is based on two examinations at the end of Year 11. Each examination lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Examination Board: AQA



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GCSE Options Form – Entry into Year 9 in September 2019

Please return this form to Mrs Ellis, Director of Studies, by Friday 5th April 2019.

Name of student:

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
French	Art	Business	Equine Studies (BTEC)
Photography	Geography	History	Performing Arts (BTEC) *
Spanish	Music		Physical Education
			Religious Studies

* Performing Arts should only be selected by students enrolled on the vocational dance course.

I would like my child/ward to study the following optional GCSE subjects:

	Option Choice:
Block A	
Block B	
Block C	
Block D	

Signed by: (parent/guardian)

Date: