



GIGGLESWICK
SCHOOL

GCSE Curriculum

A broad and balanced GCSE curriculum to encourage ambition and talent of every kind

The step up to GCSEs is an exciting time but it can be daunting for some. It is, after all, the first time that many will take public exams. At Giggleswick we want to ensure that the gradient from the start of the course is the right one for you, so that the journey becomes rewarding and enjoyable.

There will be times when you will be challenged, and the path will feel quite steep, but you will always be supported in your efforts and helped to reach the summit by teachers and pastoral staff who know how to get the best from you.

What is equally important is to recognise that life should not fundamentally change once you start your

GCSEs. You still need to ensure that you balance your examined subjects with the right weight of co-curricular commitments. These help build the skills and character that will be invaluable to help you live a fulfilling life long after you have forgotten what it felt like to take your GCSEs.

Sam Hart
Headmaster



“At Giggleswick we place great emphasis on courage, compassion, commitment and curiosity, and we expect our students to contribute in a positive way to this ethos.”

Learn **Grow** Achieve

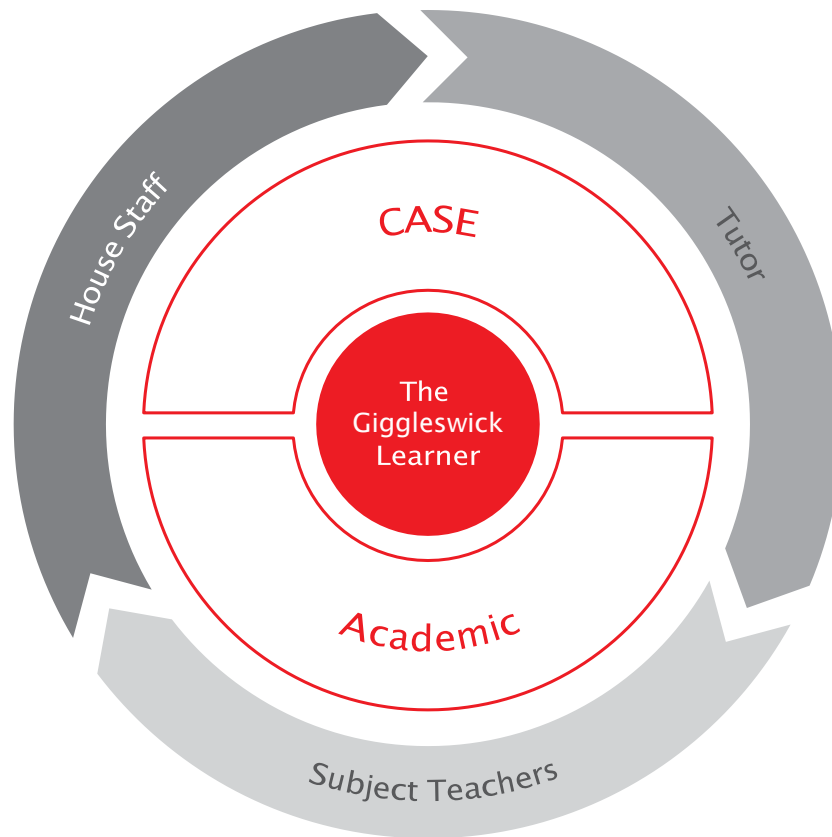
Our GCSE curriculum is focused on ensuring the very best outcomes for all individuals, fostering a joy in learning, developing a growth mind-set and providing the opportunity for all students to develop core values of courage, compassion, commitment and curiosity.

The rich and broad GCSE curriculum enables students to strike the right balance between their academic and personal development. With the emphasis on the quality of GCSE grades rather than quantity, students are encouraged to engage fully with the enrichment opportunities on offer which will empower them with the range of life and personal skills needed for post GCSE study and the future workplace. The GCSE curriculum comprises two key components:

- The Academic Curriculum
- The CASE Programme

With the pastoral and academic support afforded by both House Staff and Tutors, students are fully supported throughout the two year GCSE curriculum and encouraged to expand their horizons, embrace new opportunities and develop as learners.





