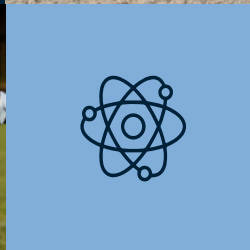
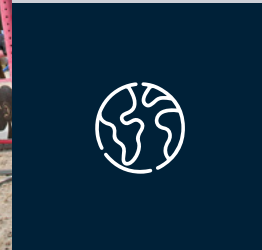
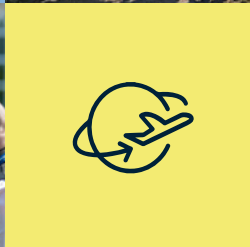




GCSE Subject Options



Welcome to Your GCSE Journey!



As you approach the end of Key Stage 3, it is time to embark on a new chapter by choosing your GCSE subjects.

We are proud to offer a diverse range of courses, catering to your individual strengths and interests. This booklet provides a comprehensive overview of the various options available to you at Stonar.

We understand choosing your GCSE subjects can be a significant decision. We are here to guide you every step of the way. Your dedicated tutor will serve as your main point of contact, offering support and answering any questions you may have. Additionally, subject teachers and Heads of Faculty are happy to provide further insights on their respective areas.

As you make your choices, consider what sparks your curiosity and aligns with your strengths. Think about the subjects you enjoy learning and keep in mind which areas you might explore further in Sixth Form. Remember, selecting a balanced choice of subjects will enable you to fully utilise your abilities.

The majority of pupils will study nine GCSEs, including the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science. This booklet delves deeper into each subject offered, providing detailed information to assist you in making informed decisions.

Remember, we are here to support you every step of the way!

Mrs S Cholmondeley,
Director of Studies



Academic Choices for Years 10 and 11



IGCSE English Literature, English Language or IGCSE English as a Second Language (ESL)

Most pupils will study English Language and Literature, but the English Department may advise some pupils to focus on English Language only. Most overseas pupils will take IGCSE ESL in Year 11. This is an exam for pupils for whom English is not their first language.

IGCSE Mathematics

All pupils will take IGCSE Mathematics, however some high attaining pupils may cover material beyond the IGCSE course and be entered for the Further Maths GCSE level qualification.

Sciences

Pupils take Combined Science (two GCSEs) or Triple Science, which is Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate GCSEs. The Science Department will discuss individually with pupils which option is most suitable.

Optional Subjects

The following subjects are offered as options:

Creative & Performing Arts:	Humanities:	Languages:	Practical Sciences:
Art	Business Studies	French	Computer Science
Design & Technology	Geography	Spanish	Food Preparation & Nutrition
Drama	History	Native language options	Physical Education
Music	Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)		Sport
Photography			

Pupils are initially given a free choice of subjects and a timetable is written based on these options. We ask all pupils to make a reserve choice as we cannot guarantee every option combination. Early in the Summer Term we will publish our options columns and at this stage will ask pupils to make their final subject choices.

Beyond the Classroom

Games continues to be a compulsory, non-examined subject, in addition to GCSE PE or Level 2 Sport, for those who choose it. All pupils will have PSHEE lessons and follow a tutor programme. The Ten Tors Challenge and British Horse Society exams are also available to pupils in Years 10 and 11.



Our Courses Index



Core GCSE Courses

English Language
English Literature
English as an Additional Language
Mathematics
Combined Science or Triple Science

Additional Courses

Ten Tors Challenge
British Horse Society Exams

Optional Courses

Art
Business Studies
Computer Science
Design and Technology
Drama
Food Preparation and Nutrition
French and Spanish
Geography
History
Music
Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE)
Photography
Physical Education
BTEC Level 2 in Sport

English Language



Overview

Consistently excellent results provide ample evidence that the fun learning environment the English team creates contributes to pupils fulfilling their exam potential. Lessons are a lively mixture of discussion, reading, questioning and role play in small group and whole class contexts. Writing takes many forms, ranging from simple note taking to full timed essays. The course places an emphasis on pupils becoming independent and technically proficient writers. The course is fully integrated so that language and literature are taught together and is compulsory for non-EAL pupils.

Assessment

Paper 1 Exam:

2 hours 15 minutes (95 marks - 60%)

Section A - Non-fiction Texts:

A mixture of short and extended response questions from the Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.

- Three short-answer questions on one unseen text.
- One extended-response question on one anthology text.
- One comparison question on the unseen and anthology texts.

Section B - Transactional Writing:

- Article or speech. One question from a choice of three.

Paper 2 Exam:

1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks - 40%)

Section A - Poetry and Prose:

- One question on one text from the Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology.

Section B - Imaginative Writing:

- Imaginative writing. One question from a choice of three.

Exam Board and Specification

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE 4EA1

[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mr Jamie Dyde | Head of English

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English Literature



Overview

IGCSE English Literature includes writing from both the respected ‘canon’ and contemporary poetry. Whatever we study, pupils learn to convey ideas, in a cogent fashion, both orally and in writing. We aim to inspire a love of literature, which will serve the pupils well, both in School and beyond in their adult lives. Theatre trips, visiting theatre companies and involvement in public speaking competitions all serve to complement the in-class experience.

