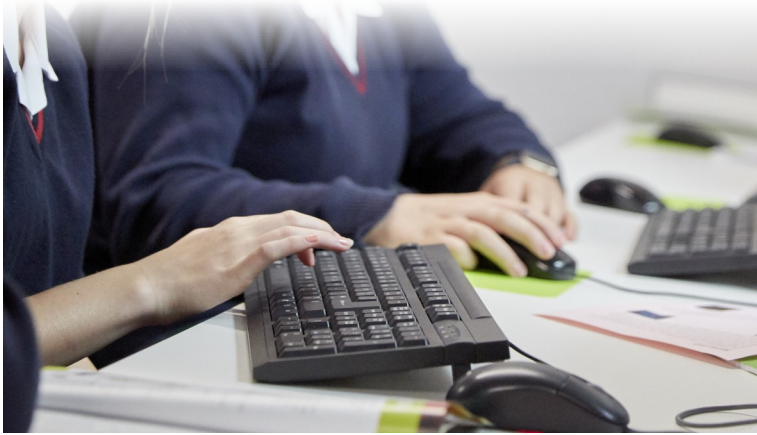




Clifton High School
co-educational nursery pre-school to sixth form

GCSE Options 2020





Clifton High School
co-educational nursery pre-school to sixth form

GCSE Options 2020

The choices pupils make for their GCSE and A level courses are important for their future.

Pupils studying at GCSE level often do not have clear further education or career plans at this stage and so it is vital that GCSE choices keep open as many A level options as possible (although it is not **always** necessary to have a GCSE in a subject to be able to study it at A level).

As pupils move into Year 10 it is not possible for them to continue every subject they are currently studying as there is simply not enough time to study them all to examination level. For this reason many pupils worry about whether they are making the right choices for the future, whether they have clear ideas about their future career aspirations or not.

How to choose courses

At Clifton High School most pupils will study nine GCSEs. The School does everything to ensure pupils are able to study their chosen subjects and, unlike other local schools, Clifton High construct option blocks that are based entirely upon pupils' choice of subjects, rather than asking them to choose from pre-set blocks.

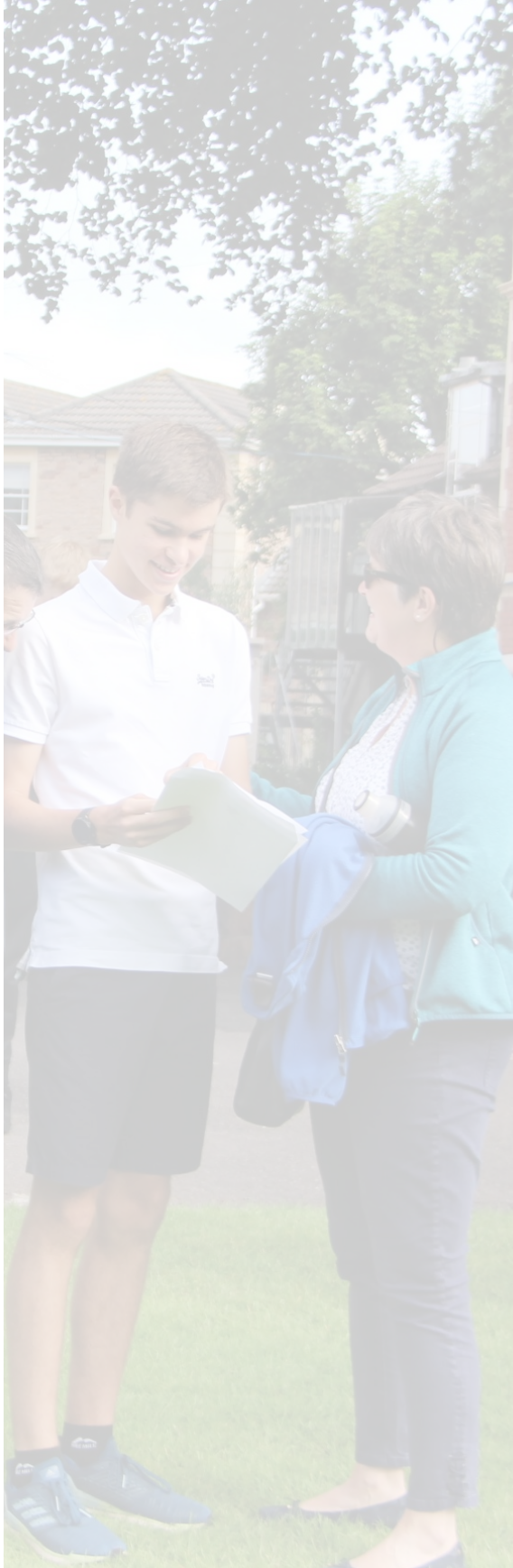
This aim is to have class sizes which are large enough to stimulate discussion but small enough to enable personal attention and support.

There are some subjects that pupils are expected to study to give a broad base to their education, these are English, Mathematics, Science and a modern foreign language. These requirements therefore make up six of their nine subjects (English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, two Science subjects and a modern foreign language). The remaining three GCSE choices can be freely chosen from the range offered.