The Academic Curriculum

GCSE choices are made in consultation with parents focusing on the individual student's strengths, interests and ambitions/aspirations.

All students study:

English
Maths
Sciences (either individual or Trilogy)



+ 4 options one of which is a language

We expect all students to choose one language from French, German or Spanish. The exception to this is pupils receiving learning support lessons or international students joining the school in Year 10 or 11 who have not studied one of these languages.

(If there are insufficient numbers of pupils opting for a particular subject, it may not be possible to offer that subject and the school reserves the right to withdraw it.)

Academic Enrichment

There are many opportunities for academic enrichment available with various faculties entering national competitions such as the UK Maths Challenge, National Cipher Challenge, Rotary Youth Speaks, UK Linguistics Olympiad and the Arkwright Scholarship, fostering independent learning skills and enabling students to develop their skills beyond the confines of the classroom. An extensive programme of cultural and academic trips is offered including Exchange visits to France, Germany and Spain. We encourage pupils in Set 1 Mathematics to undertake Further Maths GCSE if appropriate. Students in Year 11 are also encouraged to undertake MOOCs (Massive Open Online courses) that are relevant to their interests.

We offer Year 10 Academic Scholars the opportunity to take the HPQ, a qualification allowing them to carry out research, write up their findings and deliver a presentation on any topic of choice.

We offer Year 11 Academic Scholars the chance to join Paley Society which meets 3-4 times per Term. Guest speakers are invited to discuss a wide range of challenging topics which extend our pupils learning beyond the confines of the GCSE Curriculum.

Skills

Bridging both the Academic and CASE is the acquisition of key skills that will not only enable students to become effective independent learners but also equip them with valuable life skills. In addition to the skills acquired through their academic studies and involvement in co-curricular activities, PSHE and twice-weekly tutorial programmes offer students the opportunity to explore topics that may not be studied within their GCSE courses as well as addressing important “soft skills” that are needed both in post GCSE studies and the world of work. The Friday afternoon enrichment programme offers Year 11 students the opportunity to further develop their communication, teamwork and leadership skills. Amongst other activities, students can opt to volunteer as a mentor at Giggleswick Prep School; to help coach junior sport as part of the Sports Leadership Award or to help lead the Year 9 Giggleswick Certificate activities as part of the school’s Outdoor Education programme.



CASE Programme

Giggleswick prides itself on the breadth of its CASE (Creative, Active, Service, Enrichment) Programme with a wealth of opportunities available, offering students amongst other things the chance to develop or enhance their communication, presentation, teamwork and leadership skills. In Year 10, students undertake a year’s service in the CCF (Combined Cadet Force) with a significant proportion choosing to link this to completion of the Duke of Edinburgh Award qualification and continuing voluntarily as a Cadet in Year 11 gaining valuable experience in Instruction and Leadership. The range of co-curricular activities caters for intellectual, physical and spiritual development with students able to choose from clubs such as Debating, Astronomy, Media Group, Climbing, O2 (Christian group) to MUN (model United Nations). Music, Drama and Sport contribute significantly to the co-curricular programme providing students with many performance opportunities, be they on a stage at the RWT as a member of the School’s Shakespeare cast, an act in the annual Rock Concert or representing their school in a sporting team.



A typical day

8.20am	Registration
08.40am	Lesson 1
09.40am	Lesson 2
10.40 am	BREAK
11.05am	Lesson 3
12.05pm	Lesson 4
01.00pm	LUNCH
01.45pm	Lesson 5
02.45pm	Lesson 6
3.40pm	BREAK
4.00pm	CASE Activities
5.05pm	Day pupils go home
5.10pm	First Prep
6.00pm	TEA
7.00pm	Second Prep
8.00pm	Evening Activities

Examination board: Edexcel

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Component 1 – Portfolio

You develop a portfolio of work throughout year 10 and the first term of year 11. Your portfolio will include painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, as well as development and experimental studies showing how your ideas have evolved and you have refined them. Your portfolio will also show links with artists' work. This is worth 60% of the final mark.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment.

