



BURY

GRAMMAR SCHOOL



YEAR 8

GCSE

OPTIONS

A **GOLD** STANDARD EDUCATION

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Starting your GCSE courses is an exciting time of greater independence and wider opportunities whilst focusing on your academic interests and strengths.

As you approach Year 9 you will be thinking seriously about the next crucial steps of your education and where the choices that you make may take you.

It is likely that you are planning on going to university or specialist training after leaving school. It is therefore very important that you think carefully about your GCSE subject choices as they will play an important role in helping you to achieve your future goals.

The most competitive courses at the best universities require strong GCSE grades, a broad combination of GCSE subjects, evidence of wide participation in community life and in many cases work experience. In otherwords, it is important that you stand out from the crowd and make the most of all the opportunities offered to you.

Your next task is to read this booklet. In it, you will find details about the subjects from which you may select your GCSE options. Sometimes, career aspirations, such as medicine, will dictate the choices that you can make, but remember that you are likely to do best in what you enjoy. Consider carefully your strengths, interests and personal qualities, if in doubt, seek advice from any of the subject staff or members of the Academic Team.

Mrs V Leaver

Deputy Principal

Mrs K Lewis

Director of Studies



CAREERS & OPTIONS ADVICE

We are committed to ensuring that you make informed choices based on sound advice and embark upon a route best suited to your personal strengths and academic interests. As such, you will have tutorial time dedicated to next steps, careers and higher education guidance from the Academic Team and you will meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your options and the rationale behind your choices.

Options Evenings

These events effectively launch the GCSE options process. You will hear from key members of the Academic Leadership team as well as the careers department.

Parents' Evenings

These will be held in the usual format with the key difference being that you will attend with your parents. This is a valuable opportunity to discuss your academic strengths and progress as well as asking questions about your all-important 'next steps'.

Careers Advice

In the forthcoming months, the Academic and Careers departments will be holding Year Group assemblies and smaller workshops to advise on GCSE option choices and the Higher Education or careers paths that will follow.

Pupil Meetings and Interviews

You will have a 1:1 meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss your options choices. This is a great opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have about this period of transition and equally for academic leaders to offer up to date, well informed advice. If we feel you need more advice and that you may be potentially making unwise choices, we will discuss alternatives with you.

Options Forms

You will be issued with an Options Form at the start of the Spring Term in January this should be handed in ahead of February half term. You will have received a third interim assessment prior to the submission of your Options Form. This information should play an important part in supporting decisions that you are making.

GCSE REFORMS

New courses at GCSE level have been introduced in England; these changes have taken place between September 2015 and September 2017, and this was a period of significant change for all GCSE pupils.

There are a number of fundamental changes to the reformed GCSE courses and the way they are graded. Each subject is different but a summary of some of the key changes are outlined below:

- GCSEs in England are being reformed and will be graded with a new scale from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.
- The new qualifications will be graded with a number rather than a letter.
- In many subjects, there will be no centre assessed element such as the Controlled Assessment or Coursework in the old qualifications. All grades will be based on the final examinations at the end of the course.
- A greater emphasis will be placed on Mathematical Skills and/or Quality of Written Communication (English) in all subjects.
- Only Mathematics, Sciences and Languages will have the option of a tiered paper. Previously some subjects had the option of a higher or foundation tier.
- New GCSE content will be more challenging.
- Fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s.
- The new grades are being brought in to signal that GCSEs have been reformed and to better differentiate between students of different abilities.
- In the first year in which each new GCSE subject is introduced, broadly the same proportion of students will get a grade 4 or above as would have got a grade C or above in the old system.

How do the new 9-1 grades compare with the old A* - G grades?

The link to the guide to GCSE reforms and the video explaining them in full is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-gcse-9-to-1-grades-coming-soon>

THE EBACC MEASURE

Secondary schools in England are measured on the number of pupils that take GCSEs in these core subjects.

The EBacc is a robust set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc consists of:

- English language and literature
- Maths
- The Sciences
- Geography or History
- a Language.

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors.

A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

At BGS the vast majority of our pupils achieve the EBacc measure.

GCSE OPTIONS

When you select your GCSE options in Year 8 you will choose 9 GCSE subjects. You will also have the option of a subject undertaking a Higher Project Qualification or pursuing The Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Core Subjects

Whilst there is an element of choice when selecting your subjects there are some subjects that are compulsory. These are often referred to as the 'core' subjects.