As well as choosing subjects that they are interested in, the best way of keeping as many doors open as possible for the future is by maintaining a balance of the types of subject chosen. This will enable them to develop their skills widely, which is especially important if pupils do not yet know what they might want to pursue as a career.

Ideally, it is recommended that pupils select at least one subject (such as History or Geography) that makes them think about how human beings operate and how their behaviour affects the world we live in. Ideally, they should also select at least one subject which has a strong practical element - Art, Drama, Music, Food or Product Design.

If pupils know, or think they know, what they intend to study at university or college then they should seek appropriate advice about subject requirements. Although these will ultimately be A level requirements, in some instances future plans may influence GCSE choices. For example, if they are thinking about becoming a doctor, it is essential that they take Chemistry at GCSE.



The subjects presented in this booklet will be taught from September 2020 provided that there are a sufficient number of pupils who choose them. Option blocks will then be created that enable as many pupils as possible to study their chosen subjects but it cannot be guaranteed that this will be possible for every pupil. Therefore, a 'reserve', or fall back subject option is requested in case this arises.

Studying for nine GCSEs involves a significant amount of work, especially now that every subject is assessed at the end of Year 11 and it is no longer possible to re-sit examinations to improve grades.

This adds significantly to the pressure and the amount of revision that is needed at the end of Year 11, because of the increase in the actual number of examinations that need to be fitted into the short examination period to accommodate the changes.

Universities increasingly use the quality, not number, of an applicant's GCSE examination results to determine whether to invite that person for interview or to offer him or her a place, and so it is much better to have nine top grades rather than taking on additional pressures that risk getting slightly lesser results; the difference between a Grade 8 and Grade 9 in a single subject can sometimes have a disproportionate effect when applying to some universities.

All GCSE qualifications now have a scale of Grade 9 (highest) to Grade 1 (lowest).

Life skills programme

There is more to Year 10 and 11 life than academic study and therefore Clifton High runs a Life Skills Programme throughout Years 10 and 11, designed to give pupils a breadth of different experiences and to help them manage their lives, both now and in the future and to be prepared for the working world.

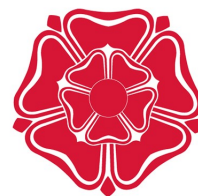
In Year 10, pupils will have two 50-minute sessions per week covering four areas; becoming independent, exploring career options, relationships, consent and the law, and building positive mental health and resilience.

In Year 11 pupils will have one 50-minute session per week covering three areas; developing employability, drug awareness and substance abuse and first aid.

Practicalities

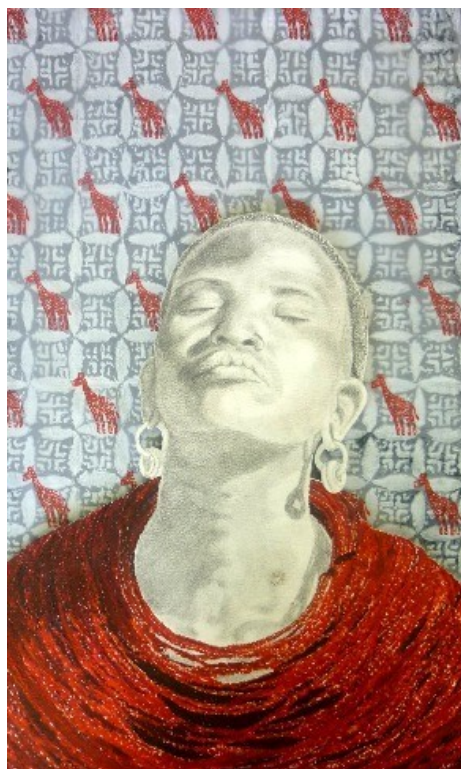
Following the issue of this booklet there will now be time for pupils to discuss their plans with teachers, tutors and their parents. The Year 9 Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14th January 2020 will give pupils and their parents an opportunity to discuss choices with staff, clarify any uncertainties and consider the advisability of choosing specific subjects. Pupils will then have a further three weeks to finalise their decisions.

Completed options forms are to be returned to Dr Caddy, Deputy Head of School, by Monday 10th February 2020. After this date it is possible for pupils to change their mind about their choices - as long as these then fit in with the option blocks that will have since been created.



Art and Design

Head of Department: Mr Paul Ayers



For budding artists or designers

This course aims to allow individuals to;

- become a creative and confident artist or designer
- develop and explore ideas using a wide range of materials, tools and techniques including drawing, painting, textile processes, printmaking, sculpture, photography, digital media and animation
- feel an enormous sense of achievement by creating your own artwork
- research the work of artists and designers by visiting galleries, exhibitions and interesting places

In and beyond the studio

Study visits form part of the Art and Design portfolio. In the past, pupils have visited Bristol, Cardiff, London and Paris to study works of art. Pupils are encouraged to visit galleries and museums independently, as well as to sketch and photograph their local environment.

GCSE coursework and examination preparation workshops run at lunchtimes every week. Open studios are available at lunchtime and after school for pupils to continue their art work.

