



THE WREN

NURTURE · CHALLENGE · INSPIRE

KS4 OPTIONS BOOKLET

STUDENT: _____

TUTOR: _____

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The KS4 Options journey and the decisions made here, are one of the most important of your school life. It is the first time in your career as a student that you have real choice in subjects you learn; where you can start exploring the subjects that fascinate and intrigue you, and where you can begin planning your pathway towards the world of work and future study: it's time to get excited!

This booklet will provide you and your family with an overview of the options process at The Wren and contains all of the key information that you will need to help you navigate this journey.

We believe that all students should study a broad range of subjects and the subjects offered here lead to a GCSE or equivalent Level 2 course qualification, allowing students to progress to further studies at Wren Six or elsewhere.

For students wishing to pursue further academic study, the Department for Education recommends that students select subjects which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), to help keep options for young people open, these include:

English language & English literature

Maths

Science

Computer science

History or Geography

A language

'the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.'
(D of E website)

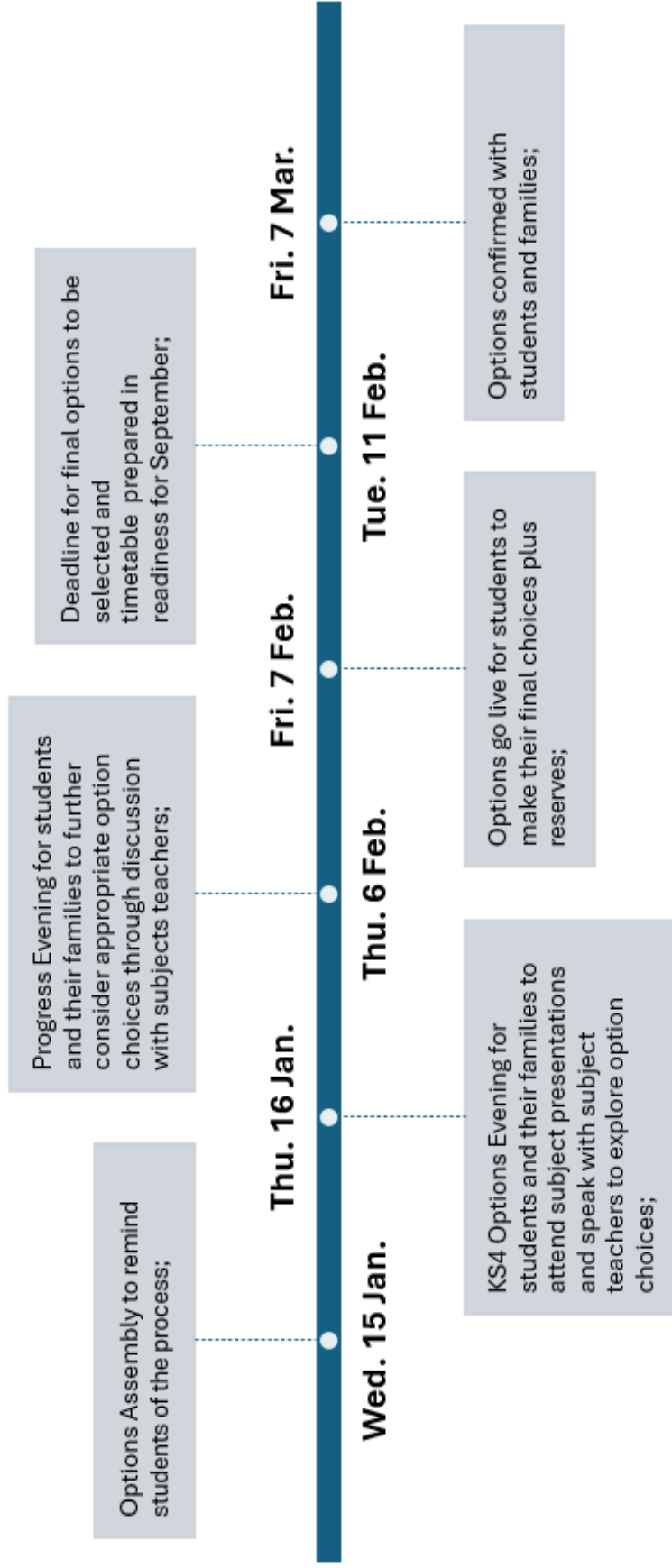
Further to the above, our **Complementary curriculum** is an alternative provision for those who need additional support to ensure they leave fully equipped to meet their peers in further education, or the work place, on a level playing field.

Whatever pathway you are considering, our staff are here to answer all your questions, so please do make sure that you discuss anything and everything you need answered – no question is a pointless question when it comes to helping you with your future.

At The Wren, 'we have the highest aspirations for our students' and this options process will ensure that all students go on to have a remarkable future and be the best that they can be.

THE OPTIONS PROCESS

KS4 Options timeline:



ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

It is important for students to talk to a range of different people to help make wise and informed choices. This should include talking with members of their families, teachers, curriculum leaders, and tutors, all of whom will help ensure choices are tailored to a student's individual needs and aptitude.

Students should research all the subjects they are interested in and be prepared to ask for help and further information before making any decisions. Our contact information page provides details of key staff.