Assessment

Paper 1 Exam:

2 hours 15 minutes (95 marks - 60%)

Section A – Poetry:

- Part 1: Modern unseen poetry - Question on an unprepared poem.
- Part 2: Poetry Anthology - One comparative question from choice of two.

Section B - Modern Prose:

- Of Mice and Men - One question from a choice of two. Closed book.

Paper 2 Exam:

1 hour 30 minutes (60 marks - 40%)

Section A - Modern Drama:

- An Inspector Calls - One question from a choice of two.

Section B - Literary Heritage:

- Macbeth - One question from a choice of two.

Exam Board and Specification

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE 4ET1

[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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English as an Additional Language



Overview

Most overseas pupils will take IGCSE EAL in Year 11. This is an exam for pupils for whom English is not their first language. The course concentrates on the skills pupils will need in life for future jobs or study. At the end of the course, pupils will be able to use English effectively for practical communication and have a good awareness of how the English language works.

Assessment

The exam is all language based. There is no literature component or coursework.

All four key language skills (reading, listening, writing and speaking) are assessed separately and are equally weighted.

Summary of topics and scheme of assessment:

There are four exam papers: Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking.

Reading (4ES2/01) 1 hour (25%)	Passages will cover a broad range of text types, including information, explanation, opinion, and narrative texts. The texts will include a range of professional writing styles.
Writing (4ES2/03) 1 hour 15 min (25%)	Written tasks will assess learners’ ability to make use of formal and informal writing styles. There will be a written summary task and other tasks where pupils have to explain, inform and discuss topics.
Listening (4ES2/02) 45 minutes (25%)	Recordings will cover a broad range of extracts including information requests, explanations, opinions, monologues, dialogues and narration. The recordings will include a range of styles.
Speaking (4ES2/04) 22-23 minutes (25%)	This paper assesses spontaneity, fluency and pronunciation. There will be a pre-prepared element where learners deliver a speech. The exam is conducted by your EAL teacher and the recording is sent to the exam board for marking.

Exam Board and Specification

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE 4ES2
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Mathematics



Overview

Mathematics results at IGCSE are excellent and the department is staffed by a dedicated team of teachers with a genuine desire to inspire enjoyment and confidence in all pupils. Pupils are expected to develop a degree of independence and take responsibility for their own learning. They are encouraged to monitor their own progress and set targets for improvement.

Assessment

The content of the course builds on the work covered in Years 7 to 9 and allows pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of number and algebra, shape, space and measures and data handling. Pupils study three or four topics each term and there is a formal assessment (that does not contribute to their final grade) at the end of each topic. We have a problem-solving approach to lessons as we encourage pupils to think for themselves and become more resilient in their learning. Pupils are graded across the year group in each assessment and predicted grades are reviewed in the light of these results and other evidence.

There are **two examination papers** in May or June. Pupils are entered at Foundation (grades 5 – 1) or Higher (grades 9 – 4) Tier. There is no coursework element. **Each paper** is worth **50%** of the total marks and is **two hours** in duration.

All pupils are expected to have their own equipment including compasses, protractor and a scientific calculator.

Further Maths

Some high attaining pupils may cover material beyond the IGCSE course and be entered for the Further Maths GCSE level qualification.

Exam Board and Specification

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE 4MA1
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Combined Science & Triple Science



Overview

Science results at Stonar are excellent and the aim of our team of dedicated staff is to ensure our pupils enjoy their learning and have plenty of opportunities to develop their knowledge and skills through experiment and experience. Pupils are expected to develop responsibility for their learning progressively throughout their time in our laboratories by monitoring their own progress and by setting targets for improvement.

All pupils study the three sciences in Years 9, 10 and 11. Classes are streamed by ability and most pupils follow the syllabus for the AQA GCSE in Combined Science (known as Combined Science: Trilogy).

The content of these courses builds on the foundations laid during the Key Stage 3 studies in Years 7 and 8, where we broadly follow the National Curriculum. From the beginning of Year 9, pupils start their Combined Science syllabus, with particular emphasis on investigative project work.

Assessment

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

The Combined Science course covers a range of scientific topics in the core sciences of Biology, Chemistry and Physics that will engage and stimulate pupils’ interest in science. It contains no controlled assessment, although pupils are required to complete a variety of practicals in class, and all pupils sit terminal exams in May or June of Year 11. There are **two exams per science**, with the exams being **75 minutes** each in duration. Each paper will examine approximately half of the specification for that subject.

The Combined Science syllabus gives a solid foundation in each of the three sciences. As it covers most of the topic areas found in the Triple Science curricula (but in less depth), a 6-7 grade and above in this qualification will facilitate an opportunity to study up to two of the three sciences at A Level.