Year 11 pupils who remain at Clifton High School for A level study are invited to attend a two-day workshop run by a professional artist at the end of the Summer Term.

In brief

- Artists express their ideas in visual ways
- Artists learn new skills and techniques
- Artists explore and experiment with different media
- Artists are interested in the world of art and design

Assessment

- OCR Art & Design: **J171**
- Portfolio (60%)
- Externally set task (40%)



Biology

Head of Department: Miss Jennifer England

In brief

- Topic 1 – Cell biology (structure and function of cells, cellular specialisation)
- Topic 2 – Organisation (plant and human organ systems, cancer biology)
- Topic 3 – Infection and response (bacteria, viruses, human immune system and medicines)
- Topic 4 – Bioenergetics (photosynthesis and respiration)
- Topic 5 – Homeostasis and response (hormonal and nervous systems)
- Topic 6 – Inheritance, variation and evolution (mitosis, meiosis, structure and function of DNA, theories of evolution)
- Topic 7 – Ecology (ecosystem structures, biodiversity, human impact on the environment)

Assessment

- AQA Biology: **8461**
- Two, one hour and forty five minute papers
- Both papers use a range of questioning techniques, including multiple choice, short answer and open response questions
- Paper 1 assesses Topics 1 – 4; Paper 2 assesses Topics 5 – 7
- Completion of eight required practicals; assessment of these is done in class and similar examples will be used in the two written papers

The beauty of life around us...

Biology is the study of living organisms. Although great attention is paid to the fascinating topic of how humans function and impact the world around us throughout the course, pupils can also look forward to delving into the varied topics of cell structure and specialisation, infection and the immune response, plant biology, nervous and hormonal control, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

The development of skills so sought after by universities and future employers takes a position of prominence, so pupils will be able to enjoy opportunities to research, investigate and think critically as well as delivering oral presentations and consolidating their note-taking and revision skills. The course content is captivating and academically challenging, providing the right balance for all who enjoy learning.

Something for everybody

All pupils are required to study two or three Science subjects at GCSE. The Biology GCSE is awarded following the successful completion of seven topics, assessed in two written papers.

The biological concepts covered ensure that every pupil can relate to the topics being studied and easily appreciate how Biology applies to their own daily lives. Any pupils wishing to study Biology at A level would need to have opted for GCSE Biology and achieved Grade 6 or above. We also recommend that pupils wishing to study any Science subject at A level opt for all three Sciences at GCSE.



Chemistry

Head of Department: Mr Gareth Phillips



What is Chemistry?

Chemistry is a study of the materials around us. Pupils learn how to make new materials and how these materials can affect our everyday lives in good ways and sometimes in bad. Pupils may not want to be a chemist, but to play their part in making decisions about issues such as global warming, energy, technology and medicine, pupils do need to know about Chemistry. Taken further, the study of Chemistry can lead people towards a huge variety of exciting careers including drug research, forensic science, veterinary science, medicine, cosmetic chemistry and science journalism. From the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the pill that may one day save someone's life, a chemist's voyage of discovery could lead anywhere!

What choices do pupils have?

Pupils must study either two or three of the Sciences at GCSE. A good grade in GCSE Chemistry is necessary to study A level Chemistry in the Sixth Form. Candidates who wish to study science subjects at A level are advised to study three Science subjects at GCSE. As Chemistry is the 'central science' it will complement either GCSE Biology or GCSE Physics if only two Sciences are chosen.

The AQA specification provides pupils with a rigorous and challenging coverage of GCSE Chemistry. There is a set of required practical techniques that must be mastered and understood during the two years. Alongside this, there will be many opportunities for pupils to carry out their own practical investigations and build their independence and deductive skills.

In brief

- Chemistry produces new materials
- Chemistry improves daily lives
- Chemistry tackles the planet's biggest challenges
- Chemistry is a practical and investigative subject

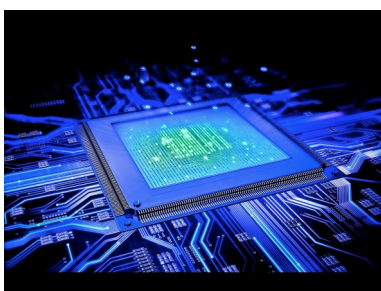
Assessment

- AQA Chemistry: **8462**
- Two units each worth 50% of the total mark.
- 15% of marks on questions across the two papers will relate to practical techniques covered in the course.
- Mix of question types including multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



Computer Science

Head of Department: Mr James Webber



In brief

- Gives a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works
- Provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science
- Develops critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming

Assessment

- OCR Computer Science: **J277**
- Written paper: Computer Systems (50%)
- Written paper: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50%)
- Timed Programming Task (Formal Requirement)

Background

We live and work in a digital world, with technology ever more prevalent, from augmented and virtual reality apps to the use of mobile devices to communicate, collaborate and share important information.