Key questions for you to ask when considering your options;

What subjects do I enjoy?

What am I good at?

How can I achieve a good balance of subjects and courses?

What might I want to study in the future and what would I need to study this?

What subjects do I need, in able to access Wren Six courses, college course or apprenticeship that I want to move onto?

Students should also consider what would be poor reasons for choosing a subject;

Do not choose a subject because your friends have. They are not you. You choose your path.

Do not choose a subject because you like the teacher. There is no guarantee who will be teaching you.

Do not choose a subject simply because it is new. Do your research and ensure you know what is involved.

Do not choose a subject because you think it will be easy. All subjects in Key Stage 4 are advanced and you will be pushed and challenged.

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

Key Stage 4 begins at the start of Year 10 and over two years, students will study subjects to gain formal qualifications for the end of Year 11. The aim of our curriculum is to provide our students with a broad, knowledge rich education, that ensures a full range of future career and study choices remain accessible for all.

All students will study a **Core Curriculum** which is compulsory:

Compulsory Courses – all students study these subjects	
English Language GCSE	Science - Combined Science - Dual Award GCSE
English Literature GCSE	Culture (not examined)
Mathematics GCSE	Physical Education – Core PE (not examined)

In addition to the core curriculum, students are to **choose three** other subjects, **ONE from** each of the following option blocks – they are also to add two reserve choices.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History
Business Studies	Business Studies	Business Studies
Music	Drama	Dance
PE	PE	Health & Social Care (BTEC)
Hospitality & Catering	Health & Social Care (BTEC)	Religious Studies
Design & Technology	Citizenship	Citizenship
Photography	Graphic Communication	Art, Craft & Design
Computer Science	Information Technologies	Spanish
Complementary Curriculum		Complementary Curriculum

Students who have been invited to follow the Complementary Curriculum pathway are to select Complementary Curriculum from EITHER block 1 OR 3, plus two other options: one for each of the remaining blocks.

e.g. If I choose Complementary Curriculum from block 1, then I will choose ONE subject from block 2 and ONE subject from block 3.

If I choose Complementary Curriculum from block 3, then I will choose ONE subject from block 1 and ONE subject from block 2.

EBACC EXPLAINED

The English Baccalaureate is a collection of academic subjects which are recognised as a springboard to higher level academic study. The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a broad set of GCSE subjects that keep students' options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc includes: English Language & Literature, Maths, Science (including Computer Science), Geography or History and a language.

BTEC VOCATIONAL EXPLAINED

As you see from our option choices, there are a range of vocational courses to complement and offer alternative routes from the GCSE options. BTEC Specialist qualifications are work-related qualifications available from Entry to Level 3. The qualifications put learning into the context of the world of work, giving students the opportunity to apply their research, skills and knowledge, in relevant and realistic work contexts.

Whilst some vocational subjects do also have an exam element, the majority of the work completed is internally assessed, and then verified by the exam board. This applied, practical approach means learners build the knowledge, understanding and skills they need for career progression or further study.

Vocational exams are accepted by Sixth Form Centres, Colleges and Universities as a pathway to most courses however, students should always check as part of their research before selecting their final options.

With regards to BTECs, their grades roughly equate as follows however, it is important to recognise here that due to the practical nature of BTECs, the value of all Level BTECS from level 1 to level 3 is heavily dependent on the students' future plans.

The grades available for Vocational subjects vary slightly depending on the qualification. As a guideline

Level 1 Pass (L1P) Just above a GCSE grade 1 or equivalent to GCSE grade 2

Level 1 Merit (L1M) Equivalent to a GCSE grade 2

Level 1 Distinction (L1D) Equivalent to a GCSE grade 3

Level 2 Pass (L2P) Equivalent to a GCSE grade 4

Level 2 Merit (L2M) Equivalent to a GCSE grade 5/7

Level 2 Distinction (L2D) Equivalent to a GCSE grade 8

Level 2 Distinction* (L2D*) Equivalent to a GCSE grade 8/9

Level 3 Pass (L3P) Equivalent to an A Level grade E 16 **UCAS points

Level 3 Merit (L3M) Equivalent to an A Level grade C 32 UCAS points

Level 3 Distinction (L3D) Equivalent to an A Level grade A 48 UCAS points

Level 3 Distinction* Equivalent to an A Level grade A* 56 UCAS points

** UCAS Tariff points translate your qualifications and grades into a numerical value. Many qualifications (but not all) have a UCAS Tariff value, which will vary dependent on the qualification size, and the grade you achieved. The average number of UCAS points for entry to University is 112 however this does vary.

COMPLEMENTARY CURRICULUM

At The Wren, we recognise that for some of our students, thinking about our future study and future careers causes anxiety and uncertainty. Consequently, the Options journey and thinking about what subjects to choose can seem particularly daunting.

Students who we think will benefit from this subject will have been identified by our Assistant Vice Principal and SENDCo, Mrs Marshall; the Y9 Progress Leader Miss Ignell and our Inclusion support team; **this is by invite only** and relevant families will be contacted before Wednesday 15th January.