Triple Science

Although scientific investigations underpin all science learning at Stonar, none of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE courses use non-examination assessment (NEA) as a vehicle for assessment. All pupils sit terminal exams in May or June of Year 11, consisting of two exams per science, with the exams being **105 minutes** in duration. **Each paper** is worth 50% of the overall marks and covers **50%** of the specification.

A grade of 6 and above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSE provides an excellent foundation for A Level science studies.

The specifications for each subject concentrate on detailed study of scientific knowledge and enquiry.

Specification Content

Paper 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Cell Biology· Organisation· Infection and Response· Bioenergetics	GCSE BIOLOGY (8461)	Paper 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Homeostasis and Response· Inheritance· Variation and Evolution· Ecology
Paper 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table· Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter· Quantitative Chemistry· Chemical Changes· Energy Changes	GCSE CHEMISTRY (8462)	Paper 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Rate and Extent of Chemical Change· Organic Chemistry*· Chemical Analysis· Chemistry of the Atmosphere· Using Resources*
Paper 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Energy· Electricity· Particle Model of Matter· Atomic Structure	GCSE PHYSICS (8463)	Paper 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Forces· Waves· Magnetism and Electromagnetism· Space Physics*

* denotes topic not covered in Combined Science: Trilogy

Exam Board and Specification

AQA Combined Science: Trilogy 8464 Triple Science 8461, 8462 & 8463
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mr David Wicks | Head of Science
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Optional Subjects





Overview

The Art Department at Stonar offers an exciting GCSE Art course with many options for pupils to develop skills and express themselves. These include, amongst others, the opportunity of using:

- Painting and drawing
- Sculpture and other three-dimensional work
- Printmaking
- Textiles
- Photography

Assessment

Component 1: (60%)	<p>The pupils produce a range of practical work, showing their personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus, devised and provided by Stonar.</p> <p>In Year 10, pupils build on existing artistic skills through a series of structured lessons investigating line, tone, form and colour using a variety of materials and techniques. This continues into Year 11.</p>
Component 2: 10 hours. (40%)	<p>The early release paper will be issued in January of Year 11 and will provide pupils with a number of themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points. A response should be based on one of these options. Preparation time, and the date of the exam and supervised time period are set by Stonar. Preparation commences in January of Year 11. Pupils choose a starting point from the exam paper before completing a range of initial ideas, sketches, investigations and research into artists. They also visit galleries as a group for inspiration and artist research. The practical exam is usually around the Easter period.</p>

All pupils fulfil the assessment objectives in the following way:

- Pupils record their observations using primary sources including observational drawing and painting, use of photography as well as drawing from imagination and memory.
- Pupils relate their work to the work of other artists by learning about their techniques and ideas, as well as visiting galleries to study work from direct observation.
- Pupils develop their ideas using a variety of materials and annotate their sketchbooks explaining techniques and processes.
- Pupils resolve their ideas into a final piece that relates to the work of other artists.

Equipment and Trips

Pupils will need to purchase sketch books from the Art Department or from local suppliers. Trips to galleries will incur a charge for transport. The approximate cost of sketch books is £15 per term and a cost of approximately £60 for trips.

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8201 – 8206
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Business Studies



Overview

We are all affected by and depend on business in our everyday lives, whether that is when buying products, such as clothes, or using services, such as buses or trains.

What marketing methods do Amazon or Subway use to help them sell more? If you were on Dragon’s Den, what information would you need to present your business idea? Where can you get help from? Where can you get money from? If you had your own business, how would you motivate your staff?

By the end of the GCSE course, pupils will have gained an appreciation of how to answer these and many other interesting questions about the business world. This will be useful knowledge, whether you are the next business entrepreneur, owner of your own business, a manager in a large organisation or simply want an appreciation of “how it all works”. The subject also provides an opportunity to practise a range of skills such as analysis and evaluation and develop numerical ability.

Assessment

Paper 1 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)	Influences of Operations and Human Resource Management on Business Activity Topics studied include business in the real world, influences on business, business operations and human resources.
Paper 2 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)	Influences of Marketing and Finance on Business Activity Topics studied include business in the real world, influences on business, marketing and finance.

Trips

Trips and activities during the GCSE course may include one of the following: a visit to Cadbury World, Birmingham, to assess marketing and operations management; a trip to Longleat, to consider how it is run as a business and a Stonar Dragons’ Den Day which involves planning your product/service and pitching your idea to the Dragons! Trips cost approximately £35 each.

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8132
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mrs Julia Slark | Subject Lead Business
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Computer Science



Overview

Studying Computer Science develops resilience and challenges pupils as they gain an in-depth understanding of how computers work, from its architecture through to programming in a high-level language. A Computer Science GCSE will help pupils develop tenacity and critical thinking skills through engaging and practical topics, whilst encouraging their creativity. This demanding but rewarding course will equip pupils with the skills to enter most digital workplaces, or into further education.

