



# CHARTERHOUSE

(I)GCSE subjects for  
September 2023

A Guide for Pupils and Parents

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# The Curriculum

## REMOVE OPTIONS 2023

In the Remove and Fifth Form the compulsory examined core of the curriculum is comprised of **English Language, English Literature, Mathematics** and the study of three sciences: **Biology, Chemistry** and **Physics**.

Our expectation is that the majority of pupils will study all three Sciences with a view to sitting them as three separate IGCSE subjects in the summer of 2025.

However, it is possible for pupils who do not intend to continue with Sciences post-IGCSE to study IGCSE Science (Double Award). Under this option, pupils continue to study all three sciences but cover less content in each, leading to two IGCSE grades. This therefore allows another option subject to be studied.

Either four (for those taking three separate sciences at IGCSE) or five (for those choosing double award) additional subjects are chosen from the list below. At least one of these choices must be French, German or Spanish, and we also expect one of them to be a humanities subject – e.g. Ancient History, Geography, History or TPE (Religious Studies).

**Ancient History, Art, Classical Greek, Computer Science, Design Engineering, Drama, Fashion and Textiles, Geography, History, Latin, French, German, Spanish, Music, Physical Education** and **TPE**.

Public examinations in all subjects are taken at either GCSE or IGCSE at the end of the Fifth Form. Departments choose the best course for their subject and the two qualifications are viewed as equivalent for the purposes of university entrance. The Remove option arrangements are planned according to demand and, although it is usually possible to accommodate all requested subject combinations, we do occasionally need to revisit a pupil's options where it has simply not been possible to construct the timetable to provide a particular set of choices.

Pupils are divisioned separately by level of attainment in Mathematics and, where possible or desirable, in languages, Sciences and English; all other subjects are typically mixed ability groups, depending on a pupil's combination of options.

Some information about the available (I)GCSE courses in all subjects is given below. Further information is available from the Head of Department of the subject concerned or from the subject teacher. Pupils will be asked to make their subject choices **by Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March**.

# The Core Subjects

## English Language

(Edexcel IGCSE – Specification B, EA1)

All Carthusians complete an English Language IGCSE designed to develop their oral and written responses to material that is taken from a variety of sources. The course hones their ability to respond to the ways in which writers construct ideas and achieve their effects. Pupils are taught how to convey meaning in written language, matching style to audience and purpose.

Two pieces of written coursework are submitted, comprising 40% of the overall grade: one assesses their analysis of either poetry or prose from the board’s anthology; the other requires a piece of imaginative writing. The examination, worth 60%, tests pupils’ understanding of non-fiction passage and their evaluation of writers’ use of linguistic devices. It also includes a persuasive or informative writing task which rewards accurate, well-structured and engaging written communication.

## Literature in English

(CIE IGCSE - 0992)

The course in English Literature allows for a wide-range of texts and genres to be studied across the two years, developing pupils’ ability to analyse language and form coherent written arguments. By the end of the course, it is expected that pupils will have an appreciation of the rich history of literature in English.

The qualification is assessed by a mixture of open and closed book exams at the end of the course. Paper 1 (50%, closed book) involves the study of a novel and a selection of poetry. Paper 3 (25%, open book) is examined on a drama text, which for Carthusians will be a play by Shakespeare. Paper 4 is an unseen exam (25%), which allows for the study of a variety of literature throughout the course in preparation.

The course is ideal preparation for English Literature A Level and other essay-based subjects in the Specialists.

## Mathematics

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4MA1 – Specification A)

The Edexcel IGCSE in Mathematics (Specification A) qualification enables pupils to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts and techniques
- acquire a foundation of mathematical skills for further study in the subject or related areas
- enjoy using and applying mathematical techniques and concepts, and become confident to use mathematics to solve problems
- appreciate the importance of mathematics in society, employment and study.

The course covers four main areas of Mathematics: Number, Algebra, Geometry and Statistics as well as introducing Calculus.