At the start of the Easter term during year 11 the exam board sets a theme and during this term you will produce studies based on the theme. You will be awarded marks for the depth of research, development and links with artists. You use your studies to produce a final piece of work during the formal 10 hour examination early in the summer term. This is worth 40% of the final mark.

Am I suited to the course?

Every pupil has the potential to be creative, and every pupil possesses a variety of different creative skills. The course is flexible and can be adapted to fit your skills. What is important is that you have the energy and enthusiasm to experiment and develop ideas with a range of different materials. If you have an adventurous, inquisitive, nature, and you would like to develop your creative skills you will enjoy this course.

Where will this course lead me?

The course will encourage you to be independent and you will develop thinking skills that are extremely valuable with any future academic course and career. Once you have completed the GCSE Art course you will make an easy transition onto the Art A Level course.

Art forms the basis of an enormous range of career opportunities including: architecture, fashion, fine art, textiles, graphics, interior design, photography, film, product design, advertising, television, illustration, animation, furniture design, web design, gaming design, teaching, curating, jewellery, costume design, ceramics, and many more.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

Questioning, analysing and developing ideas are an important aspect of the course. You have to justify your visual studies and then think how these studies can be improved and extended into other pieces of work. You will also develop the confidence to think outside your own comfort zone, experiment with materials and ideas in order to broaden your horizons. The course will constantly challenge with the aim to extend and build on your technical skills and creative mind.



Biology

Examination board: AQA

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Unit 1

Cell biology; Organisation;
Infection and response; and
Bioenergetics

Unit 2

Homeostasis and response;
Inheritance, variation and
evolution; and Ecology

The course

Biology is a fascinating and ever-changing field of study and the AQA GCSE Biology course is no different. Taking in the human body, evolution, genetic engineering, immunology and plant biology, the course covers many topics which are important should you wish to undertake further study or be able to make sense of and discuss confidently the world around you. The biology course offers a chance to develop keen research and analytical skills, as well as a chance to delve further into the study of all life.

Where will the course lead me?

Studying biology can set you on a path to further study and exciting career opportunities. Biology is a key subject for careers in healthcare and medicine and those involving plants or animals, or within sports sciences. Biology is also excellent preparation for non-scientific careers and further study as it provides the skills – from writing of reports to analytical thinking, group work and presentation skills, both practically and academically - which set you

How can I stretch myself?

The Biology department offers many exciting opportunities, from weekly Journal Clubs which discuss many areas beyond the course, to national competitions in biology and other related areas. Further challenge can be provided at an individual level, through additional assignments, reading and recommendations from highly skilled teachers who can guide you in specific areas of interest.



Chemistry

Examination board: AQA

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Unit 1

Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; Energy changes

Unit 2

The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; Using resources

The course

The course is designed to give you the opportunity to acquire a body of Chemical knowledge spread across a wide range of topics. You will also learn about the widespread importance of chemistry and its applications in the world around you (for example in aqueous and organic chemistry), of modern technological advances (such as nanotechnology), environmental applications, and the social impact of chemistry. Through regular practical work you will appreciate the practical nature of chemistry and gain experimental and investigative skills based on correct and safe laboratory techniques. You will form hypotheses and then design experiments to test them. You will then analyse and question the data that you collect.

Where will this course lead me?

The course provides an excellent base for you if you wish to take the subject to a higher level after GCSE. GCSE Chemistry also provides an excellent training in analytical thinking for many other subjects such as Business and Law. The range of careers requiring qualifications in Chemistry is multiple and includes biochemistry, ecology, forensic science, geology, horticulture, all medical careers, pharmacy and veterinary work.