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, with the growth in the use of mobile devices and online technologies exploding. We aim to equip pupils with the skills that will put them on the path to enter the world of gaming, mobile, cyber security, big data, software development, web-related industries and, of course, programming. Pupils will be encouraged to work both individually and in groups, to solve problems in code using Python language. We develop independent research skills, while finding out about how computers function and process data and then dive into the world of networks and cyber-security, including the ethics, environmental and legal issues it raises.

Assessment

Paper 1: Computational Thinking and Programming Skills 2 hours. (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Computational thinking• Problem solving• Code tracing• Programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms• Designing, writing, testing and refining code in Python <p>The paper consists of a mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing programming, practical problem-solving and computational thinking skills.</p>
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**Paper 2:
Computing Concepts
1 hour 45 minutes.
(50%)**

- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer systems
- Fundamentals of computer networks
- Cyber security
- Relational databases and structured query language (SQL)
- Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy and aspects of software development

The paper consists of a mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge.

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8525
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Design and Technology



Overview

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Pupils will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Pupils will have the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, while applying technical and practical expertise.

This GCSE allows pupils to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. Pupils must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding in relation to Design and Technology.

In order to make effective design choices, pupils will learn a breadth of core technical knowledge and understanding that consists of:

- New and emerging technologies;
- Energy generation and storage;
- Developments in new materials;
- Systems approach to designing;
- Mechanical devices;
- Materials and their working properties.

In addition, pupils will learn the following specialist technical principles:

- Forces and stresses on materials;
- Improving functionality;
- Ecological and social footprint;
- Scales of production.

Assessment

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA): 30 – 35 hours. (50%)	The NEA will consist of a substantial design, and make, task to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifying and investigating design possibilities• Producing a design brief and specification• Generating design ideas• Developing design ideas• Realising design ideas• Analysing & evaluating <p>Pupils will be required to produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence</p>
Written Exam: 2 hours. (50%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core technical principles• Specialist technical principles• Designing and making principles

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8552
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Drama



Overview

Taking GCSE Drama offers pupils unique opportunities to develop creativity, confidence and teamwork. These life skills are easily transferable to other subjects and useful to further study and employment. Drama implicitly teaches and assesses these skills as part of our day-to-day practice. The course is well balanced between theory and practical work and suits performers, designers, directors and writers, offering multiple routes through the qualification.

Drama is an exciting and dynamic way of developing as an artist, performer and creative and critical thinker. Pupils are expected to rehearse outside of lesson time in preparation for their practical assessments, both devised and scripted.

Assessment

Component 01/02: Devising Drama. Non-Examined Assessment. (30%)	Pupils research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. They complete a portfolio of evidence during the devising process, perform their final piece and write an evaluation of their own work.
Component 03: Presenting and Performing Texts. Non-Examined Assessment. (30%)	Pupils develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. The chosen extracts must allow sufficient exploration of dialogue, plot and/or subplot and characterisation for pupils to work in depth on their acting or design skills.

Written Exam:
1 hour 30 minutes
(40%)

Pupils explore, practically, a whole performance text and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

Trips

There will be an additional cost for theatre trips and we also encourage pupils to see live theatre in their own time.

Exam Board and Specification

OCR J316
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mrs Jessica Carter | Subject Lead Drama
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Food Preparation and Nutrition



Overview

Food preparation and nutrition equips pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Pupils develop practical cooking skills and increase their knowledge of nutrition and diet-related to health. The course investigates and evaluates the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Assessment

- Plan, prepare and cook using a variety of food commodities, cooking techniques and equipment.
- Develop knowledge of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health.
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability.
- Demonstrate an understanding of sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations.
- Explore a range of different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA): (15%)	Food investigation task and written report which assesses the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.
Non-Examination Assessment (NEA): (35%)	Food preparation task and coursework which assesses the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.
Written Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. (50%)	Learners will be expected to answer questions based on content studied across: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutrition• Food: food provenance and food choice• Cooking and food preparation• Skills requirements: preparation and cooking techniques

Exam Board and Specification

OCR J309
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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French and Spanish



Overview

Being able to communicate in another language is considered an important and valued skill in the corporate world and it will undoubtedly help to set you apart from the competition when applying for jobs. Speaking languages helps to strengthen communication skills and demonstrates a global mindset, as well as an awareness of cultural sensitivities. If you are considering going on to Higher Education, languages combine well with a range of subjects, such as the sciences and humanities. Some university courses prefer pupils to have studied a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE and this is worth considering when making your option choices.

The GCSE courses in French and Spanish are changing slightly from Autumn 2024 to make them more accessible to a wider range of learners. The new GCSE courses in French and Spanish aim to build on the vocabulary learnt in KS3 and consolidate core grammar so that pupils feel able to communicate in a range of situations. The courses study units related to people and lifestyle, popular culture and the world around us. Translation and written tasks will help pupils to express themselves more accurately and competently on a range of topics. We will also explore the cultural aspects of target language countries to broaden understanding of country-specific traditions and customs in areas such as festivals, food and media.