- English Language (1 GCSE)
- English Literature (1 GCSE)
- Mathematics (1 GCSE)
- Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Or:

- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

Modern Foreign Languages

A GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language forms part of the GCSE EBacc measure, which indicates a robust academic profile. It is also viewed favourably for university entry and is a valuable life skill. For these reasons, we expect all our GCSE pupils to study at least one Modern Foreign Language*.

- French (1 GCSE)
- German (1 GCSE)**
- Spanish (1 GCSE)**

*In exceptional circumstances this may be reviewed, considering prior exposure to languages and individual educational needs.

** This is only a GCSE option for the current Y8 pupils who have studied it in Key Stage 3.

Humanities

We strongly recommend that our GCSE pupils study at least one Humanity. Geography and History are also part of the GCSE EBacc measure, which indicates a robust academic profile.

- Geography (1 GCSE)
- History (1 GCSE)
- Religious Studies (1 GCSE)

Options Subjects

These are subjects of free choice. You should choose these with your strengths and interests in mind.

- Art & Design (1 GCSE)
- Business (1 GCSE)
- Computer Science (1 GCSE)
- Drama (1 GCSE)
- Music (1 GCSE)

How do my choices work?

- If you have elected to study separate
- sciences and a Humanity you will be
- able to select 1 option;
- If you have elected to study Dual
- Science and a Humanity, you will be
- able to select 2 options;
- You can opt for more than one
- Language;
- You can opt for more than one Humanity;
- You cannot opt for more than 9 GCSE qualifications

Extras

On your Options Form, you will be asked to express an interest in pursuing:

- Higher Project Qualification*
- Duke of Edinburgh Award*

*Participation is entirely voluntary



HIGHER PROJECT QUALIFICATION

The Higher Project Qualification will allow you to discover the joys of independent learning, take responsibility for your own study and develop new life and study skills.

The Projects require you to carry out research on a topic that you have chosen which is not covered by your other qualifications. You then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production.

You should take inspiration from something studied in class or something completely unrelated to your studies.

The course is designed to provide a clear structure within which you can:

- develop transferable and core skills to apply in a future workplace, apprenticeship or further study
- become inquisitive and independent learners.

The HPQ course runs during Year 10. You can opt to undertake an HPQ at the end of Year 9 and more information will be given to you at this stage.

ART & DESIGN

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and learn new techniques as well as improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art & Design is a great choice. Art & Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.

The course has been designed to allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding through a variety of learning experiences and approaches. This will allow you to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate your own ideas. You will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of your ideas.

How is the course structured?

Component 1 Portfolio: You will produce a sustained project and a selection of further work that represents the course of study. This is worth 60% of your overall marks.

Component 2 Externally Set Assignment: This is set by the exam board. It features seven tasks and you must complete one of them.

You receive this in January and it concludes around April with a 10 hours supervised time piece of work. This is worth 40% of your total marks.

What skills will you learn?

Alongside improving your practical expertise, you will learn how to:

- Develop, refine & record your ideas
- Present a personal response that realises your intentions
- Improve your creative skills through the effective and safe use of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies.
- Successfully use visual language and the formal elements
- Use drawing skills for different needs and purposes

What will you study in Art, Craft & Design?

Painting, Drawing, Printmaking, Sculpture, Ceramics, Mixed-Media, Photography and New Media.

It promotes learning across a variety of experiences and through various processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate different kinds of evidence of working and outcomes.



BIOLOGY

Biology is the study of life and GCSE provides you with a solid understanding of all the key principles of life.

Over the course of your study you will develop both your understanding of Biology and your practical ability.

Practical work is at the heart of science and throughout you will undertake a wide range of practical work as well as learning how to solve problems in a practical context. GCSE Biology provides you with the tools to be able to make accurate observations of the world around you and then apply your knowledge to interpret these observations. This provides you with the skills to succeed both within Science subjects and in other disciplines.

In terms of biological understanding, the course provides an insight into a wide range of topics from how our cells work all the way through to how we fit into our environment. Some of the topics discussed, such as stem cells, are at the forefront of modern medicine and are exciting opportunities to see science in action. The structure of the course is such that you are taught to apply your knowledge and understanding to unfamiliar concepts, a skill which is vital in A Level science subjects.