How can I stretch myself?

You will develop a logical approach to problem solving, applying your mathematical skills in a Chemical context and also the ability to apply your knowledge to unfamiliar circumstances. By the end of the course you should also have developed an appreciation of the power and limitations of Chemistry.



Combined Sciences

Examination board: AQA

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Candidates will sit six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

The Course

Combined Sciences (Trilogy) students study the same topics as students studying separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs but in less detail. As a result they sit shorter exams. All examinations for Combined Sciences (Trilogy) will take place at the end of the Year 11.

Where will this course lead me?

The course gives a good general understanding of many aspects of modern science. Candidates studying Combined Science (Trilogy) are not prohibited from studying Sciences at A-level, providing they achieve a Grade 7 or above. Good grades in GCSE sciences (in addition to specific A level requirements) are necessary for many university courses.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

Top grades will be required if you wish to follow a scientific course at University. Opportunities exist for enrichment activities across all sciences, including workshops, aimed at achieving top grades as well as other opportunities through the CASE programme, such as the STEM Society, which hosts dozens of industry and university experts to expand your knowledge beyond the GCSE curriculum.



Computer Science

Examination board: OCR

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Unit 1: Computer Systems

This unit covers computer systems and includes; hardware, networks, data representation, system software and system security and a chance to study the impact that Computer Science has in a global context.

Unit 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This unit gets you to apply knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. It will develop your skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

You will have an examinations for units 1 and 2 at the end of year 11, each worth 50% of the grade.

The course

If you are good at problem solving and critical thinking and have strengths in Science and Mathematics then this course will interest you. You will learn how to program and will develop the tenacity to keep trying even when it is difficult. You will need to be interested in emerging technology and how it works.

Where will this course lead me?

You will gain a deep understanding of how computer technology works and you will learn fundamental programming and coding skills which can be applied to further study and in any employment. Computer Science will help shape the future for everybody and possibly change the world!

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will be applying programming skills learnt to real-world problems and through that you will develop your analytical and problem-solving skills.



Design and Technology

Examination board: Cambridge IGCSE CIE 0445

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Paper 1: Product Design (25%)

It tests 'design thinking'.

Paper 3: Resistant Materials (25%)

Tests knowledge of materials and processes.

Unit 5: Design and Make (50%)

Controlled Assessment Project You will do a project which starts in the summer term of year 10, for which you have to generate a portfolio detailing the story of your research and designing. You will complete a well finished product from a range of suitable materials.

Am I suited to the course?

The Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology syllabus enables learners to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design, and by working with different media, materials and tools. As a result, learners gain greater technical and design awareness, while developing skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They also develop the communication skills central to design making and evaluation.

Where will this course lead me?

This course is an ideal grounding for A level Art or 3D Design and many career opportunities such as heavy engineering at one end of the spectrum to fine aesthetic craft based skills at the other.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

Very few subjects at this level offer you such autonomy to see through a long project where you can direct your study to an area of personal interest. The coursework provides opportunities to generate products that show creativity and originality, through using a range of materials and techniques, working in the manner of a real world designer.

During Year 11 if you are a top performing student, you will have the opportunity to apply for an Arkwright Scholarship, which enables access to a diverse range of enrichment events, including Engineering Experience days and Engineering Scholarships. The Scholarship also opens up opportunities to meet and work with world leading designers from all spheres of the design world.



Drama

Examination board: Edexcel

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Component 1: Devising Theatre

Teacher assessed practical work supported by a portfolio of documentary evidence (1000 words). You will devise an original piece of theatre based upon 3 stimuli. You will record, evaluate and demonstrate your understanding of the creative process through a coursework portfolio.