Pupils are expected to commit to regular speaking practice and vocabulary learning. They are also strongly encouraged to attend conversation clubs as regular practice is essential to becoming a confident speaker and preparing for speaking exams. The GCSE courses in French and Spanish are changing slightly from Autumn 2024 to make them more accessible to a wider range of learners. The emphasis is on learning little and often.

Assessment

An AQA textbook is provided for the duration of the course, as well as online access to Kerboodle. iPads are used regularly and you are required to bring headphones with you to lessons for listening activities. We also advise that pupils purchase CGP exam and translation workbooks, which we can usually obtain at a discounted price of approximately £2.50 per book.

Exam 1: Listening 35 minutes Foundation, 45 minutes Higher. (25%)	Listening comprehension questions to be answered in English; short dictation into target language (40 marks).
Exam 2: Speaking 7-9 minutes Foundation, 10-12 minutes Higher plus 15 minutes preparation time. (25%)	Role play (10 marks). Read aloud and short conversation task (15 marks). Photo card discussion (25 marks).
Exam 3: Reading 45 minutes Foundation, 1 hour Higher. (25%)	Reading comprehension with questions and answers in English (40 marks). Short translation from target language into English (10 marks).
Exam 4: Writing 1 hour 10 minutes Foundation, 1 hour 15 minutes Higher. (25%)	Foundation: Sentences about a photo (10 marks), 50 and 90 word writing tasks (25 marks), grammar task (5 marks), translation into target language (10 marks). Higher: Translation into target language (10 marks), 90 word and 150 word open-ended writing task (40 marks).

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8652 (French) and AQA 8692 (Spanish)

[French](#)
[Spanish](#)

Contact

Mrs Sam Aikman | Subject Lead Modern Languages
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Overview

Geography is a dynamic, relevant and challenging subject at GCSE level and pupils at Stonar consistently achieve excellent results. Both physical and human topics are studied throughout the course and case studies are drawn from both the British Isles and globally.

GCSE Geography explores contemporary topics and allows pupils to consider different viewpoints and to learn how they can help to create a positive geographical future. The course uses topical exemplar material, which ensures that the subject remains relevant to our ever-changing world. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics including: Landscapes, Natural Hazards (including Climate Change) Global Ecosystems, Resource Management, Contrasting Economies and Urban Change. A genuine interest in the world and current global issues helps pupils to achieve success. Candidates should be competent in a wide range of geographical, graphical, numerical and statistical skills.

Assessment

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment, 1 hour 30 minutes. (35%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Natural HazardsLiving WorldPhysical Landscapes in the UK
Paper 2: Challenge in the Human Environment, 1 hour 30 minutes. (35%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Urban IssuesChanging Economic WorldResource Management

Paper 3: Geographical Applications, 1 hour 30 minutes. (30%)

- Issue Evaluation
- Geographical Skills
- Fieldwork

Trips

Two compulsory fieldwork days are required. The cost does not usually exceed £60 for both trips.

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8035
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Overview

GCSE History at Stonar is a popular and successful subject. The support given to pupils often leads to pupils gaining well beyond their target grades. However, the subject is more than high levels of achievement. By studying the course, pupils gain a greater understanding of the world around them by considering the history of conflicts and global relationships. They also develop the skills to write analytically, evaluate sources of information and to create their own independent arguments. As we move forward into a world of AI and widespread arguments on social media, the skills learnt in History lessons will equip pupils to interrogate sources and the arguments of others, from their own ideas and opinions, developing highly desirable skills for the employment market.

Assessment

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World 2 hours. (50%)	This paper is split into two sections:
	In Section A we study Germany, 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship . This topic focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century. It was a period of democracy and dictatorship that saw the rise and fall of Nazism.
	In Section B we study Conflict and Tension: the inter-war years 1918-1939 . This topic allows pupils to investigate and understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals, as they strive to maintain peace and order after the First World War.

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation 2 hours. (50%)

In Section A we study **Britain: Health and the People: c1000- present day**. This thematic study enables pupils to gain an understanding of how health developed in Britain. Pupils study this topic in Year 9 and by the start of Year 10 they will have completed topics on Medieval and Renaissance Health in Britain.*

In Section B we study **Elizabethan England, c1568-1603**. This topic focuses on the last 35 years of Elizabethan rule. We investigate major events of Elizabeth’s reign including religious issues, conflict with Spain and the ‘Golden Age’ in England. We also study a specific historical environment.

* Part of this topic is studied in Year 9 at Stonar. For those joining the school or course in Year 10, a willingness to complete this topic through independent study, preferably before embarking on the course, is required. Guidance and support is offered.

Trips

Pupils are assessed on examples of history around us and to prepare for this there will be visits to relevant sites. For instance, a trip to the Globe Theatre and Elizabethan London. Approximate additional costs for visits will be around £50.

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8145
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

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Music



Overview

GCSE Music is available to any pupils who wish to take their understanding and enjoyment of the subject to a higher level. Composition and Performance Units are coursework, which are undertaken during the course and are internally assessed.