Our Complementary Curriculum includes the ASDAN Level 1 Award in Personal Effectiveness. ASDAN is an education charity and awarding organisation providing courses, accredited curriculum programmes and regulated qualifications to engage, elevate and empower learners with diverse needs. They do this by developing courses with an accessible and practical pedagogy for learners; and by working with our partner educators to foster the personal, social and work-related abilities of learners with diverse needs.

The ASDAN award enables students to

- develop skills valued by employers and are in demand in the workplace
- develop knowledge related to employability and the workplace
- embrace the 21st century workplace and build a career plan
- achieve a nationally recognised Level 1 qualification that prepares them for employment
- develop own personal growth and engagement in learning

Additionally, it includes Edexcel Award in Number, Step Up to English Level and ELC Science. to give students the opportunity to secure qualifications in these core subjects.

Assessment: The assessment of a range of knowledge and ability is entirely school based and so assessed internally – there are no exams, and we hope that by the end of Year 10, most students would have passed the Level 1 and be able to advance to Level 2.

The ASDAN award in personal effectiveness Level 1 certificate is balanced with the Level 1 teaching of Entry Level Maths, English and Science again to ensure that ALL students have every opportunity to leave The Wren with skills and qualification to support whatever pathway they choose post 16.

Students who show aptitude for the entry Level 1 exams will be entered at the end of Year 10 to help bridge access to Level 2.

Enrichment: Further enrichment opportunities such as work placed experience, external visits, First Aid award, will also be offered to these students.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

CORE CURRICULUM

Why study GCSE English Language or Literature?

Studying English at GCSE will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of:

- A range of pre-19th century fiction unseen texts to improve your reading comprehension.
- Develop the accuracy and creativity of your written expression.
- Learn communication skills essential to the world of work.
- Explore literary and socio-historical contexts to better understand the world in which we live.
- All colleges and employers acknowledge a grade 4 as the minimum expected level of literacy.

Course Content

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and skills of analysis Introduction to Paper 2 Language A selection of poetry from the Anthology
Macbeth by William Shakespeare, non-fiction analysis and poetry Introduction to Paper 1 Language A selection of poetry from the Anthology
An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley and spoken language skills A selection of poetry from the Anthology
English Language revision and unseen poetry

Assessment

Language is divided into two assessments as follows:

- 2 x 1 hour 45 minutes exams
- Reading comprehension 50% of GCSE / Written communication 50% of GCSE
- Spoken language assessment

Literature is divided into two assessments as follows:

2 closed text exams (A Christmas Carol, Macbeth, An Inspector Calls, conflict poetry and unseen poetry).

- Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)
- Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)

Enrichment Opportunities

Students will have the opportunity to watch live performances of the texts they study in GCSE literature.

Supports development in other subjects across curriculum to aid written expression, essay writing skills and reading comprehension.

Careers

All universities appreciate English as an additional subject to complement any course. You will learn problem solving skills to support in any occupation you choose and build the confidence to criticise the world around you.

You could study A-Level English Language / Creative writing / English Literature. Other careers include: Secondary or primary teacher, journalist or writer, publisher, editor, novelist.

Why study GCSE Maths?

Mathematics is studied by all students, it is a compulsory and core subject. Students are taught key mathematical principles from the mathematical strands of:

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

Within GCSE Mathematics lessons, students are taught to apply knowledge and skills in the above areas in problem solving and everyday situations. The skills covered in Maths are also applied in many other subjects at GCSE level. Students are encouraged to present their solutions in different forms; these may include written explanations, diagrams and discussion. They will develop a feel for numbers, be able to reason logically and appreciate patterns and relationships in Mathematics.

Assessment

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). The Maths Department at The Wren School will regularly track and analysis student progress to ensure to correct tier of entry for each student.

Students will be assessed over three written examinations at the end of Year 11. This will comprise of one non-calculator and two calculator papers. Each Paper is 1½ hours in duration.

Students are required to have their own scientific calculator, (we recommend Casio fx-83GT Plus which can be bought in many supermarkets or online from retailers such as Amazon) together with a full set of mathematical equipment, including a protractor, pair of compasses and ruler.

Careers

A basic knowledge of mathematics is required for most career paths and jobs when leaving school. Advanced level mathematics can lead to careers in engineering, medicine, computing, programming, statistical analysis and banking, to name just a few.

Why study GCSE Science?

Studying Combined Science at GCSE will allow you to:

- Develop an understanding of the world, built on current scientific theories.
- Use scientific knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about the communication, application and implications of science.
- Think critically, research effectively and be guided by evidence.
- Develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills that are vital for the workplace or future learning.
- Develop working scientifically skills through practical science work.

Course Content

Biology Paper 1 (Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; and Bioenergetics)
Biology Paper 2 (Homeostasis and Response; Inheritance; Variation and Evolution; and Ecology)
Chemistry Paper 1 (Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.)
Chemistry Paper 2 (The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.)
Physics Paper 1 (Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.)
Physics Paper 2 (Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.)

Assessment

The GCSE is divided into six examinations:

- Biology – 2 written exams of 1 hour 15 minutes
- Chemistry – 2 written exams of 1 hour 15 minutes
- Physics Paper – 2 written exams of 1 hour 15 minutes

Each paper is:

- 70 marks
- 16.7% of the Science GCSE

Careers

Science study will allow students to progress to a substantial range of further study or career options, including:

Analytical chemist, Biomedical scientist, Medicine, Midwifery, Forensics, Food scientist, Physicist, Engineer, Microbiologist, Pharmacologist, Science writer, Astronomer, Neuroscientist, Oceanographer etc.