Topics covered include:

- Cells & Diet
- Plant Nutrition
- Enzymes & Digestion
- Reproduction
- Nerves & Hormones
- Energy & Ecosystems
- Cell Transport Mechanisms
- Respiration & Gas Exchanges
- Plant Transport
- Circulation & Immunity
- Excretion
- Human Impact on the Environment

By the end of the course you will not only have improved your biological knowledge, but you will have developed a range of skills which are useful in all walks of life.

All of the topics covered provide an understanding which can act as a springboard into a specific A Level course and later into a profession; Biology can lead to careers as diverse as Medicine, Marine Biology and Cancer Research.

BUSINESS

The GCSE Business course will provide you with a basic understanding of how businesses work and the complex nature of decision making. You will be taught how to apply your understanding of business knowledge to a whole range of different contexts from small enterprises such as local plumbers/builders to large multinationals like Apple; businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. You will develop an understanding of how these different contexts impact business behaviour and you will learn to analyse the impact of such decisions on business performance.

The GCSE specification comprises of six topics;

- Business in the Real World
- Influences on Business
- Business Operations
- Human Resources
- Marketing
- Finance.

There are two exam papers;

Paper 1 - Influences of Operations and HRM on Business Activity

- Business in the Real World
- Human Resources
- Influences on Business
- Business Operations.

Paper 2 - Influences of Marketing and Finance on Business Activity

- Business in the Real World
- Marketing
- Influences on Business
- Finance.

Each exam is a written paper of 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of the overall GCSE mark. Section A has multiple choice questions and short answer questions worth 20 marks. Section B has one case study/ data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks. Section C has one case study/ data response stimuli with questions worth approximately 34 marks.



CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is the study of matter. It helps you to understand the world around you. Why do things react? What causes pollution? How are plastics made and what are the concerns about them? These are all questions that can be answered by studying Chemistry. It is the central science and gives an important insight into how science works.

Topics studied will include:

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table
- Bonding
- The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change
- Chemical Analysis
- Energy Changes
- Chemical Changes
- Quantitative Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry.

The study of these areas will introduce key chemical concepts such as;

- Matter is composed of tiny particles called atoms and there are about 100 different naturally occurring types of atoms called elements.
- Elements show periodic relationships in their chemical and physical properties. These periodic properties can be explained in terms of the atomic structure of the elements.

- Atoms bond by either transferring electrons from one atom to another or by sharing electrons.
- The structure of compounds is of great importance in terms of the way they behave.
- There are barriers to reaction, so reactions occur at different rates.
- Energy is conserved in chemical reactions so can therefore be neither created nor destroyed.

Over the 3-year course, you will have the opportunity to develop your scientific thinking, carry out experiments, make and record observations using a range of apparatus, and analyse and evaluate data objectively.

Chemistry not only opens career options, but it is also fun! It explains how things work and teaches you useful skills. Chemistry is hands on, and it is firmly grounded in the real world, not just the lab!

COMBINED SCIENCE

Combined Science is a Science course which provides two GCSE grades at the end of the three-year course.

These are produced as a combination of the results from exams sat in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with no one subject being favoured. This is in contrast to the individual sciences which provide a grade in each science.

The content covered in Combined Science is broadly the same as the content covered in the individual sciences, but in less detail. Within the syllabus, each science is taught separately by different teachers to allow greater specialisation in your work.

As with all sciences, experimental work is at the heart of the curriculum and you will study a wide range of practical activities. This will develop both your technical skills and will also improve your observational and analytical skills through analysing your results.

Combined Science will provide you with opportunities to look at scientific topics in the light of current events whilst also exposing you to new contexts for each topic.

The structure of the courses is such that all of the main concepts in each science are covered in detail, so any student taking Combined Science would be more than capable of pursuing A Level science qualifications, provided they meet the entry requirements.

Combined Science is an ideal choice for someone who wishes to maintain a wide breadth of study as it frees up an option for another subject, but the lower level of detail can be ideal for someone who struggles with some of the concepts addressed in separate sciences.



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Scientists are problem solvers.

Today, leading computer scientists are working on solutions to incredible problems such as how to diagnose cancer more effectively, how to make autonomous self-driving cars, how to perform real time foreign language translation and how to develop artificially intelligent systems. Computer Scientists also regularly solve more everyday problems, such as how to run businesses more effectively and how to develop entertaining new games for users to play.