The course is examined by two written papers both requiring a calculator and there is no coursework. All pupils take the Higher Tier papers of this qualification.

In addition to taking IGCSE, pupils in accelerated divisions are generally entered for an additional qualification, typically the Edexcel Level 3 Algebra Award, which provides excellent preparation for our Specialist Maths courses.

## Science

It is anticipated that the significant majority of Carthusians will study all three Sciences to IGCSE level, leading to three IGCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

However, to increase flexibility for the small number of pupils for whom this may not be appropriate, it will be possible to opt for IGCSE Science (Double Award); this will allow the study of another option subject at IGCSE, so pupils will still have the same number of qualifications.

It should be noted that any pupil likely to study any one of the Sciences at Specialist level is strongly advised to study all three (separate) Sciences at IGCSE.

All of the science courses act as suitable preparation for further studies in the relevant subject, whatever the future course of study.

## ***Biology***

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4BIO)

The course aims to stimulate a love for Biology, whether pupils wish to study it to Specialist level or not. The syllabus is broad, ranging from DNA and molecular biology, to human physiology, ecosystems and biotechnology. Many aspects are highly relevant to the human condition including the topics of diet & nutrition; reproductive biology; lungs (including smoking / vaping); heart physiology (sport, fitness & exercise); vaccinations and immunity; nervous system (linking to memory and drugs); human impacts on the environment; modern agriculture; and the use of stem cells and genetic engineering. It also provides the factual basis for understanding of the ethical and other issues arising from the current explosive growth of biotechnologies. There is no formal coursework, but there is a significant focus on experimentation and the scientific method throughout the course. Charterhouse takes a practical led approach with pupils learning through frequent experimental work. The data led empirical approach, coupled with logical analysis, supports a wide range of Specialist subjects and career choices, whether in the bioscience field or not.

## ***Chemistry***

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4CH1)

The course aims to introduce pupils to the unifying patterns and themes of chemistry, to appreciate the investigative and practical nature of the subject and to develop a logical approach to problem solving in a wider context. The emphasis of the course lies in a rigorous treatment of elementary chemistry and fundamental practical skills. The assessment of practical and investigative skills within the written papers, rather than by a practical coursework component or modular practical assessments, allows the department to deliver a wide range of practical teaching appropriate to the attainment of the pupils.

## ***Physics***

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4PH1)

From the formation of a galaxy to the bouncing of a ball, Physics helps us to understand the universe in which we live. Throughout the course pupils will gain an understanding of the physical principles behind such things as mechanics, optics, electricity and magnetism, waves, nuclear physics and astrophysics.

Physics is both satisfyingly rigorous in its treatment of the theory behind the workings of nature and in its treatment of the practical skills required to become a methodical and rounded scientist. In addition to developing mathematical and problem solving skills, we aim to emphasise the role of Physics in terms of its social, economic and environmental importance. The world would be a very different place without wireless communication, the electric generator and much more!

# The Option Subjects

## Art

(AQA GCSE – 4202)

This is a forward thinking course which promotes self-expression, problem solving and creativity underpinned by a knowledge of traditional as well as new and emerging media. Pupils produce practical and critical / contextual work across a wide range of disciplines, including drawing, painting, mixed-media, sculpture, installation, printmaking, ceramics, lens-based media, film, animation, video and photography.

During the first year, pupils are taught to explore new ideas and techniques and to build a portfolio, with sketchbooks and final outcomes showing an increasingly personal direction in creative output. Visits to London as well as local exhibitions inform and inspire their work with pupils studying a wide range of artists, designers and architects from around the globe. In the second year, pupils continue to develop their portfolio; in January, they receive an externally set task which they have unlimited time to prepare, building on the skills they have learnt in their portfolio unit; pupils then produce a final piece of work in their chosen media, undertaken over ten hours.

The course culminates with a final exhibition in Studio which is an opportunity for pupils to showcase the wide range of artwork they have developed over two years.