SUBJECT INFORMATION

OPTIONS CURRICULUM

Why study GCSE Geography?

Studying Geography at GCSE will allow you to develop:

- Your understanding of geographical concepts and processes to allow you to interpret our ever-changing world.
- As a global citizen who recognises the present challenges of our planet and the implications for the human race.
- Informed connections between the different aspects of Geography – Human and Physical
- Your intellectual skills, such as judging evidence in order to make informed decisions and to develop reasoned arguments.
- Research skills, such as using a range of methods for the collection and analysis of data through undertaking two days of fieldwork.
- Transferable skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, IT skills and communication skills

Course Content

The Challenge of Natural Hazards
Urban Issues and Challenges
Coasts & The Challenge of Resource Management 2-days of fieldwork + write up
Rivers The Changing Economic World
The Living World Geographical Applications

Assessment

The course is divided into three examinations, all are 1 hour and 30 minutes:

- Paper 1 (Living with the physical environment) is worth 35% of your GCSE.
- Paper 2 (Challenges in the human environment) is worth 35% of your GCSE.
- Paper 3 is a response to fieldwork and a pre-release booklet based on an unseen topic, worth 30% of your GCSE.

Enrichment Opportunities

All students are readily able to use their skills across all of their subjects to help improve their attainment. The benefit of studying Geography is that it opens up hundreds of pathways for employment due to its breadth of study and development of skills. Fieldwork will undoubtedly improve students’ learning through experience and provide real world examples to the theory they are studying.

Careers

Oceanographer, town planner, volcanologist, UN advisor, cartographer, naturalist, conservationist, environmental scientist, geotechnical engineering, oil and gas, meteorologist, politician, aid worker, ecologist, climate scientist, hydrologist, pollution analyst etc...

Why study GCSE History?

Studying History at GCSE will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of:

- British and World History, to help explain how the today’s world and society came to be.
- Different aspects of modern and older history over four units.
- How political, social and economic factors can combine to create change.
- The academic concepts of history, including cause, consequence and significance.
- Improved communicative and analytical skills, as well as research skills applicable to many careers and A Level options.
- Intellectual skills, such as evaluating and judging evidence in order to form your own, well-reasoned, arguments.

Course Content

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939
Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1945-1989
Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588
Medicine in Britain: 1250-Present Day. Case Study: Medicine on the Western Front

Assessment

The GCSE is divided into three assessments as follows:

- Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment (Medicine and the Western Front), 1 hour 20 minutes, 30% of the GCSE.
- Paper 2: Period Study (Superpower Relations and the Cold War) and British Depth Study (Early Elizabethan England), 1 hour 50 minutes, 40% of the GCSE.
- Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (Weimar and Nazi Germany), 1 hour 30 minutes, 30% of the GCSE.

Enrichment Opportunities

All students are able to use the skills that they develop through studying history in many different subjects to help improve their attainment. In particular, the communication and analysis skills are helpful for developing English or other Humanities subjects. Additionally, there are a number of enrichment opportunities which we aim to provide for those studying History at GCSE:

- Residential trip to Berlin to see the location of many of the events we study for Weimar-Nazi Germany and the Cold War, as well as experiencing this fascinating capital city.

Careers

History is a well-respected subject which helps in the development of many transferable skills, which allow students to progress to a substantial range of further study or career options, including: Law, Politics, Civil Service, Journalism/The Media, Working overseas, Education, Economics/Banking, Museums/Galleries, Archaeology.

Why study GCSE Citizenship?

Studying Citizenship at GCSE will allow you to develop

- Intellectual skills, such as judging evidence in order to make informed decisions and to develop reasoned arguments.
- Transferable skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, IT skills and communication skills (presentation, writing, oracy and debating).
- An understanding the world around you and the perspectives of other people.
- You might be interested in particular areas that are included in Citizenship, such as politics, law, environmental issues or the media.
- GCSE Citizenship can provide a useful introduction to various careers.

Course Content

Theme A: Living together in the UK
Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK
Theme C: Law and justice
Theme D: Power and influence
Theme E: Taking citizenship action
Revision and exams

Assessment

The course is divided into three examinations.

- Paper 1 50% of the qualification – Themes A-C
- Paper 2 50% of the qualification – Themes E & D

Enrichment Opportunities

There is potential to visit the Houses of Parliament and The Old Bailey to bring to life and put in context Theme C & D. Skills learned in citizenship can be applied through many other subjects; from IT to English, History to Geography.

Careers

Citizenship can lead to a range of different careers, most notably, working in the public services (Police, Armed forces, NHS etc). Citizenship also paves a way for a career in the legal system or alternatively a career in Politics.

Why study Religious Studies?

Studying Religious Studies at GCSE will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of:

- Religious and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- Reflect and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community
- Ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth of understanding
- Religious beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts such as the Quran, Hadith and the Bible

Course Content

Christian Beliefs and Teachings
Muslim Beliefs and Teachings
Christian Practices
Muslim Practices
Relationships and Families
Religion and Life
Peace and Conflict
Crime and Punishment
Revision and exams

Assessment

The course is divided into two examinations.