Component 2: Performance from Text

This unit of work is concerned with the exploration of a complete play text chosen by the centre. You will practically study TWO key extracts from the same text and perform a group piece as well as a monologue or duologue to a visiting examiner. Your work may take the form of performance or design.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

You will study one set text practically in preparation for a written examination. Candidates will have to respond from the perspective of an actor, designer and director. You must also use your experience as an audience member to write a critical review of a live theatre event.

Am I suited to the course?

You will need to be able to work effectively in a team, meet deadlines, share ideas and be supportive, as well as committing to rehearsals. Your work will be regularly performed to an audience and it is important that you are aware of this when choosing Drama as an option. Regular theatre visits are arranged during term time for you and attendance is compulsory. You will be encouraged to perform in major school productions or help backstage, as this will expand your knowledge and experience in preparation for the practical examination at the end of the course.

Where will this course lead me?

The study of Drama and Theatre Studies will develop your ability to articulate thoughts, explore ideas, sharpen communication skills and enhances your ability to work in group scenarios both practically and academically. These are fundamental life skills highly valued by universities and employers. The Law Society, the medical profession and media organisations all value this qualification.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

The Richard Whiteley Theatre allows you to watch a show on your doorstep, take part in post-show discussions and engage in practical workshops with directors and actors. You are actively encouraged to audition for the annual School production which alternates between a musical and theatrical production.



English

Examination board:
CIE iGCSE 0990

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Examination

You will sit one reading paper lasting 2 hours. You will also complete 3 pieces of coursework: description, narrative and a response to an argument.

There is no speaking and listening component.

The course

You are encouraged to read widely, both for your own enjoyment and to further your awareness of how language works. You develop the skills to allow you to become assured, analytical and accurate writers. You become critical and perceptive readers through the exploration of a wide range of texts. The skills you develop in English will benefit you across the whole curriculum.

Pupils joining in Year 10 or 11 for whom English is an Additional Language (EAL) will be assessed on arrival at Giggleswick to determine which English pathway they should follow. It is expected that the majority will work towards Cambridge iGCSE English as a Second Language.

English Literature

Examination board: Edexcel iGCSE 4ET1

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Examination

You will complete one examination lasting 2 hours. You will answer a question on an unseen poem, the Poetry Anthology and Of Mice and Men. You will also complete 2 pieces of coursework on Macbeth and A View from the Bridge.

The course

You will be encouraged to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts from around the world, and to develop an appreciation of the ways in which writers achieve effects and construct stories. You are able to explore, through literature, cultures and experience other than your own.



Geography

Examination board: Pearson Edexcel International

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Paper 1: Physical geography (40% of the GCSE)

River environments (including fieldwork)

Hazardous environments

Examination of 1 hour and 10 minutes, consisting of two sections. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

Paper 2: Human geography (60% of the GCSE)

Economic activity and energy

Urban environments (including fieldwork)

Global issues (Development and human welfare)

Examination of 1 hour and 45 minutes, consisting of three sections. The questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer, data-response and open-ended questions.

Am I suited to the course?

GCSE Geography is at the heart of every subject. Mathematics, English, Science, Art and Language all come together in Geography in an effort to make sense of the world around us. If you would like to investigate the reasons why people and landscapes are the way they are then GCSE Geography is for you. As a department, we are hugely passionate about investigating geographical theory in the 'real world', so fieldwork is of primary importance.

Where will this course lead me?

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, Geography is one of the most relevant subjects you could choose to study. As a geographer you will not only learn about the world around you but also develop many linguistic, cartographic, analytical and practical skills along the way. The specification is designed to give a firm grounding for A level Geography but is also of significant value if you wish to apply your knowledge gained in other subjects. The fieldwork component gives you the opportunity to consolidate the investigative skills you employ in Science and the analytical skills you gain in Maths.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

GCSE Geography gives the opportunity to explore and apply your own knowledge. If you have enjoyed a television documentary or followed a news story of an extreme weather event that has affected somewhere you know this can all be used to extend the material learned in the classroom. You will be encouraged to read around the topics we study in class and engage with real world events that are unfolding whilst you study the course.