Understanding how technology is working 'under the hood' is vital in a world where Software Engineer, Information Security Analyst and Data Scientist appear in the list of 9 most in-demand jobs of 2017. (Source: CNBC)

"Everybody should learn how to program a computer...
because it teaches you how to think." *Steve Jobs*

How the course is structured

This is an engaging, contemporary course which has had input from organisations such as Microsoft, Google and Cisco. The course will focus on real world threats and cyber security – including phishing, malware and firewalls. Pupils will develop skills in computational thinking, and will extend their programming knowledge further. In Years 10 and 11, time is divided between the three overarching aspects:

Hardware:

Pupils will investigate the underlying hardware and components that make up computers and their networks. Pupils will look at how computer chips and systems actually function 'behind the scenes'. Pupils will also have a chance to tinker with a *Raspberry Pi*, *Micro:bit* as well as virtual reality and augmented reality tools.

Software:

Secondly, the course will examine the basic techniques and approaches programmers use to solve problems programmatically. In addition to this, pupils will examine the way data is represented in computers; be it in image form, audio form, text form or video form. Through an engaging use of Google Classroom, pupils will understand how the programming of software plays such an important role – especially with IoT (the Internet of Things) devices.

Practical:

Finally, pupils will concentrate on learning the fundamentals of programming languages and complete a project task based on a pre-defined scenario. Previous pupils on the GCSE course have studied Visual Basic, JavaScript, Python and PHP/MySQL to a high level.

Drama

Head of Department: Mr Craig Pullen

Skills for theatre and life

GCSE Drama is not just about acting and designing. The course covers the history of theatre, theatrical techniques and styles, and explores backstage roles and tasks.

Pupils go on trips and experience workshops as part of learning how to direct and interpret text from the page to the stage. Pupils will create two pieces of performance work each year and also have opportunities to design for productions.

The course will stimulate pupils, develop their self-awareness and help them to develop excellent communication skills. We aim to provide pupils with an exciting course where they will have lots of fun and meet personal challenges.

An exciting, stimulating course

A thirst to see and discuss theatre is vital to pupils' enjoyment of this course, as the written paper provides pupils with the opportunity to write about live theatre. During the course pupils will take part in play-days at regional and national theatres, enjoy backstage tours and talk to directors and actors in order to develop their understanding of theatre.

In the written examination, pupils will be able to discuss their interpretation of the set text in performance whilst the non-examined assessment gives them the chance to specialise in two skills from a list of choices, ranging from properties to dance theatre. In this way pupils can work to their strengths and develop their chosen skills to a high level for public performance. Creative cooperation is vital to all the practical work and a keen interest in the world around them enables pupils to make original choices for their devised work.

In brief

- Be part of a creative team
- Experience professional theatre
- Devise original plays
- Perform twice a year

Assessment

- AQA Drama: **8261**
- One written paper – theatre practitioner/live production and a set text (40%)
- Non-examined assessment – devised performance/devising log and scripted performance (60%)



English Language and Literature

Head of Department: Mrs Philippa Lyons-White

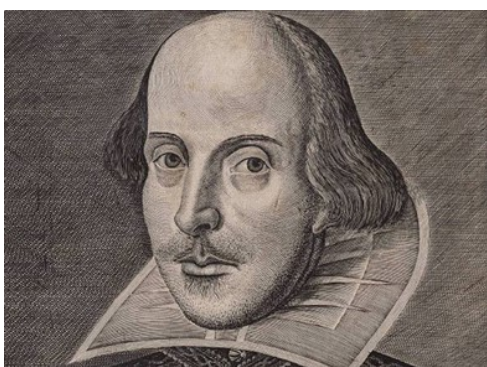


"By words we learn thoughts, and by thoughts we learn life."

Jean Baptiste Girard

English – essential skills for everyone, for life

Writing a Curriculum Vitae? Applying for a summer job? Writing a letter of complaint? Discussing a favourite book, or how the recent film adaptation was so true to the novel?



Learning the power of words, how to master them and how to manipulate them is what English lessons are there for.

The department enables every pupil to acquire IGCSEs (9-1) in both English Language and English Literature. Delivery of these two subjects is integrated into lessons that run alongside each other for two years. Coursework is completed in Year 10.

What do we study?

International GCSE in English Language builds on pupils' learning from Years 7-9:

- Through reading and writing non-fiction texts such as reviews, extracts of autobiography, travel writing or newspaper articles, pupils are exposed to language skills that will help them in practical areas of life. They will uncover the power that texts hold to persuade and manipulate the reader.
- Pupils will be able to enjoy the creativity of imaginative writing as part of their coursework.
- Through spoken presentations and discussion, pupils will also develop an increased awareness of and respect for other people's views.

Texts chosen for the International GCSE in English Literature may vary but they will always include a range of Poetry, Modern Prose (such as *To Kill A Mockingbird*), Modern Drama (such as *An Inspector Calls*) and Literary Heritage texts (such as *Romeo and Juliet* or *Pride and Prejudice*).