## Classics (Ancient History)

(OCR GCSE – J198)

Alexander the Great. Pericles. Cleopatra. Hannibal. GCSE Ancient History helps pupils to explore and appreciate the ancient world, taking a romp through the most exciting parts of Roman and Greek history, and offering students a chance to study in-depth the defining characters and key events that shaped Greco-Roman antiquity. Events and figures will be studied through the medium of art, archaeology and historical and literary sources.

Pupils sit four papers, lasting between 45 minutes to 1 hour. There is no coursework. All students will study the Persian Empire and the early Roman Republic, both modules focussing on political change, religious and social change, and the impact of warfare and military change. The two depth studies will be at the beak's discretion, but will be two from Alexander the Great, Athens in the age of Pericles or Cleopatra.

The course is intellectually stimulating: pupils will have touched upon these topics in Fourths, but the GCSE gives students the opportunity to take their studies further and looks at the chronology and material fact of events in greater depth. Pupils are required to analyse historical and literary sources and utilise these to produce coherent written arguments, as well as recall factual information to test the veracity of statements from authors of antiquity. All pupils should consult their beak should they wish to take this subject. The course is ideal preparation for pupils considering careers that require high degrees of analytical skill, involve the interpretation of complex data or the delivery of evidence-based argument.

**Classical Greek  
(and Gratin)**  
(OCR GCSE – J292)

Classical Greek GCSE develops pupils' skills in problem-solving, accuracy and analysis whilst giving them the opportunity to encounter some of the greatest works of western literature in the language of the Greeks themselves. Pupils are required to demonstrate their linguistic competence in one unit by translation of unprepared passages of Greek into English and by comprehension exercises. A further two units of study explore works of prose and verse in the original language: the subject matter ranges from social anthropology and philosophy in Herodotus' or Xenophon's historiographical texts, to the dark, twisted and deeply emotional play that is Euripides' *Medea*. Set texts are studied in detail, and, in the examination, passages are given for translation and comment on context, background and literary content. All exam papers are marked externally and there is no coursework. Pupils must have studied Greek in the Fourths to embark on the GCSE.

There is also the option of Gratin (Greek and Latin) where pupils acquire a GCSE in each subject in the timetabled space of one GCSE subject (4 hashes per week). This course is suitable for those who are already highly proficient in Latin and would relish the intellectual challenge and hard work required to study both as part of an accelerated course. Pupils considering this option must speak to their beak first. The course is ideal preparation for pupils considering careers that require high degrees of linguistic, analytical or technical skill.

**Computer Science**  
(CIE IGCSE – 0984)

Pupils taking the IGCSE in Computer Science will develop their understanding of the main principles of problem solving using computers. They can apply their understanding to develop computer-based solutions to problems using algorithms. Pupils will be taught to code using Python, a popular high-level programming language, but the fundamental techniques will provide pupils the skillset to learn other languages. The skills learnt can also be used in other areas of study and in everyday life.



Learners will develop a range of technical skills, as well as being able to effectively test and evaluate computing solutions. This course will help learners appreciate current and emerging computing technologies, the benefits of their use and recognise the ethical issues and potential risks when using computers. The course is assessed by two examinations that are marked externally; there is no coursework.

This is a course requiring pupils to think both logically and creatively; it will particularly be suited to pupils who enjoy problem solving and have a good understanding and high level of competence in Maths and Physics. Please note that Computer Science is only available alongside three individual sciences, and **not** for Double Award scientists.

## Design Engineering

(CIE IGCSE – 0979)

Over the two years of study for the OCR Design Technology GCSE, the Design Engineering Department enables students to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, iterative design, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools to produce a final manufactured product. This is done via several practical projects in the workshop, graphical-based exercises using freehand skills and the introduction to CAD/CAM.

Students gain technical skills, design awareness and communication skills central to the design process. Students are given coursework which expects them to respond to real-world problems leading to all Fifth Form students spending the entire academic year designing and developing a product of their choosing whilst working with a real-life client.

Creativity and originality are central to the course and experimentation with a wide range of materials and techniques is encouraged. Students' final prototypes are created in the JDTC's well-equipped workshop using CAD/CAM technology, as well as traditional manufacturing techniques.