- Paper 1 is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and is worth 50% of your GCSE.
- Paper 2 is also 1 hour and 45 minutes and is worth 50% of your GCSE.

Enrichment Opportunities

A range of activities will be involved to reflect the topics of including exposure to a range of music, drama and arts work.

Careers

There are a range of careers available including, and not restricted to, advertising; archivists; working within charities; human resources; law and politics or civil service; medicine; publishing; social and public services as well as teaching or journalism.

Why study GCSE Art, Craft & Design?

Studying Art, Craft & Design at GCSE will allow you to:

- Develop skills that can be used in a range of subject and career paths such as communication, presentation, research and developing an idea.
- Research and gather primary and secondary material from a range of sources.
- Develop a variety of visual language skills and experiment with a range of materials and techniques.
- Analyse and evaluate your own work and that of other artists, designers and cultures.
- Engage with a project from starting theme to final outcome.
- Develop skills to review and refine your work.

Course Content

Coursework project 1 – 2D and 3D materials and techniques
Coursework project 2 – Developing independence, skills and a personal outcome
Exam project – A practical project with themes set by the exam board. The final outcome is completed in an art room in exam conditions.

Assessment:

Coursework – 60% of GCSE

Exam project – Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time – 40% of GCSE

The course is divided into four assessment objectives which are equally weighted. In a broad sense: AO1 – Artists, Designers and Craftspeople research. Evaluating source material. Reflecting on other cultures.

AO2 – Experimenting with a range of ideas, materials and techniques. Reviewing and refining work.

AO3 – Recording ideas, observations and insights. Collecting images from a range of sources. Demonstrating skilful use of the formal elements.

AO4 – Presenting a personal response which realises intentions. Working with a range of visual elements. Demonstrating links to the work of others.

Enrichment Opportunities

Students will have the opportunity to take part in workshops delivered by professional artists and designers. During the course students can use the Art and Design department facilities to continue with their studies. We also have external visits to galleries and towns to collect primary source material.

Careers

Careers in the Art and Design industries are wide ranging, they include: Graphic Design, Sculpture, Architecture, Fine Art, Art Director, Fashion, Illustration, Product Design, Game design, Advertising, Animation, Costume and Set Design.

Why study Photography?

Studying Photography at GCSE will allow you to:

- Research and gather primary and secondary material from a range of sources.
- Develop a variety of visual language skills and experiment with a range of techniques.
- Analyse and evaluate your own work and that of other artists and photographers.
- Engage with a project from starting theme to final outcome.
- Develop skills to review and refine your work.
- Present your work to a professional standard.

Course Content

Unit 1 Decay- Learning technique – Using a digital camera and editing.
Unit 2 Altered Faces – Studio Photography. Digital and hand manipulation. Creating a personal response
Exam project – themes set by the exam board

Assessment:

Coursework – 60% of GCSE

Exam project - Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time – 40% of GCSE

The course is divided into four assessment objectives which are equally weighted. In a broad sense:
 AO1 – Artists and Photographers research. Evaluating source material.

AO2 – Experimenting with a range of photographic materials and techniques. Review and refining work as it develops.

AO3 – Recording ideas, observations and insights. Collecting images from a range of sources. Demonstrating skilful use of the formal elements.

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response which realises intentions. Demonstrate understanding of visual elements. Demonstrate links to the work of others.

Enrichment Opportunities

The value of studying a creative subject is extensive and develops many transferable skills for other areas. It develops independent learners who are able to adapt and develop new ideas with confidence. Within the course students can continue with their studies outside of lesson. We also have external visits to galleries and towns to collect primary source material.

Careers

Careers in the Photography industry are wide ranging, they include: Photo Journalism, Food Photography, Fashion Photography, Events Photography, Fine art Photography, Advertising, Sports Photography.

Why study GCSE Graphic Communication?

Studying Graphic Communication at GCSE will allow you to:

- Research and gather primary and secondary material from a range of sources.
- Develop a variety of visual language skills and experiment with a range of graphic materials and techniques.
- Analyse and evaluate your own work and that of other artists, designers and cultures.
- Engage with a project from starting theme to functional final outcome.
- Present your work to a professional standard.

Course Content

Understanding the assessment objectives Part 1 – Typography Part 2 – Calligrams
Unit 1 Sweets Packaging Design - Artist analysis, Digital Media, Logo and Packaging design
Unit 2 Endangered Species or Places - Poster and magazine design
Exam project – themes set by the exam board

Assessment

Coursework – 60% of GCSE

Exam project - Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time – 40% of GCSE

The course is divided into four assessment objectives which are equally weighted. In a broad sense:
 AO1 – Artists, Designers and Craftspeople research. Evaluating source material. Reflecting on other cultures.

AO2 – Experimenting with a range of materials and techniques. Review and refining work as it develops.

AO3 – Recording ideas, observations and insights. Collecting images from a range of sources. Demonstrating skilful use of the formal elements.