There is an emphasis on performing and composing, reflected in the 60% weighting for these two components in the specification. Candidates must perform a minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance, the other(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble. It is an entry requirement that pupils should be having instrumental lessons.

This course aims to develop pupils’ interest and enjoyment of music that will be sustained in later life, so that pupils are inspired, moved and challenged by studying a broad, coherent, enjoyable and worthwhile course of study. Pupils will develop their own musical interests and skills including understanding how to make music individually and as part of a group. They will be able to evaluate their own and others’ music and understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music, developing broader life-skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, creative awareness and cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation.

Assessment

Component 1: (30%)	Performing Pupils may record performances at any stage in the course and submit their preferred pieces for assessment at the end. The standard of the pieces should be broadly equivalent to Grade 3 of the graded music examination boards, such as ABRSM, Trinity, LCME.
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Component 2: (30%)	Composing Candidates submit two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by the exam board. The second is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.
Component 3: Examination (30%)	Appraising The exam consists of eight questions, divided equally across the four areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music, Popular Music

Additional Information

There will be termly GCSE recital and information evenings and various musical trips throughout the course. It is advantageous for the pupils to join a regular music ensemble.

Exam Board and Specification

EDUQAS C660QS
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Ms Nikki Budd | Director of Music
n.budd@stonarschool.com

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE)



Overview

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics (PRE) is an engaging and thought-provoking subject that invites its pupils to think deeply and broadly about themselves and the world of which they are a part. Whether moral, philosophy or religion, secular spirituality or psycho-social studies, PRE asks relevant and rigorous questions that will objectively challenge and reward pupils in equal measure. The skills learned during the course can be applied to the full range of academic subjects and provide an excellent foundation for Advanced Level study.

Why study PRE?

- It is a subject that celebrates life experience and understanding.
- PRE allows people to reflect critically and objectively.
- It empowers pupils to introspect and cultivate empathy.
- PRE adopts a variety of lesson styles and activities.
- It offers cross-curricular enrichment through the topics studied.

Assessment

Component 1: The Study of Religions 1 hour 45 minutes. (50%)	Christianity: Beliefs & Practices Buddhism: Beliefs & Practices
Component 2: Thematic Studies 1 hour 45 minutes. (50%)	Four from the six options available will be selected: Relationships & Families Religion & Life The Existence of God & Revelation Religion, Peace and Conflict Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice Religion, Crime & Punishment

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8062
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mr Matthew Thatcher | Subject Lead PRE and Head of Sixth Form
m.thatcher@stonarschool.com

Photography



Overview

GCSE Photography is a stimulating and varied course which aims to develop a pupil’s practical skills both in terms of taking and editing photographs. Pupils explore a range of ideas and approaches and produce a portfolio of work on particular themes relating to the work of past and contemporary artists and photographers. Developing ideas through darkroom and digital techniques and media, as well as using programmes such as Photoshop, form a major part of each assignment.

Assessment

Component 1: (60%)	The pupils produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus, devised and provided by Stonar. Pupils build up their photography skills in the darkroom and in the use of digital media and continue to refine their skills.
Component 2: (40%)	The early release paper will be issued in January of Year 11 and will provide pupils with a number of themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points. A response should be based on one of these options. Preparation time, the exam date and supervised time period are set by Stonar.

Pupils fulfil the assessment objectives in the following way:

- Pupils record their observations using a variety of methods both with and without a lens or camera.
- Pupils relate their work to the work of other photographers by studying methods and techniques, as well as using gallery visits to study work by famous photographers first-hand.
- Pupils develop their ideas using a variety of darkroom and digital techniques and annotate their sketchbooks to explain the development of ideas.
- Pupils resolve their ideas into a final piece that relates to the work of other photographers.

Equipment and Trips

Pupils must have a digital camera and should discuss the requirements with the Art Department. Sketchbooks can be purchased from the Art Department or from local suppliers. There will be a transport charge for trips to galleries. The approximate cost of sketchbooks is £15 per term and a cost of approximately £60 for trips.

Exam Board and Specification

AQA 8201 – 8206
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mrs Sarah Cross | Head of Creative Arts
s.cross@stonarschool.com

Physical Education



Overview

The Physical Education GCSE suits pupils who enjoy:

- participating in sport;
- developing knowledge and understanding through practical involvement;
- learning about the benefits of sport and exercise;
- planning and delivering sports sessions; and
- having a leadership role.

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, GCSE Physical Education allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as the BTEC Diplomas in Sport & Exercise Science. The course develops transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities.

During the course you will develop:

- knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of physical activities;
- an ability to plan, perform and evaluate physical activities;
- an understanding of effective and safe performance;
- an understanding of the role of sport and physical activity in society and the wider world;
- an excellent foundation for advanced study; and
- an enjoyment of physical activity.