The two-year course is designed to aspire and prepare students for the OCR Design Engineering course offered at A-Level. The course will be assessed in the following ways at the end of the Fifths:

### **Non-Examined Assessment: Iterative Design Project (100 marks, 50%)**

This is a single design and make project. Each student will identify a design problem and liaise with a real-life client to develop their product. It consists of an e-portfolio and the manufacture of a physical product.

### **Examination Paper: Principles of Design Technology (2hr written paper, 100marks, 50%)**

The paper is split into two parts focussing on both 'core' knowledge and 'in-depth' knowledge on one main material category, or design engineering.

For more information please visit the [OCR website](#)

## **Drama**

(Edexcel GCSE - 1DR0)

GCSE Drama is a qualification that will engage pupils through encouraging creativity. Key skills that are developed over the 2-year course are communication, empathy, confidence building, collaboration as well as performance and design skills. The main area of focus is on practical work, which reflects contemporary theatre practice as well as providing pupils the opportunity to reflect on the world around them. There are also numerous opportunities through the course to evaluate live theatre productions.

There are three components to the GCSE:

The first is devising, where pupils will develop their practical skills to create a powerful and original piece of theatre. Within this, they can choose a performer or designer pathway and will have the opportunity to perform this to an audience. This work is supported by a written portfolio and is internally marked.

The second is performance from a text, where pupils perform in or design for two key extracts from a performance text. This is externally examined by a visiting examiner in the second year.

The final component is a written examination, which includes an evaluation of live theatre, and the study of one set text. Choices of set texts include; 'An Inspector Calls', J B Priestley, 'The Crucible', Arthur Miller and 'DNA', Dennis Kelly.

## **Fashion and Textiles**

(OCR GCSE J174)

This is an innovative course which promotes creativity; exploring processes and techniques in response to a chosen stimulus.

In the first-year pupils will discover a plethora of techniques such as drawing, draping, weaving, printing, pattern cutting, embroidery and photoshop all working towards building a portfolio of work. Pupils are encouraged to record their ideas, observations and independent insights informed by a critical understanding of the work of others. Visits to London and local exhibitions as well as researching traditional and contemporary artists and designers will inform and inspire the development of personal projects.

In the second year, pupils continue to develop their portfolio; in January, they receive an externally set task which they have unlimited time to prepare, building on the skills they have learnt in their portfolio unit; pupils then produce a final piece of work, undertaken over ten hours. The course culminates with a final exhibition for pupils to showcase work they have developed over two years.

Pupils should not select both Art and Fashion and Textiles as GCSE options.

## **Geography**

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4GE0)

The IGCSE Geography course provides an opportunity for pupils to gain an understanding of the world in all its guises; it is a broad-based subject which develops a number of intellectual skills, including literacy, numeracy, diagrammatic representation, oral presentation skills and the application of ICT. The course encourages the use of fieldwork to underpin knowledge and understanding.

The IGCSE is assessed through two external examinations; there is no coursework. In Section A (The Natural Environment and People), pupils complete two of the following three topics: River Environments, Coastal Environments and Hazardous Environments. In Section B (People and their Environments), they again complete two of the following three topics: Economic Activity & Energy, Ecosystems & Rural Environments and Urban Environments. In Section C (Practical Geographical Enquiry), pupils are tested on the development of practical geographical enquiry skills related to fieldwork (this will require a field trip within the UK and, depending on the location, may be residential) on each selected topic from Sections A and B. In Section D (Global Issues), pupils study one topic chosen from: Fragile Environments, Globalisation & Migration and Development & Human Welfare.