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response which realises intentions. Demonstrate understanding of visual elements. Demonstrate links to the work of others

Enrichment Opportunities

The value of studying a creative subject is extensive and develops many transferable skills for other areas. GCSE Graphics students are encouraged to continue with their studies outside of lessons.

The Graphics room is available on specified days for students to use the facilities. We provide workshops to extend skills in different areas.

Careers

Careers in the Graphics industries are wide ranging, they include: Graphic Design, Illustration, Packaging, Media, Game Design, Advertising and Animation.

Why study GCSE Design Technology?

Studying Design Technology at GCSE will allow you to:

- Learn about the principles of design technology for the theory exam.
- Develop practical skills on a variety of machinery and tools, whilst using a variety of materials.
- Analyse and evaluate your own work and that of other designers and cultures.
- Engage with a project from starting theme to outcome.
- Develop skills to review and refine your work.
- Present your work to a professional standard.

Course Content

Introduction to theory of materials and processing techniques Project – Pine box
Sources of energy and materials, New and emerging technologies, Systems approach to designing and electronics Projects – making a speaker circuit and travel board game.
Forces, ecological/cultural decisions, scales of production.
Non Exam Assessment Project – Working to a brief, designing and modelling, making, evaluating
Revision for Theory Exam.

Assessment

The course is divided into 2 sections, a 2-hour theory exam paper and the NEA. Both carry a weighting of 100 marks and therefore is a 50-50 split for a student's overall grade.

Enrichment Opportunities

The practical skills learnt in this subject are applicable to everyday life, as well as an academic classroom. The project management skills are used in many aspects of working life. The theory covers a broad spectrum from materials to nuclear power.

Careers

Careers in the Design technology industries are wide ranging, they include: Graphic Design, Fashion, Illustration, Product Design, Game design, Advertising, Animation, Architecture and Theatre.

Why study Level 2 Hospitality and Catering?

Studying Hospitality and Catering will allow you to:

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food ingredients whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of 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.
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- Understand and explore the Hospitality and Catering industry, the job roles and the different types of equipment used to support the industry.

Course Content

The Catering environment and industry and operations.
Health and Safety, and how food can cause ill health.
Planning provision for specific requirements.
NEA – Nutrition theory and cooking methods, NEA mock.
NEA
NEA submission and Unit 1 revision for exam.

Assessment

The course is divided into Unit 1 and Unit 2. Unit 1 is an online written exam sat in June of Year 11. It is 1 hour 30 minutes and 90 marks, worth 40% of your grade. Unit 2 is your Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), a 9 hour assessment including a 3 hour practical exam, worth 60% of your grade.

Enrichment Opportunities

Cooking is a life skill and you are continually perfecting the preparation of different foods, and you will use the skills learnt from this course during your life. You can learn more about different cultures of cooking from our extra-curricular offer alongside this course. The course is a platform for continuing onto catering college or train in the hospitality industry. This industry requires a high number of employees and you could work locally, or around the world.

Careers

The H&C sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages, and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars, as well as airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues. It is the fourth largest industry in Britain and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Many H&C jobs are given to 18-24 year olds.

NOTES

Why study GCSE Music?

Studying Music will enable you to develop a true passion through creative learning and communication in a unique language. You will explore a wide range of musical genres and styles from different time periods and contexts.

- The course is 60% practical coursework – your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined.
- You will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills. Many of the skills you develop will be valuable transferable skills!
- It is an academically rigorous subject that is challenging and fulfilling, and is well respected by top universities.

Course Content

<p>Component 1: Performing</p> <p>Students perform for at least four minutes' combined duration</p> <p>A minimum of two pieces – at least one minute of ensemble, rest can be solo or ensemble</p>
<p>Component 2: Composing</p> <p>Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes' combined duration</p> <p>One composition to a brief set by the exam board, one free composition set by the student</p>
<p>Component 3: Appraising</p> <p>Students explore the context and analyse the musical features of set works (Toto: Africa and Bach: Badinerie)</p> <p>4 Areas of Study: Musical Forms and Devices ; Music for Ensemble ; Film Music and Popular Music</p>

Assessment

- 2 Non-examined assessments - 60% of GCSE
- Written examination of 1 hour and 15 minutes – 40% of GCSE

Enrichment Opportunities

Students studying Music will be encouraged to take a leading role in the Performance Department extra-curricular clubs and events. Enrichment opportunities such as theatre visits, concerts, composition workshops and ensemble performances will enhance learning in the classroom, and help students develop their passion for music.

Careers

Careers in the music and creative industries are wide ranging, they include: composer, songwriter, lyricist, session musicians, recording artist, music therapist, music teacher, artistic management and promotion, arts journalism, producer, conductor, marketing, events management, sound technician and many more!

Why study GCSE Drama?

Performance is paramount – there is lots of opportunity to participate in performance and devise drama. All students explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances.