Assessment

Component 1: External Assessment: Examination 1 hour 45 minutes. (50%)	Topics include: Anatomy & Physiology, Health, fitness & training, skill acquisition & psychology and Social, cultural & ethical influences.
Component 2: Internal Assessment and External Moderation in four practical sports. (50%)	Internally assessed through non-examined assessment in performing four practical activities from two of the seven categories (games, gymnastic activities, dance activities, athletic activities, outdoor and adventurous activities, swimming and combat activities)

Exam Board and Specification

Cambridge IGCSE Physical Education 0995
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mrs Helen White | Subject Lead Academic PE
h.white@stonarschool.com



BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Sport



Overview

The BTEC Level 2 in Sport suits pupils who enjoy:

- Participating in sport;
- Developing knowledge and understanding through practical involvement;
- Learning about the benefits of sport and exercise;
- Planning and delivering sports sessions; and
- Having a leadership role.

As well as being the ideal preparation for the Level 3 BTEC in Sport & Exercise Science, this course allows for progression to the A Level Physical Education course. The course develops transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities.

During the course you will:

- Plan and deliver sports drills and sessions;
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance;
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity; and
- Investigate provisions for sports that help to enhance it.

Assessment

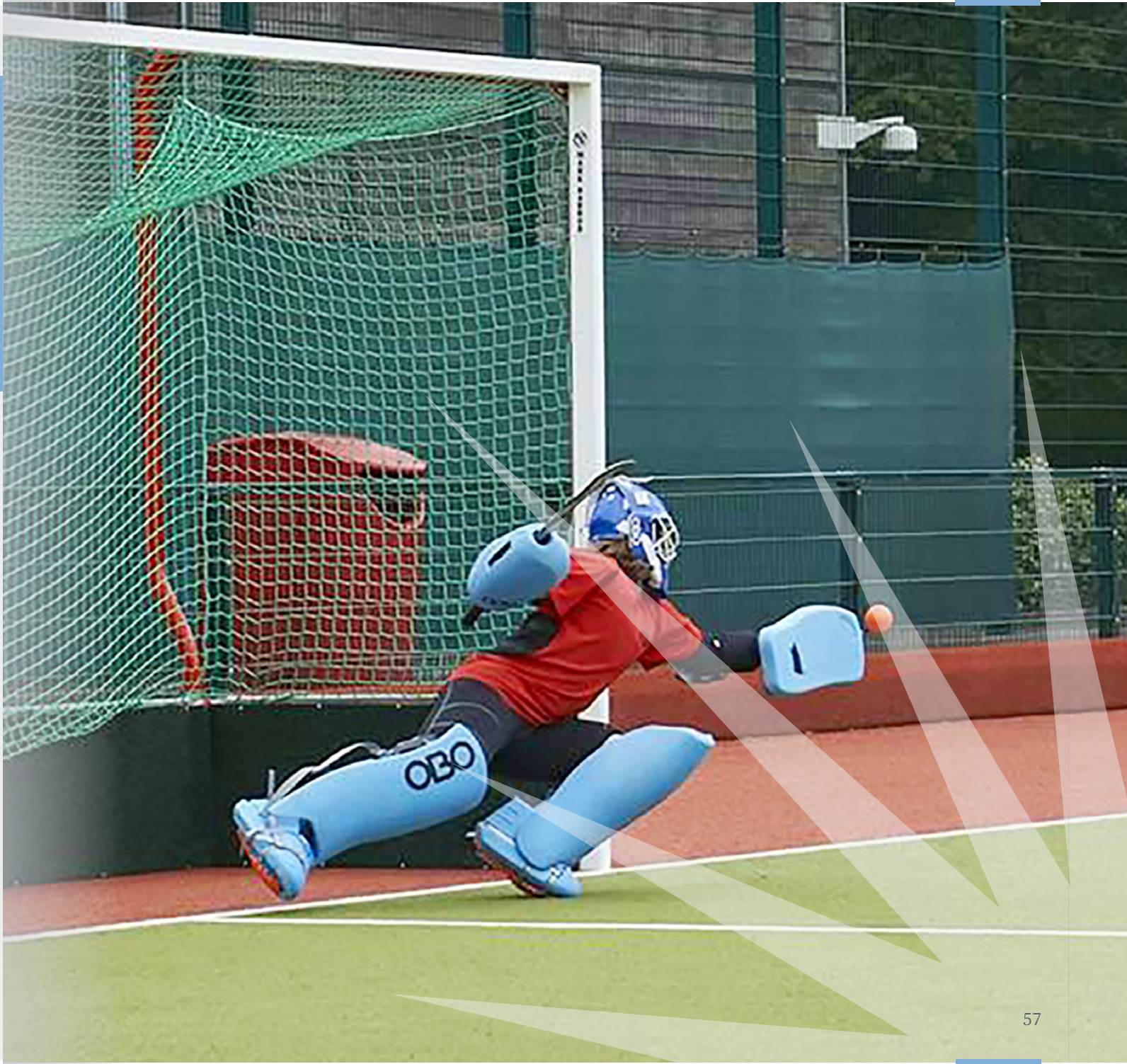
Component 1: Internal Assessment and External Moderation	<p>Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity:</p> <p>Pupils will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.</p>
Component 2: Internal Assessment and External Moderation	<p>Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance:</p> <p>Pupils will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants’ sporting performance.</p>
Component 3: Practical Performance (External Synoptic Assessment) 1 ½ hours	<p>Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity:</p> <p>Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.</p>