History

Examination board: Cambridge IGCSE (CIE) 0977

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Paper 1: Structured Questions 40%

Candidates answer two questions from

Section A: The 20th Century International Relations since 1919 and one question from

Section B: Germany, 1918-45

Paper 2: Document Questions 30%

Candidates answer one question on one prescribed topic taken from Section A above

1. Was the Treaty of Versailles fair?
2. To what extent was the League of Nations a success?
3. How far was Hitler's foreign policy to blame for the outbreak of war in Europe in 1939?
4. Who was to blame for the Cold War?
5. How effectively did the United States contain the spread of communism?
6. How secure was the USSR's control over Eastern Europe, 1948-c.1989?

Candidates will answer 5 source questions on one of the 6 topics stated. The topic is known in advance of the course beginning.

Component 3 - Coursework 30%

Candidates produce one piece of extended writing based on Germany 1918-45. The question is internally selected and assessed before external moderation.

Am I suited to the course?

This course is for those who question ideas, have a passion to understand who we are and where we come from. You will be encouraged to raise questions and develop and deploy skills and knowledge to provide historical explanations. You will explore history from diverse perspectives - social, economic, cultural, and political. You will develop communication and problem solving skills, so if you are interested in unravelling a mystery and developing an argument then it is right for you. Completion of the course will mean you are confident, responsible, reflective, and innovative, ready to adapt to our ever-changing world.

Where will this course lead me?

Students who take this History course are well prepared to follow a wide range of A level courses, such as History and Politics, as well as preparing them for understanding the global world in which they live. The emphasis is on historical knowledge and the skills required for historical research. The course is internationally recognised by schools, universities, and employers. International in outlook, the course retains a local relevance meaning students are not limited in their learning and can find utility in it by identifying parallels in the modern day. A highly respected academic subject, history creates an excellent foundation for a wide variety of career areas such as business, law, journalism, marketing, politics, teaching, the armed forces and many more.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will be stretched and challenged in all units, using different assessment strategies, extended writing, source interpretation and high-level historical thinking. By the end of the course, you will learn how to evaluate and analyse information, weigh up evidence, appreciate more than one point of view and how to communicate complex ideas effectively. Students will expand their horizons through reading, documentaries, debates, co-curricular clubs, and educational visits.



Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel (GCSE) AQA Further Mathematics (Level 2)

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Number

Algebra

Ratio and proportion

Rates of change

Probability and statistics

Geometry and measures

Paper 1 - Non-calculator

Paper 2 - Calculator

Paper 3 - Calculator

Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes long

The course

Studying Mathematics enables students to develop their mathematical fluency, knowledge and skills. This will help students with their understanding of mathematical concepts by developing methods taught in Primary and KS3. This will allow students to reason mathematically and apply mathematical techniques to solve real life problems by making deductions and inferences to draw conclusions. Students will also be able to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a plethora of forms which are appropriate to the information and context. These contexts and information can also be used in the wider curriculum. A few subjects which rely on the fundamentals of Mathematics are: Geography, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, to name a few. Achieving a higher grade in Mathematics is becoming more important than ever before with certain Universities only accepting a minimum of Grade 6 in Maths for certain courses.

How can I stretch myself?

The course covers a wide range of mathematical concepts that set students up for later life. Teachers encourage students to explore beyond these topics either through: independent study or teacher led investigations.

There are further opportunities to extend understanding through various competitions and challenges, as well as enrichment activities lead by teachers within the department and other subject areas.

Students who are more able will also be given the opportunity to study for the Edexcel Level 2 Extended Maths or the AQA Level 2 in Further Mathematics. Both courses will provide students with an additional qualification and give them a sample of what Mathematics is like at A Level. These courses, although not required, extend the learning of the GCSE topics and provide a bridge to A Level.