If you take GCSE Computer Science, you will build on your existing Small Basic programming skills and learn how to solve problems by writing programs in the C# programming language using Visual Studio. C# is one of Microsoft's main programming languages and is similar to languages such as C, C++ and Java.

You will have the opportunity to write programs to perform many different tasks and will spend around two thirds of the lesson time completing practical work. Some examples of the programs that you might write include a version of the battleships game and a message encryption and decryption system. By the end of the course you will be able

to write complex text-based programs and some students will also have written programs that run in a graphical windows environment. There is considerable flexibility to progress at your own pace, and students often develop practical skills beyond those required at GCSE level.

In addition to learning how to program you will also study a range of other topics that are important to the subject, such as how computer hardware is built from logic circuits, how computer networks work, cyber security and standard algorithms that are widely used by programmers.

Good Computer Scientists are logical thinkers who can see ways to solve problems. They are inventive and creative and enjoy making things. They also have the tenacity to keep trying when something doesn't work the first time, as computer programs often don't work initially, and to keep working on a problem until it is finally solved.

A range of interesting careers await talented Computer Scientists, such as Software Development, Games Programming, Network and Security Management and Management Consultancy.

DRAMA & THEATRE

GCSE Drama is a popular course that consists of a mixture of practical and theory-based assessment. All pupils will have the opportunity to perform, design and direct in class, before opting to either perform or design for their final practical assessments.

This course fosters creativity, personal growth, self confidence, communication and analytical skills through the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understanding and exercise of the imagination. It promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama as performers, devisers, directors and designers.

In addition, you will have the opportunities to attend live theatre in the local area and to develop your skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

Many of our GCSE Drama pupils choose to make the most of our drama extra-curricular offer in order to support their studies further. This includes both the annual whole-school production, and the National Theatre Connections programme where pupils have the opportunity to perform at a professional theatre as part of a national competition.

There are three key areas of assessment:

Component 1 - Devising Theatre

Pupils collaborate as a group to create and develop their own performance on a topic or issue of their choice. They are assessed both on their final performance or design (costume or set) as well as a supporting portfolio that documents the process of creating their piece.

Component 2 - Performing from a Text

Pupils work in a small group to stage two extracts from a published play. This is performed in professional theatre conditions to a visiting examiner who will mark their final performance or design.

Component 3- Interpreting Theatre

This is the written exam component, that is taken at the end of Year 11. In the first section of the exam, pupils will answer a series of short and long answer questions on a set text that they have studied practically in class. Pupils are currently studying Malorie Blackman's Noughts and Crosses. In the second section of the exam, pupils write an extended review of a live theatre production they have seen over the duration of the course.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

In English Language and English Literature, you will have the opportunity to read a wide range of texts, considering how writers make choices to influence their readers, as well as to unleash your own creativity through imaginative writing.

English Language

English Language focuses on reading texts to consider how a writer's language and structure create effects on their readers. You will read a range of fiction and nonfiction texts and build your confidence analysing writers' choices in detail. You will consider how writers construct convincing arguments, and how they influence their readers' opinions through the choices that they make. English Language is also a very creative subject; you will have the opportunity to experiment with producing a wide range of texts in order to influence readers of your own, exercising your imagination by writing for particular genres and purposes.

English Literature

In English Literature, you will read and analyse poetry, plays and novels from a wide range of different historical periods. You will explore how writers use their works to challenge and criticise the world around them. Lessons will give you the chance to discuss your own interpretations of texts, and to learn from the ideas of those around you as you explore fascinating themes such as power, inequality, loneliness, love and loss.

GEOGRAPHY

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

- Michael Palin

Geography is one of the most exciting subjects to study at GCSE. We live in an interdependent world where your actions affect people thousands of miles away and where an event in one country can spark off a chain of events which span the whole globe. Our planet is fragile and the challenge of how to manage issues such as climate change, the oceans drowning in plastic, flooding and the destruction of the tropical rainforest is growing. It will be your generation that will have to make decisions that will determine the fate of our planet and its people.

Why study GCSE Geography?

- You will be able to investigate the earth and its people, appreciating different cultures and how the natural environment affects people.
- You will develop a range of really useful skills including map reading, problem solving, decision making and collecting data, using GIS.
- It can lead to exciting career prospects; lots of highly paid jobs are within the field of environmental consultancy, sustainability and hazard management, financial industry for which a geographical base is essential.
- You will never get lost!