- Pupils will develop essential skills of analysis and an appreciation of the writer's craft.
- International GCSE English Literature is an exciting and essential springboard to the depth of study enjoyed by sixth form students of English Literature at A level.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader" Margaret Fuller

"Words, like nature, half reveal and half conceal the soul within."
Alfred, Lord Tennyson



In brief

- Inspirational
- Exciting variety of texts
- Read and write fiction and non-fiction
- Discuss, present, perform
- Life skills

Assessment

- Edexcel IGCSE 9-1 English Language (specification A): **4EA1**
- Edexcel IGCSE 9-1 English Literature: **4ET1**
- Both 60% examination, 40% coursework

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Head of Department: Ms Angela Holland



Practical skills

The new Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure pupils develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing pupils' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. The course is split into five core topics: nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choice and food provenance.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition allows pupils to develop practical and analytical skills using the material of food. They will also broaden their knowledge of food as a subject by looking at different aspects such as nutrition, use of ingredients and environmental issues. Pupils will learn to think creatively, to analyse existing food products and to understand the need for those products, to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing world. Pupils will work both as an individual and as part of a team with lessons that may be practical, investigative or experimental.

The food industry is one of the largest in the world and employs nearly four million people in the UK alone, in many different fields. Even when there is a recession, people all need to eat! Careers can include: product development, nutritionist, hotelier, restaurateur, sports dietician, food journalist and many, many more.

In brief

- Practical and theoretical subject
- Develop creativity
- Newly reformed to be more rigorous

Assessment

- AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition: **8585**
- Two non-examination assessments (50%) and one written paper (50%)

Why Food Preparation and Nutrition?

In Year 10 the majority of theory work takes place through practical activities and investigations. Pupils will look at a range of skill sets and techniques, investigate nutrition and its importance, delve into food science, consider the importance of choosing, buying and storing food and recognise the significance of food provenance.

In Year 11, pupils will complete two non-examination assessments. The first is a food investigation equivalent to 15% (for example, investigate the ingredients used to thicken sauces and soups) and will include practical tasks and a written report. The second is a food preparation task equivalent to 35% and consists of a portfolio including photographic evidence on a set task (for example, plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills, from the Mediterranean culinary tradition and present three final dishes) and will include a three-hour final practical examination. Pupils also sit a one and three-quarter hour examined paper.

French

Head of Department: Madame Eulalia Ribot-Bruno



In brief

- Understand French
- Speak French
- Write French

Assessment

- AQA French: **8658**
- Four Skills equally assessed: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing (25% each)

French - an invaluable skill

To have a command of French is an invaluable skill and one which many will want to develop for A level and their future careers. In the French Department pupils develop a curiosity and a life-long interest and enjoyment of the language so that they will acquire a sound basis of skills necessary for future studies, work and leisure.

A GCSE in French will allow pupils to develop their communication skills as well as their understanding. Emphasis is placed on the acquisition of communication skills whilst trying to make language learning fun. Language learning at GCSE will take the form of group, pair work and teacher led activities in order to maximise pupils' progress. Speaking French brings a wealth of benefits - cultural, social and political - whilst opening up many more career opportunities in an increasingly competitive job market.

Topics and themes

Pupils will study from the following three main themes:

- Identity and Culture
- Local, National and Global Areas of Interest
- Current and Future Study and Employment

Within these themes, pupils will be encouraged to express their opinions on a wide range of varied and stimulating topics including mobile technology, charitable and voluntary work, music, relationships, healthy living, the environment and life at school.

The topics will combine a balance of pupils' personal interests and concerns with broader subjects. Pupils will also gain confidence with the language by studying grammar and translation skills. Pupils in our School benefit from having additional one-to-one conversation lessons with the Language Assistant. They also have the wonderful opportunity to develop their speaking skills on a daily basis around the School with our French native pupils who find it interesting to teach them every day language.

Pupils also have access to the French magazine publications, *Ca Va* and *Allons-y* in the library, where they can also find a selection of French novels as well as translated novels such as; *Harry Potter*, *The Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, and *Tintin*.

To develop the pupils' linguistic confidence and fluency further, there are several educational day and residential trips organised annually.

Geography

Head of Department: Mrs Laura Giles



“Where we come from, what we do, how we move about and how we shape our future are all directly the province of the geographer. More than ever we need the geographer’s skills and foresight to help us learn about the planet - how we use it and how we abuse it.”

Michael Palin.

The world in our hands

GCSE Geography gives pupils the opportunity to understand the way the world works. Pupils will inspect exploding volcanoes and exploding populations, examine changing coastlines and changing cities and consider the impact of climate change and urban development on the world. The course will also help pupils to discover what is being done in the local area to increase sustainability.

The range of topics and the breadth of skills covered makes it a great base for anyone, whatever their future interests. The subject lends itself to a wide range of lesson styles, including investigations, games and mysteries.

Our hands in the world?

The geography field trip is a highlight of the course and an opportunity for pupils to relate the physical and human geographical topics studied to real life situations.

For the past few years we have spent three days exploring the delights of Devon. Come rain or shine, GCSE geographers jump into rivers, climb mountains and assess the services provided by the local area. On their return to School, pupils use the data they have collected to produce a simple project explaining what they did, why they did it and what they found out.