- You can choose to develop as a: performer; designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets); performer and designer.
- Students learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts.
- Whatever the future holds, students of GCSE Drama emerge with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

Course Content

<p>Component 1: Understanding Drama Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre Study of one set play from a choice of six (<i>chosen play: Blood Brothers</i>) Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers</p>
<p>Component 2: Devising Drama Process of creating devised drama Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer) Analysis and evaluation of own work</p>
<p>Component 3: Texts in Practice Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer) Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1</p>

Assessment

There are 3 exams, one written and two practical exams:

- Written Exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes – 40% of GCSE
- Devised Practical Performance (20 marks) and a Devising Log (60 marks) - 40% of GCSE
- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks) - 20% of GCSE

Enrichment Opportunities

Students studying Drama will be encouraged to take a leading role in the Performance Department extra-curricular clubs and events. Enrichment opportunities such as live theatre trips, drama workshops and devising projects will feed directly into course assessment, help develop student interests and build cultural capital.

Careers

Drama can lead to a range of careers in theatre, film and television, as well as help you develop transferable skills that employers value, such as teamwork, communication, creativity and presenting skills. Possible roles include: actor, producer, director, cinematographer, event manager, arts journalist or critic, costume/set/lighting designer, playwright, stage manager, marketing, educator and many more!

Why study GCSE Dance?

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop creatively, physically, emotionally and intellectually!

- The course is 60% practical coursework – your practical skills of performing and choreographing will be refined.
- Study of professional works in a range of different dance styles inspires students to develop their own performance, creative and choreographic practice, at the same time as the knowledge, understanding and analytical skills required for critical appreciation.
- Studying Dance boosts confidence, hones problem-solving skills, and supports your health and wellbeing. You will be encouraged to make informed decisions, providing invaluable skills applicable to any career path.

Course Content

<p>Component 1: Performance and Choreography</p> <p>Performance: Set phrases through a solo performance Duet/trio performance (40 marks)</p> <p>Choreography: Solo or group (2-5 dancers) choreography (40 marks)</p>
<p>Component 2: Dance Appreciation</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills</p> <p>Critical appreciation of own work</p> <p>Critical appreciation of professional works</p>

Assessment

- 2 Non-examined assessments – 60% of GCSE
- Written examination of 1 hour and 30 minutes – 40% of GCSE

Enrichment Opportunities

Students studying Dance will be encouraged to take a leading role in the Performance Department extra-curricular clubs and events. Enrichment opportunities such as live theatre trips, dance workshops with professionals and choreography projects will feed directly into course assessment, help develop student interests and build cultural capital.

Careers

Dance can lead to a range of careers in the dance, theatre and broader performing arts industry, as well as help you develop transferable skills that employers value, such as teamwork, communication, creativity and analysis skills. Possible roles include: dancer, producer, choreographer, event manager, arts journalist or critic, costume/set/lighting designer, stage manager, educator, arts administrator, and many more!

Why study Level 1/Level 2 Health and Social Care?

This is a BTEC level 1/level 2 course. It is a fantastic opportunity for students who wish to enter the Health, Social and Childcare sector. This course combines practical elements with specialist knowledge needed to work in care. It is a vocational qualification which is the equivalent to a GCSE.

What does the course involve?

You will develop professional and personal skills through interaction with people who either work in the sector or require care or support, as well as theoretical knowledge and understanding to underpin your skills. You will learn the importance of good communication, the ability to research, and interpret findings. Planning creative activities and evaluate your work. You will learn time management and most importantly understanding of the rights of individuals, person-centred values.

What exams and coursework are involved?

There is one exam and two pieces of coursework. Exams carry a slightly higher weighting.

Course Content:

Human Lifespan Development
Health and Social Care Services and Values
Health and Wellbeing

Assessment:

Component number 1 - Human Lifespan Development -30% of final grade - Internal assessment.

Component number 2 - Health and Social Care Services and Values – 30% of final grade - Internal assessment.

Component number 3 -Health and Wellbeing – 40% of final grade - External synoptic assessment – 1 hour and 30 minutes

Enrichment

The course provides a sound precursor to study a Level 3 qualification in Health and Social care, apprenticeships in Health and Social Care and Early Years, as well as into employment.

Careers

Career options (once further qualifications gained) range from doctor, nurse, midwife, social worker amongst others.

NOTES

Why study GCSE Spanish?

Studying Spanish at GCSE will allow you to develop:

- Your understanding of your own mother tongue, be it English or another language.
- An open mind.
- Your understanding of other cultures, as Spanish is the official language in 21 countries and is spoken in many more.
- Your intellectual skills, such as drawing comparisons and contrasting linguistic items
- Study skills: using a dictionary, reading authentic texts, using online and book resources to find out about cultures
- Transferable skills, such as teamwork, problem solving, IT skills and communication skills

Course Content

Free Time Activities, Role Models
Your Local Area, Shopping and Travel
Festivals and Celebrations
Work Experience
Global Issues
Revision and exams

Assessment

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: Identity and culture
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

100% Exam based

- 25% Listening – 35 minutes (Foundation tier)/ 45 minutes (Higher tier)
- 25% Speaking – 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
– 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 25% Reading – 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier)
- 25% Writing – 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)

Enrichment Opportunities

You will be able to form a personal connection with the language and its cultural aspects through cooking sessions, karaoke club, film club, art workshops and residential in Spain.

Careers

Translator/Interpreter for a range of companies across all continents, film and TV dubbing, tourism industry, high level jobs in large global companies, international politics, international law and many more.

Why study GCSE Physical Education?