Modern Languages

Examination board: AQA

Course Requirement:
French, German & Spanish – a minimum of one year's prior study

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

The topics covered include:

People and lifestyle

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others

Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle

Topic 3: Education and work

Popular culture

Topic 1: Free-time activities

Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations

Topic 3: Celebrity culture

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

Am I suited to the course?

If you are curious about the world around you and wish to play a bigger role in developing successful, international relationships for a better future, then this is the course for you. If you want to develop your confidence, improve your communication skills and explore different cultures and languages, then you will enjoy GCSE Languages.

Where will the course take me?

GCSE Languages will allow you to develop your transferable skills to help you stand out in all aspects of life, from university and job applications to travelling the world and meeting new people. The four skill areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking will allow you to develop high-level communication, problem-solving and literacy skills that can be applied to many different subjects and careers. You will also participate in exchange trips and projects with our partner schools, thus allowing you to experience different countries and cultures first-hand. A Language GCSE is also vital preparation for A Level study or starting a new language at university.

How can I stretch myself through doing this course?

You will have regular, small group conversation lessons with our native speaker Language Assistants which will help you develop your speaking skills. You can also apply to British Council events and scholarships and enter the UK Language Olympiad competition. GCSE Language students are also encouraged to complete further reading and to view a range of foreign films and TV series.



Music

Examination board: Eduqas

Course Requirement:
Ability to perform with confidence on one or more instrument

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Unit 1: Performing

You will present two performances (at least one as part of an ensemble). You need to perform as accurately as possible and with confidence. This unit tests your ability to interpret and communicate music thoughtfully.

Unit 2: Composing

You will present two completed compositions, one of which following a brief set by the exam board. Whether you are a confident composer or not you will learn new skills throughout the course and get a chance to learn how software such as Sibelius, Cubase and Garageband can aid in the process.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising

A written exam testing knowledge of the four areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music. The focus is on recognising how the musical elements have been used in the music. There are just two set works allowing us to tailor the course to the interests of the group.

Am I suited to the course?

This course will suit you if you enjoyed your involvement in KS3 and want to improve and extend your musical skills and knowledge. It is the practical work that brings this subject to life and this is the exciting part for many. You may already have reached a good standard in performance although, if not, it is never too late to start.

Where will this course lead me?

Music qualifications are highly regarded by further education establishments and employers; studying music fosters creativity, discipline, and collaboration, skills that are highly valued in both academic and professional settings. It also enhances cognitive abilities, boosts confidence through performance, and provides a fulfilling outlet for self-expression. You may wish to use it as a springboard into other related areas such as Music Technology, Drama, Computing or English.

Following the Eduqas GCSE music course will focus your musical understanding, develop your creativity and help you to achieve your musical potential. You will develop an appreciation of new genres of music.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

You will develop strong independent learning skills as well as problem solving and teamwork. Whilst practical music making is the focus this will be regularly underpinned by music theory and critical listening skills. In addition to instrumental/voice lessons, we advise you to study Music Theory, and ensure that you participate in school ensembles, choirs, orchestra or bands to enhance your performance skills and collaborate with others. Taking on solo performances, composing original pieces, or experimenting with different musical styles and instruments allows you to explore your creativity. Engaging with wider musical activities such as attending concerts, workshops, or masterclasses will further broaden your understanding and appreciation of music, helping you develop as a well-rounded musician.



Physical Education

Examination board: OCR

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Coursework is worth 40% and involves providing evidence of high levels of performance in 3 sports. There is also a written piece of coursework on evaluation and analysis of performance.

There are two written exams of 60 minutes.

Paper 1:
Physical factors affecting performance

Paper 2:
Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology

Am I suited to the course?

GCSE PE is ideal for you if you currently enjoy success in your games and science lessons. You need a genuine passion for the sporting world and how sport can affect society. If you are interested in finding out how the workings of the human body relate to sporting performance, you will be very interested in what we learn. It is advantageous to be competent in a number of different sports or activities.