You will study a range of interesting human and physical geography topics; earthquakes and hurricanes, tropical rainforest ecosystems, Antarctica, megacities and flooding to name a few! Throughout the course there will be an emphasis on practical skills; map reading, interpreting photos and satellite images, analysing data and using ICT.

Will you ever get out of the classroom?

Of course! Geography is all about experiencing the world around us, so we try to get out as much as possible. Whilst studying the GCSE course, you will embark on a range of exciting Human and Physical fieldwork trips enabling you to investigate the natural landscape and the profound impact of humans upon it and providing wonderful memories outside of the classroom. Our days out allow you to investigate the ideas we have talked about in class, get some fresh air and we do our best to include an ice cream stop and sunny weather. GCSE Geographers will also have the opportunity of really going places, such as Norway and Iceland! All GCSE geographers will get the chance to join an expedition.

Is it for me?

If you are enthusiastic and interested in what is going on around you, like asking questions and dealing with contemporary issues, then yes!

HISTORY

GCSE History is a popular choice at GCSE level.

If you choose to study History at BGS you will learn to:

- Develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods and societies in local, British and wider world history.
- Engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.
- Develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- Develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them.
- Organise and communicate your historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

The course is linear; formal assessment will take place at the end of the two-year course.

You will complete two depth studies:

- Germany: development of a dictatorship and Superpower relations, 1943-1972; an investigation study;
- The USA, 1918-1941 and a breadth study; changes in medicine 1848-1948.

Examination questions will test knowledge and understanding and your ability to analyse sources and evaluate interpretations.

What is required to succeed is a spirit of curiosity, a keen interest in the past, a willingness to work hard, to read and contribute to class discussions and activities. The skills gained in studying GCSE History are very useful training for a variety of careers including law, journalism, accountancy, publishing, teaching and medicine.

The History department offers a unique opportunity to travel abroad and visit places of historical interest. Visits to appropriate sites will be organised to complement the topics studied at GCSE.

Bury Grammar School has run an annual Battlefields Tour since 1994, now one of the longest-running school trips of its kind in the world. The 2019 'Five Bridges' to Arnhem' tour, visiting the battlefields of 'Operation Market Garden' to commemorate the Second World War proved very popular, selling out within days.

MATHEMATICS

GCSE Mathematics builds upon your knowledge of the subject at Key Stage 3 and equips you for the use of maths in the real world. As well as solidifying and expanding upon your knowledge of previously studied topics, you will be introduced to a number of areas that are completely new to you. These include Set Theory, Vectors, Function Notation, Trigonometry and basic calculus.

Topics studied can be broadly split into the following headings:

- Numbers and the number system
- Equations, formulae and identities
- Sequences, functions and graphs
- Geometry and trigonometry
- Vectors and transformation geometry
- Statistics and probability.

Of course, these groupings are quite broad and the course covers a large volume of content over the three years, wherever possible seeking to demonstrate how the mathematics studied can be related to real life scenarios.

Maths at this level seeks to develop, amongst others, the following transferable skills:

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Reasoning/ argumentation
- Decision Making
- Adaptive Learning
- Executive Function
- Creativity
- Innovation
- Adaptability
- Perseverance
- Intellectual Interest and Curiosity.

All of these are crucial elements required for the professions of the future, regardless as to whether these professions are explicitly based around mathematics or not. High performing students will also be given the opportunity to supplement their GCSE studies with a further, Level 2 qualification, covering elements of A Level Mathematics study that acts as an excellent bridge between Key Stages 4 & 5.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

BGS Languages Faculty offers French, German and Spanish at GCSE, all three of which feature in the top ten of languages most sought after by employers. You will study at least one of the three languages and may decide to become dual linguists. We offer a wide range of authentic materials, trips and expert advice that enable our pupils to access the highest grades in French, German and Spanish.

We believe firmly in using our languages to communicate with native speakers and are proud to offer a range of residential visits and cultural exchanges to Normandy (France), Cologne (Germany) and Madrid (Spain).

The Modern Languages GCSE specification covers 3 distinct themes relevant to intermediate pupils and relating to French, German or Spanish society and culture:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular Culture

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture.