## **History**

(CIE IGCSE – 0470)

The IGCSE History course covers International Relations from 1919 to 2000. It begins with a study of the attempts at peace-making after the First World War, followed by the collapse of peace in the 1930s. The Cold War is traced from its origins to the collapse of the Soviet Union and its satellite states, and the question of why events in the Gulf c.1970-2000 matter is analysed. In addition, the history of a single country (Germany 1918-45) is studied in more depth: one piece of coursework on Nazi Germany is also undertaken, amounting to 27% of the final grade. Emphasis is placed on a variety of skills, especially the ability to analyse documentary material and communicate relevant information effectively.

IGCSE History is not a prerequisite for Specialist study in History.

## **Latin**

(OCR GCSE – J282)

Latin GCSE develops pupils' skills in problem-solving, accuracy and analysis whilst giving them the opportunity to encounter some of the greatest works of western literature in the language of the Romans themselves. Pupils are required to demonstrate their linguistic competence in one unit by translation of unprepared passages of Latin into English and by comprehension exercises. A further two units of study explore works of prose and verse in the original language: the subject matter ranges from the heroic feats and jealous actions of the mortals and gods in Virgil's *Aeneid*, to the salacious nature of the Empress Messalina, where the scandal of an affair leads to her eventual demise. Set texts are studied in detail, and, in the examination, passages are given for translation and comment on context, background and literary content. All exam papers are marked externally and there is no coursework. Pupils must have studied Latin in the Fourths to embark on the GCSE. The course is ideal preparation for pupils considering careers that require high degrees of linguistic, analytical or technical skill.

## **Modern Languages**

### ***French***

(AQA GCSE - 8658)

### ***German***

(AQA GCSE - 8668)

### ***Spanish***

(AQA GCSE - 8698)

Pupils who study foreign languages at Charterhouse will be taught to express themselves confidently and accurately. Considerable emphasis is placed upon the regular acquisition and practical use of new vocabulary. A broad range of topical listening and reading material is covered in class, in conjunction with thorough grammatical explanations and exercises. To study any of these languages as a Remove, the language must have been studied in the Fourth Form.

## Music

(CIE IGCSE – 0978)

Music IGCSE allows pupils to develop skills in listening, performing and composing. Music from the Western tradition (Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Twentieth Century) is studied alongside music from around the world (African and Arabic music, and music from Latin America, India, China, Japan and Indonesia). Students are encouraged to enhance their understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of a wide variety of musical cultures.

By way of coursework, students also develop their practical musical skills. Performances are given on an instrument of their choice, both individually and in a group of other musicians. Through a carefully guided course, students are taught the basics of composition, culminating in the composition of two pieces in their own style.

## Physical Education

(AQA GCSE – Physical Education 8582)

The course in Physical Education allows pupils an opportunity to study the practical and theoretical aspects of physical activity. The theory course is split up into three components, anatomy and physiology, skill acquisition and psychology and the socio-cultural influences that affect sport today.

The qualification is assessed by two written papers (60% of the course) comprising of short and long style questions. A Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) portfolio of practical performances (40% of the course) is the other component and will be moderated through live performance.

The NEA practical portfolio comprises evidence of practical performance in three different physical activities (as a player or performer in both an individual and team activity and one other) as well as an analysis and evaluation of their performance through assessed coursework.

This course would be suitable for anyone who has an interest in sport and who plays to a good level in at least two activities.

## Theology, Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)

(Edexcel IGCSE – 4RS0/01)

This course has one singular focus and aim: to equip young people for the ethical and philosophical questions they will encounter in their lives. There are three core components of the course, all intimately related to pressing issues in our world today from ethics, to philosophy and an in-depth study of Islam.

- *Modern ethical issues:* Crime and Punishment, War and Conflict, Euthanasia, Human Rights, Discrimination and Racism
- *Philosophy:* the Meaning of Life, Evil and Suffering, the existence of God, Determinism: is free will an illusion?
- *Islam:* Sunni and Shi'ah Islam, the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad

The course is perfectly suited to those who thrive in debate, discussion and who want to learn how to win an argument both orally and in the written word. It teaches pupils to analyse, evaluate and assess different points of view, with the aim of coming to an understanding of their own outlook on these complex and fascinating issues.

There are two papers and no course work.

# Contact Details

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