Where will this course lead me?

GCSE PE is the ideal preparation for the Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Sport. The course develops not only your sporting, coaching and leadership ability in a range of sports, but offers you a range of transferable skills such as team work, leadership, independence and energy, all of which employers look for. Typical jobs taken by people who study the PE GCSE are: physiotherapy, coaching, fitness instruction and personal training, teaching as well as being a professional athlete or working in the Armed Forces.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

This course may lead you on to taking the Sports Leadership Award that is offered to Year 11 on the Friday enrichment afternoon.



Physics

Examination board: AQA

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Paper 1:

Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure

Paper 2:

Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; Space physics

The course

The course is designed to introduce you to the key principles and Laws of Physics. You will learn how these ideas underpin so much of our modern way of life. From renewable energy to electrical circuits, nuclear power to stars, the course provides you with an insight into the laws of nature and its application to modern technology. The learning approach is a mixture of experimentation and theory, and various parts of the course are mathematical. You will develop analytical skills, breaking down complex problems into simple steps, before applying the laws of physics to arrive at fascinating solutions.

Where will the course lead me?

The course will preparing you for life as an adult in a modern, technological society and job market. Equally, it will prepare you with the essential groundwork to go on to study A-Level Physics, should that be your chosen path. The course will require hard work but will offer a multitude of insights and moments of wonder for all students.

How can I stretch myself?

Physics is about describing the physical world and understanding how it works. A physicist needs to be interested in the phenomena and events in the world around them. Physics seeks to satisfy curiosity and develop useful predictions by abstracting complex scenarios into simple, solvable model problems. The course will stretch you in terms of conceptual challenge and in terms of the mathematical skills required to solve problems. Extensive and expert advice on wider reading, problem-solving workshops and conceptual insight will be provided by the Physics staff.



Religious Studies

Examination board: AQA

SPECIFICATION OVERVIEW

Part 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices

Students study the key beliefs and practices within Islam and Christianity. This forms part of Paper 1 which is 1 hour 45 minutes.

Part 2: Thematic studies

Students study six themes from a religious and non-religious viewpoint. These themes are: relationships and families, religion and life, existence of God and revelation, crime and punishment, war and peace, and human rights and social justice. This content forms Paper 2 which is 1 hour 45 minutes. Students choose four of the six themes to answer.

Am I suited to the course?

Are you curious about how religion shapes the world and how religious and non-religious people make decisions? If you're interested in how ideas influence personal choices, love a good debate, and aren't afraid to tackle complex topics and tough questions, then religious studies is the subject for you. You'll get to explore big questions about God, the world we live in, the decisions we make and what we believe with an open and inquisitive mind. The GCSE is not only focused on the study of religion but also deals with ethical and philosophical issues. If that sounds like your kind of thing, then this course is definitely for you!

Where will this course lead me?

Whether you imagine a career in politics, the civil service, the armed forces, international business, the media, or almost any other sphere, a reasonable grasp of religious thinking and motivation is a very valuable asset in the modern world. This course will give you an advantage when considering jobs where you work closely with people from a range of different backgrounds. Additionally, religious studies is an excellent subject for those considering studying psychology, sociology, philosophy and other social sciences at A-level. Understanding religious beliefs and practices can provide deep insights into human behaviour, social structures, and ethical frameworks, which are fundamental aspects of these fields. By studying religious studies, you will develop critical thinking skills and a nuanced perspective on the diverse ways in which people find meaning and purpose in their lives.

How can I stretch myself through doing this subject?

Religious and philosophical thinking seeks to address the deepest of human questions about our self-worth, purpose and the moral and ethical choices we face throughout life. Few courses have anything like the same potential influence on our lives as Religious Studies. You will find that current affairs regularly overlap with the course and it will cause you to engage in the wider world in a profound way.





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However changes may be made in due course for educational or other reasons.