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live

Four skills will be assessed at the end of the course:

- Paper 1: Listening (25%)
- Paper 2: Speaking (25%)
- Paper 3: Reading (25%)
- Paper 4: Writing (25%)

MUSIC

GCSE Music is an exciting and rewarding subject and is unique in its combination of academic study and practical application. GCSE Music will extend your musical performance, composition skills and knowledge of theoretical music.

GCSE Music pupils will be encouraged to work independently and there is great scope for pupils to develop both creatively and imaginatively. Alongside a programme of performance opportunities and ensemble playing, pupils will also get the opportunity to attend live performances and public concerts to broaden their understanding and knowledge. Skills acquired and developed across the course enables pupils to become more confident and accomplished musicians.

Whilst studying Music, you will engage with the works of great composers and learn about the development of music across the ages. Music is a highly regarded and challenging subject, either alongside other creative subjects or in demonstrating a broader range of skills next to Science, Mathematics or other non-creative subjects.

How is the course structured?

Performing (30%)

A coursework portfolio of recordings including solo and ensemble performances.

Composing (30%)

A coursework portfolio of two compositions including one free composition and one that responds to a choice of set briefs.

Appraising (40%)

Eight set works taken from four areas of study:

- Instrumental Music
- Vocal Music
- Music for Stage and Screen
- Musical Fusions

PHYSICS

You can either opt to follow a separate GCSE course in Physics, or a combined science qualification worth two GCSEs. Good grades in either course at GCSE can lead into A Level study; most students who have a definite interest in a scientific career opt to take the separate sciences at GCSE.

Whichever course you choose in Physics, we cover a wide range of themes and combine challenging practical work with the theoretical concepts prescribed by the specification. Up-to-date content reflects the latest thinking in the subject while still covering the key foundations of Physics.

The well-regarded GCSE course which is both accessible and rigorous, will prepare you well for further scientific endeavours at A Level should you wish to pursue Physics at this level, as well as developing problem solving and application of mathematics which will be useful in a wider context whether you intend to take your study of Physics further or not. By the end of the course, not only will pupils be well prepared for the examinations, but they will have improved their practical skills and acquired new knowledge of the subject as well as developed their ability to apply their understanding to less familiar situations.

Topics covered include:

- Energy
- Forces
- Electricity
- Waves
- Particles, including states of matter
- Magnetism
- Radioactivity
- Electromagnetism
- Astrophysics

At BGS, we believe that there is no better way to learn about science than through purposeful practical activities as part of day to day teaching and learning. Although there is no coursework or controlled assessment, students will cover a number of required practicals over the course which can be tested in the final external examinations. By the end of Year 11 students will be confident with the use of apparatus and techniques that are assessed at GCSE and needed to continue to study at A Level.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

“Religion is everywhere. There are no human societies without it whether they acknowledge it as a religion or not.”

- Octavia E Butler

Religion is a powerful force which has shaped world history and culture and continues to influence people's decisions and lifestyles in the twenty-first century. As Professor John R. Hinnells stated, ‘Whatever any individual's personal religious beliefs may be, or even if there is some antagonism towards religion, it is difficult for anyone to deny that religions have had considerable impact on societies on all continents.’ To have a true understanding of society and people and the world in which you live, discussion of religion is crucial.

Studying religion encourages you to look at the world from a wide range of perspectives and to appreciate views which may differ from your own, helping you to broaden your understanding and work effectively with other people. It provides you with the tools you need to go confidently into the world and to respectfully interact with almost anyone you meet.

Why study GCSE Religious Studies?

Religious Studies GCSE will provide you with the opportunity to debate topical issues which are directly relevant to you as individuals and society in general, including topics such as Medical Ethics, Peace and Conflict, Gender Discrimination and the Origins of Life. You will also study the key beliefs and practices of Christianity and Islam alongside secular standpoints found in the UK. Religious Studies gives you the opportunity to study the meaning and purpose of life - questions that have baffled human beings for centuries whilst also allowing you to develop an understanding, tolerance and acceptance of other people and cultures.

As an academic discipline, Religious Studies also helps you to develop your critical thinking skills by analysing and evaluating ethical issues, using evidence and examples to present a point of view and becoming confident speakers through engaging in regular debate with your peers.



BURY

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Bury Grammar School

Tenterden Street

Bury, Lancashire, BL9 0HN

Tel: 0161 696 8600

Email: admissions@burygrammar.com



WWW.BURYGRAMMAR.COM