In brief

- 30% human, physical and environmental geography of the UK
- 30% human, physical and environmental geography in the wider world
- 40% geographical skills and fieldwork (builds on knowledge from human/physical papers)

Assessment

- OCR Specification A: **J383**
- Three written papers



German

Head of Department: Mrs Tara Harris



In brief

- Study the native language of 100 million people
- Explore the German speaking world
- Develop your communication skills
- Visit a German speaking country

Assessment

- AQA German: **8668**
- Four Skills equally assessed: Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing (25% each)

Open doors with German!

Germany is Britain's biggest trading partner and German is now the top language rated by employers as useful to their organisation. Learning German will develop pupils' listening and communication skills and give them a broader understanding of other cultures. German language studies throw doors open to a whole new culture, as Germany has made a huge contribution to art, design, film and theatre, as well as science and technology.

Lessons are fun and interactive, and progress is really noticeable, with dedicated time with our German Language Assistant, group and pair work and teacher-led activities.

What will pupils learn?

Pupils will 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

Whilst studying each topic, pupils will also improve their knowledge of German grammar, which will broaden their understanding of how the language works. They will be able to use idioms and express opinions on a multitude of topics.

Listening, reading, speaking and writing examinations will be completed at the end of the course (each skill will form 25% of the final grade). During the two-year course, pupils may also have the opportunity to visit Germany or Austria as part of an organised trip. There may also be the chance to watch German drama productions and take part in German film evenings.

Who is this course for?

This course is aimed at all learners who wish to continue with their study of German, and who have enjoyed and valued their language learning to date. Successful language learners are:

- Effective communicators
- Able to take initiative
- Organised and confident
- Resourceful, imaginative and creative

History

Head of Department: Mr Oliver Mullins



“History is the science of people.” *Jose Ortega y Gasset.*

To enjoy IGCSE History, pupils need to have an interest in what motivates people and what determines their choices and actions. The course is all about the choices and decisions that have been made and their impact, sometimes great, sometimes horrific, on the world.

Pupils will study the big-shots, the leaders and the ‘movers and shakers’, but they will also study the lives of ordinary people. It is a big course which covers a huge range of topics, but by the end of it pupils will have a greater understanding of the previous century and as a result a greater understanding of the world they now live in.

The Modern History course

The History IGCSE is a modern history course with a great mix of political and social history. Pupils study contrasting topics over a two year period. Topics include the study of international relations from the end of the First World War to the First Gulf War, 1919-2000. Pupils will also study Germany in depth, 1918-1945.

The components of the IGCSE are:

Component 1: 2 hour examination 60 marks 40%

Two questions from the core study (20th century International Relations since 1919) and one question from the depth study (Germany 1918-1945).

Component 2: 2 hour examination 50 marks 33%

Six source questions on one topic from the core study. The topic is known in advance.

Component 3: Coursework 40 marks 27%

An extended piece of writing based on Germany 1918-1945

Why study History IGCSE?

It encourages pupils to raise questions and to develop and deploy historical skills, knowledge and understanding in order to provide historical explanations. Learners will explore history from a diversity of perspectives, including social, economic, cultural and political. It aids in developing key skills such as understanding concepts such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference. It also helps pupils to use evidence to support conclusions, understand international issues and their inter-relationships, and how to present clear and logical arguments.

In brief

- “If people could learn history, what lessons it might teach us.”
Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- “The study of history is the beginning of wisdom.” *Jean Bodin*

Assessment

- Cambridge IGCSE Modern World: **0977**
- 2 written examinations (73%)
- Coursework (27%)

Latin

Head of Department: Mrs Elizabeth Marriott

Ms Marysia Bancroft (maternity cover)



“Latin allows you to adore words, take them apart and find out where they came from.” *Theodore Geisel (Dr Seuss)*.

Why study Latin?

The study of Latin will not only provide pupils with an excellent basis for learning other European languages, but it will also help them to understand structures and vocabulary in their own language and to write with sophistication. Additionally, through reading set texts in the original Latin, pupils will be introduced to some of the finest literature ever written. Modern society owes a huge cultural debt to the civilisations of Greece and Rome and a knowledge of the intellectual achievements of these societies can help people make sense of the world today. In fact, there is hardly any area of study on which Latin and the ancient world have not left their mark.

“Languages whose writings are beloved never really die.” *Josephine Livingstone*



In brief

- Improving Latin translations and appreciating how language works
- Exploring life in Ancient Rome
- Explore and analyse a selection of influential Roman authors

Assessment

- OCR Latin: **J282**
- Three written papers
- No coursework

The GCSE course

GCSE Latin is an exciting, rigorous and intellectually stimulating course which gives pupils the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the language, literature and culture of the Romans. In Year 10 pupils focus on expanding vocabulary and consolidating and extending knowledge of grammatical structures. Pupils will develop skills of unseen translation and English to Latin composition, within the context of learning more about Roman history, society and mythology. In Year 11, focus is on reading and responding to Latin prose and literature. Latin language is at the root of modern languages, providing a wealth of grammar and vocabulary from which other languages have evolved.