Exam Board and Specification

Pearson Edexcel 603/7068/3
[Click here to learn more](#)

Contact

Mrs Helen White | Subject Lead Academic PE
h.white@stonarschool.com



Additional Courses



Ten Tors Challenge



Overview

There may be many challenging outdoor events in Britain today, but the Ten Tors stands alone in its scale, ambition and the fact that it is aimed solely at young people.

It is an event that will really test the mental and physical resilience of participants, and all those who attempt it will undoubtedly remember the Ten Tors for the rest of their lives; and, for many, it will be a life changing experience.

Organised by the British Army, with support from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, as well as civilian emergency services and volunteers, it is attempted by 2,400 teenagers in 400 teams of six. The teams navigate routes of 35, 45 or 55 miles (depending on age) over the northern half of Dartmoor, visiting ten nominated tors or check points in under two days.

Teams must be self-sufficient, carrying all that they need to complete their route, and stay out overnight safely.

Training

Training is progressive and comprehensive; pupils require no previous experience. What they must have is commitment, determination and a willingness to get stuck in.

Elements covered will include navigation skills, camp craft, nutrition, first aid, equipment and fitness. Skills will be further developed through numerous day walks in the local area and further afield, including overnight trips closer to the event in May.

Training will initially be open to all pupils, with the intention of selecting a small group of 8 – 10 pupils per team to continue the training in the Spring Term. It is at this time that they will need more specialised kit and clothing, which can be purchased quite inexpensively at numerous outdoor shops.

There will be no charge for training taking place in School and for weekend day walks in the local area. For day walks further afield (e.g. Dartmoor), the overnight trips and the event itself, there will be a charge to help cover costs.

Team selection is based on commitment, skills, participation in training, cooperation, teamwork, attitude, independence, proactive approach to problem solving, and behaviour. Those not selected will still gain invaluable skills and experience and the training can go towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

[Find out more at www.tentors.org.uk.](http://www.tentors.org.uk)

Contact

Mr James Burns | Head of Adventure Training
j.burns@stonarschool.com



British Horse Society (BHS) Exams



In addition to the riding lessons available to all pupils, the highly regarded BHS course offers all riders the opportunity to work towards a programme of certification.

The British Horse Society examinations system is one of the best and most widely respected in the world. Whether pupils choose a career in the equine industry, or just have a passion for the horse, these qualifications give a sound base of underpinning knowledge and ensure that they can care for and ride a variety of horses, and offer advice and help to others in the equestrian community.

BHS Ride Safe and Stage 1 Complete Horsemanship

The BHS Ride Safe Award is the essential award for all riders, as it can give you the confidence to ride in all the most common environments, keeping you and your horse safe. It is also recognised in the Highway Code and recommended as best practice.

Stage 1 Complete Horsemanship provides an industry-recognised foundation of practical knowledge in riding, care and stable management to progress through any career pathway. This career certificate demonstrates your understanding of the responsibilities of working safely on a stable yard, with the knowledge and practical skills to carry out daily care and management of horses with their welfare at the core of your work. It also shows a competence in the basic skills of riding on the flat with empathy for the horse.

The BHS exams are hands-on and practical and, while a large amount of theory must be covered and learned, these qualifications are all about being able to care for the horse efficiently and competently, following correct techniques and with a strong awareness of safety of self, the horse and others.

Other Information



Equipment

Stonar riding uniform and appropriate safety equipment and footwear.

[Click here to learn more](#)



Costs

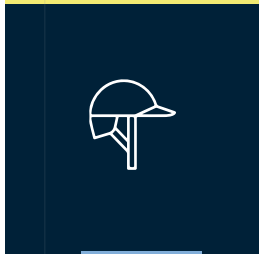
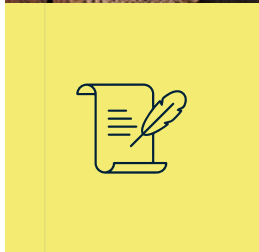
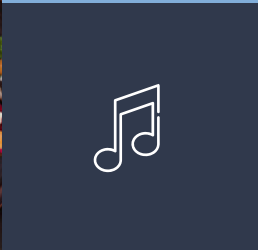
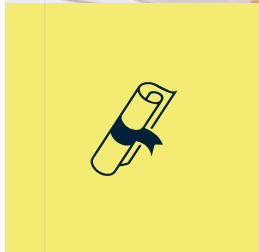
Please see separate fees sheet for further information.

Contact

Miss Jo Chilcott | Senior Coach
j.chilcott@stonarschool.com

The
British
Horse
Society





If you have any further questions,
please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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