GCSE Physical Education is an excellent choice for anyone who wishes to further their passion and understanding of sport. It is a two-year course comprised of both practical performance and theoretical understanding of healthy, active lifestyles.

Practical and Personal Exercise Plan (40%)

The practical aspect of the course gives students the opportunity to develop their skills, techniques, values and understanding across various activity areas. Students are assessed as a performer in one individual, one team and a choice of either team or individual activity. Students will also complete a Personalised Exercise Programme (PEP).

Theory (60%)

The theoretical aspect will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Students will gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and wellbeing

Course Content

<p>Applied Anatomy and Physiology Movement Analysis Physical Training Use of Data</p>
<p>Health, Fitness and Well-being Sport Psychology Socio-cultural Influences Use of Data</p>
<p>One sport must be a team sport One sport must be an individual sport The final sport is your next best sport You must be willing to attend extra-curricular Physical Education and play school sport.</p>

Assessment

Practical Performance – 3 sports (Non- Exam Assessment (NEA)) – 30% of GCSE
 Personal Exercise Programme (Non- Exam Assessment (NEA)) – 10 % of GCSE
 2 x Examination papers;

- Paper 1: Fitness and Body Systems – 1 hour 30 minutes – 36% of GCSE
- Paper 2: Health and Performance – 1 hour 15 minutes – 24% of GCSE

Enrichment Opportunities

You will develop transferable skills, including numeracy, communication and an understanding of practical performances. You will develop a mix of scientific and social knowledge putting you in an excellent position to access a wide range of sport and non-sport related courses.

Careers

You will have knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare you for a career in this dynamic employment sector. You will have skills to take to a wider range of careers from management, public sector organisations, businesses and charities.

Why should I study Business Studies?

The study of business prepares you to be a global citizen and cope with all the complexities modern day life throws at you, it encompasses and touches upon all other subject areas, it is a practical subject and gives you practical, realistic, useful skills which will prove to be beneficial for you as you make your way in this world and in whatever field/career you choose to go into.

Course Content

Enterprise and entrepreneurship
Spotting a business opportunity
Putting a business idea into practice
Making the business effective
Understanding external influences on business
Growing the business

Assessment

There are two distinct themes which are studied, and these are then examined via two equally weighted external examinations papers,

- Paper 1 –Written exam of 1 hour and 45 minutes, worth 50% of the final grade.
- Paper 2 –Written exam of 1 hour 45 minutes, worth 50% of the final grade.

Literacy and numeracy

In Business studies students will develop both written and numerical skills, students will develop their written skills and grow their vocabulary, there are a host of new terminologies for students to take on board and be able to apply. Literacy skills are modelled and developed through written and verbal communication, presentations and report writing are key facets.

Enrichment

Opportunities are available and will take the form of after school workshops, external speakers and visits to businesses such as Cadburys world, London tourist attractions and events.

Careers

Careers in business are vast due to the flexibility of the subject. Students can go into finance, banking, accounts, sales, marketing, procurement, logistics, IT, business consultancy, civil service, office work, economics, law, education, vocational roles, tourism, politics, media, social media and ecommerce and so forth. The possibilities are endless.

Why should I study GCSE Computer Science?

Computer Science is a modern, fascinating subject. The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges. It's designed to boost computing skills essential for the 21st century which is why it is an element of the English Baccalaureate.

Course Content

Computational thinking Designing, creating and refining algorithms Searching and sorting algorithms Programming fundamental
Data types Additional programming techniques Defensive design Testing
Boolean logic Languages The Integrated Development Environment (IDE)
Architecture of the CPU CPU Performance Embedded systems Primary storage (Memory) Secondary storage
Units Data storage Compression Networks and topologies Wired and wireless networks, protocols and layers
Threats to computer systems and networks Identifying and preventing vulnerabilities Operating systems Utility software Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impact

Assessment

Two exams focusing on

- Computational thinking as its core, helping you to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence
- Applying the principles, you learn in the classroom to real-world systems in an exciting and engaging way

Careers

Careers in Computing are vast due to the flexibility of the subject. Popular careers include data analyst, IT consulting, social media, network manager, programmer and many more.

Why should I study Cambridge National IT?

Data Manipulation, Artificial intelligence and Project Management are vital skills for success in employment and higher education and are among the key transferable skills required by employers. This course is designed to develop student’s understanding of these skills through the development of creative products to solve real world data problems. Taking this qualification will prepare you for a career in a data driven future.

Course Content

Understand the tools and techniques that can be used to initiate and plan solutions Understand how data and information can be collected, stored and used
Understand the factors to be considered when collecting and processing data and storing data/information
Understand the different methods of processing data and presenting information – Spreadsheets and Augmented Reality
IT in the digital world

Assessment

There is one written exam (RO50: IT in the digital world) which last for 1 hr and 30 minutes and the coursework unit (RO60- Data manipulation using spreadsheet and R070 – using Augmented Reality to present information) will be a set assignment.

Careers

Careers in Computing are vast due to the flexibility of the subject. Popular careers include data analyst, IT consulting, social media, network manager, programmer, Robotics, AI and many more.

NEXT STEPS...

What questions do I have?

Which subjects do I need to find out about?

Which subjects link to what I want to do in the future?

Which teachers should I talk to?

What do my family think?

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