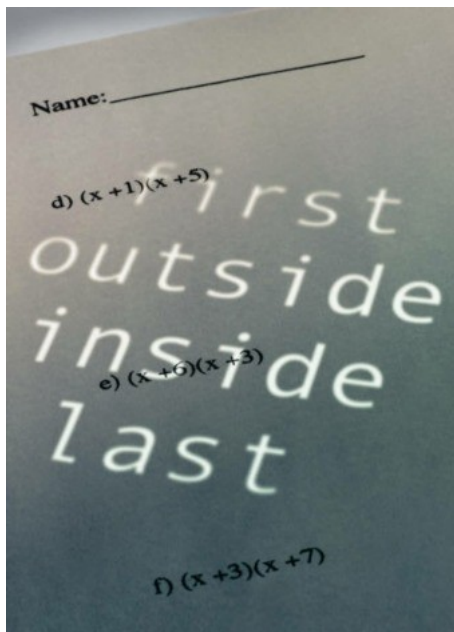
What can pupils do with Latin?

Universities and employers are looking for people who can think precisely, communicate clearly and apply skills of analysis effectively. The study of Latin will provide pupils with all of these skills. Latin provides strong support for university applications in English, modern languages, law, archaeology and history and is respected as a particularly rigorous subject. You will find former Latin pupils in many career areas, including banking, computing, industry, the civil service, journalism, teaching, law, advertising and the arts.

The study of GCSE Ancient Greek may also be offered to our most able and committed language pupils who express an interest. This would be taught during lunch time or after School.

Mathematics

Head of Department: Mr Andrew Hillman



Mathematics is everywhere

Pupils will use Mathematics in every area of school life. They could be reading scales in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition or plotting graphs in GCSE Physics. It may help pupils understand perspective in GCSE Art and Design or to locate a city in an atlas. Pupils will continue to use mathematical skills outside of School in everyday life and in almost every possible career.

Mathematics is therefore compulsory for all pupils at GCSE. It is, however, very fun and interesting, as pupils will discover when they opt in fully to this fascinating subject.

Areas of study

During the GCSE course, pupils will develop their knowledge and skills in four main areas. 'General Problem Solving' involves decision making, communicating ideas and developing reasoning skills. 'Number and Algebra' includes basics such as decimals, fractions, percentages and more advanced topics such as the manipulation of equations and transformations of graphs. In 'Shape, Space and Measure' pupils will study ideas such as areas and volumes, angle and circle properties, trigonometry and transformations of 2D shapes. 'Handling Data' is the study of statistics and probability.

Pupils will be assessed on their recall and use of knowledge; selection and application of methods; and interpretation and analysis of problems. Their quality of written communication is also assessed: never has it been more important to show working out!

In brief

- Essential
- Intriguing
- Logical

Assessment

- Edexcel IGCSE Mathematics:
4MA1
- Two examinations (100%)

Music

Head of Senior School Music: Mrs Donia Pieters



In brief

- A chance to create original music
- Not just 'classical' - all sorts of musical styles
- Take advantage of performing skills
- A wide variety of practical opportunities

Assessment

- Edexcel Music: **1MU0**
- Listening paper (40%)
- Composition and performance (60%)

About the course

This course will give pupils many opportunities to develop their creative skills. Not only will they learn much more about the way music is composed and performed around the world, but they will also write a number of pieces of their own using this new knowledge. Music technology plays a part in the content of this course and pupils will learn to use music software to notate their compositions. Pupils' skills as performers will also be recognised in the final assessment, which will allow them to record a solo performance as well as one featuring other musicians working with them.

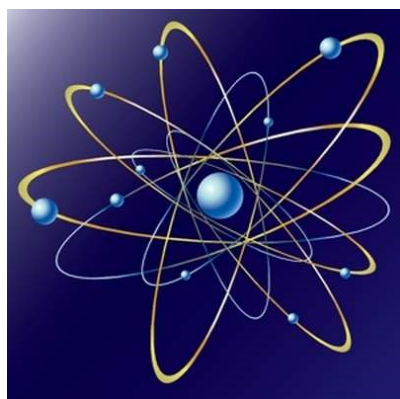
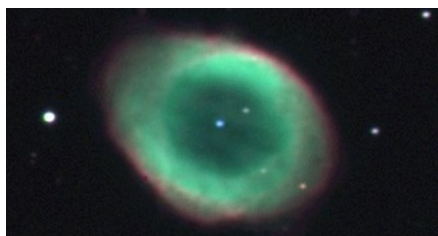
To achieve success in GCSE Music, pupils should be keen to explore classical, modern popular and world music genres; performing, composing and studying each style. Pupils will be eager to choose a subject that offers a large practical component. Pupils will be creative and keen to share their skills in ensembles or composition projects.

Whilst it is not vital that pupils have taken Associated Board examinations, it is important that they are receiving instrumental or vocal lessons as these will help prepare them for their GCSE non-examined assessment. Confident performers will find this aspect of the course easy to complete very successfully.



Physics

Head of Department: Mr Paul Griffin



In brief

- Fun, relevant and interesting
- Enhances practical skills
- Provides a sound basis for any future career
- Essential for scientific A level study

Assessment

- Physics AQA: **8463**
- Includes eight theory topics and ten compulsory practical activities which are embedded into the teaching of the course
- All marks are gained through two 1 hour 45 minute papers, with a mix of question types; multiple choice, structured, closed short answers and open response
- 15% of marks across the two papers will relate to practical techniques covered in the course

Physics affects us all

Physics is needed to make things work; if you choose Physics you will be learning skills for life! You will develop the practical skills to take precise and accurate measurements, and the analytical skills to draw meaningful conclusions from your results. Physics helps you to develop an inquisitive and logical mind, which can be applied to improve your life in countless ways. Also, importantly, it is great for impressing your friends and relatives by giving clear answers to questions about everyday phenomena, such as “Why is the sky blue?”

Physics is accessible to all

This fascinating subject includes fundamental concepts like energy, electricity, forces, waves, radioactivity, atomic structure, kinetic theory, space and magnetism.

In addition to compulsory practical work, pupils will be expected to undertake a wide variety of other practical tasks to enhance and develop the physics concepts they are learning in a kinaesthetic way.

The Course

The course is an essential grounding for anyone going on to study Sciences at A level and beyond. It is a traditional course and AQA have followed the government directive to include a higher mathematical content.

At GCSE pupils can choose to study two Sciences or all three. Triple Science is recommended for potential A level scientists. You will not be able to go on to study Physics at A level unless you choose GCSE Physics, so if any form of engineering, science or applied mathematics is not to be ruled out at this early stage pupils should choose Physics at GCSE.

Product Design

Head of Department: Mr Simon Francis



Are you a Product Designer?

Product Design is a discipline where creativity can be fully expressed and used to change the world. Nearly 10% of the UK is employed directly in creative industries and many more use creative thinking to excel in their career.

The new GCSE Design and Technology (Product Design) qualification combines the best elements of the outgoing Product Design GCSE to make a modern and relevant subject where pupils learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices.

Pupils will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. This will be a stepping stone to careers in Engineering, Architecture and Design, whilst enabling pupils to hone their imagination to solve any problem. Universities and employers value people who are imaginative and can creatively solve problems in their chosen field.

In school and beyond

Study visits form part of the Product Design non-examined assessment portfolio. Pupils will visit Bristol galleries and The Victoria & Albert and New Design Museums to study and appreciate iconic designs.

Pupils are also encouraged to visit exhibitions and museums independently, recording their findings and inspirations.

Open workshops are available at lunch and after school for pupils to continue their work.



In brief

- Product Designers are creative
- They enjoy problem solving and making the solutions
- They tackle a wide variety of briefs, from architecture to engineering

Assessment

- Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology: **0979**
- School based assessment project 50%
- Written examinations 50%

Spanish

Head of Department: Ms Rebecca Bartlett



Spanish is the second-most popular language spoken in the world and Spain is the second most visited country in Europe. In the increasingly integrated global business community, the ability to communicate in another language is becoming more and more important. Spanish will provide pupils with numerous opportunities to develop their written and verbal communication skills in whole class, small group and one-to-one situations. The GCSE course develops four key skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Pupils will also have the chance to practise their spoken Spanish with the native Spanish Language Assistant on a weekly basis.

Every pupil studies the following themes on which the assessments are based:

- Theme 1: Identity and Culture (Me, my family and friends; Technology in everyday life; Free-time activities; Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities)
- Theme 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest (Home, town, neighbourhood and region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism)
- Theme 3: Current and Future Study and Employment (My studies; Life at school/college; Education post-16; Jobs, career choices and ambitions)

Languages for life

Learning a language is a skill for life and Spanish is a subject pupils should enjoy and find rewarding. This exciting course expands pupils' cultural knowledge whilst developing their language skills. They will become equipped with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts and with confidence. Pupils will have the opportunity to attend Spanish conferences in London as well as participating in trips to Spain.

In brief

- Engaging course
- Rapid progress
- Day trips and foreign trips
- Weekly sessions with the native Spanish Language Assistant

Assessment

- AQA Spanish: 8698
- Four skills equally assessed: Listening (Paper 1), Speaking (Paper 2) Reading (Paper 3), and Writing (Paper 4). All papers are equally weighted at 25%.



Notes

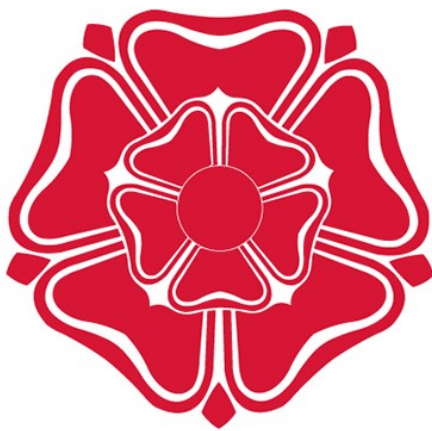
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The Diamond Edge Model  **Realising Individual Brilliance**

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Clifton High School is committed to child protection and safeguarding children and young people and expects all staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.
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