

**FORT
PITT**
GRAMMAR
SCHOOL



YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS INFORMATION
March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our 2024 GCSE Options process. This is the first time in your child's education that they have a choice in regard to some of the subjects they wish to study. Choice is a wonderful thing, but can sometimes bring its own challenges when it becomes difficult to decide exactly which choices to make! As a result, the options process can sometimes be a daunting one for both students and parents/carers. Please do not worry in any way, we are here to help to ensure that the process is smooth, and that you get all the support and guidance you need.

Our programme of events will hopefully make it clear which core subjects your child will be studying and will ensure you are fully aware as to how the process works and the timeline of events. All students are afforded the opportunity to complete the English Baccalaureate and in addition can select subjects which they enjoy, and in which they are ultimately going to be successful.

The GCSE options process is led by Miss Bates (Head of Year 9), Miss Burrows (Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Reader (Assistant Headteacher). If you have any questions or concerns about your child's options, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,



Miss R Bates Head of Year 9



**Mr D Reader
Assistant Headteacher**



**Miss E Burrows
Assistant Headteacher**

GCSE Options 2024

Moving into Year 10 and commencing your GCSE studies is an important stage in your educational journey. This is the first time that you are able to exercise some choice over the subjects you study. It is important that you give careful thought and consideration to your choices, and that you listen to all the advice you are provided with.

Key Dates:

Date	Event
Monday 11th March	Year 9 Options Launch Assembly
Week Beg. Monday 11th March Various timings	Option taster sessions in timetabled lessons. A timetable will be distributed to students and parents.
Tuesday 12th March 6pm - 6:45pm	Year 9 Parents/Carers' GCSE Options Evening Information launch.
Monday 18th March 4pm	GCSE options electronic selection form opens
Thursday 21st March	Year 9 Parents' and Carer's Evening
Monday 25th March 3pm	GCSE options electronic selection form closes

Future careers

We are ambitious for all our students and want each of them to have as many doors open for them in the future as possible. Careers information and guidance is interwoven across the KS4 curriculum and is delivered in lessons and via Career Focus days.

The vast majority of Fort Pitt students continue into our sixth-form and approximately 80% then go on to leading universities, both nationally and internationally. Others secure high-level apprenticeships with prestigious companies, including among others, the Bank of England and KPMG.

Entry to University and Higher-Apprenticeships is competitive. Selectors are looking for individuals with excellent academic achievements and the ability to contribute socially and to flourish as global citizens.

KS4 Subject choices

All students are required to take the following subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- All students also continue with core PE, core RE and PSHE as non-examination subjects

In addition, all students must choose one language at GCSE from either French or Spanish and one humanity subject from Geography or History.

Students may then select two further option subjects:

Core Curriculum (All)	Language Choice Must have studied choice at Key Stage 3 (Select 1)	Humanities Choice (Select 1)	Two further options (Select 1 st and 2 nd choice and then two reserves in order of preference)
English Language English Literature Mathematics Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	French Spanish	History Geography	Business Computer Science Drama Film Studies Fine Art Food Technology Graphics Music Philosophy and Ethics Psychology Sociology Sport Science Textiles

This means that every student completes 10 GCSEs in total, with every student afforded the opportunity to complete the English Baccalaureate (*find out more about the EBACC here:*

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761031/DfE_EBacc_Leaflet.pdf)

IMPORTANT: Availability of subjects and allocation of choices

- The option subjects above will only run if sufficient numbers of students select the subject to ensure it is viable to run.
- Please note that whilst we endeavour to allocate all students their first choices, due to timetabling constraints and limits on group sizes, it may be necessary to allocate some students their reserve choices.
- If there is excess demand for a subject and we cannot provide enough sets, some degree of selection will have to be made. The order of preference of subject will be considered here.
- It may not be possible to take every combination of subjects.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Overview:

In Year 9 students begin to study some elements of their GCSE English Literature and GCSE Language courses that they will be examined on in Year 11. This course comprises of two separate GCSEs.

The courses are taught concurrently in years 9 and 10, with language skills embedded within literary study. In Year 11 the focus is mainly on Language, with revision of Literature texts.

Students will study a range of texts for their **Literature examination**:

- A Shakespeare play: *Macbeth* or *Romeo and Juliet*
- AQA Poetry Anthology (fifteen poems) – *Worlds and Lives*
- A Modern text – *An Inspector Calls*
- A 19th Century novel – Either *Frankenstein*, *Pride and Prejudice* or *Jane Eyre*
- A range of *Unseen Poetry*

Students will prepare to be examined on unseen texts for their **Language examination** including:

- Reading and Producing Creative Texts – Reading and Writing Fiction
- Writers' Views and Perspectives – Reading and Writing Non-Fiction

Students will need to:

- Engage meaningfully with the poetry, plays and novels studied in class, in order to support their ideas and responses to the texts with detailed evidence.
- Explore the social, cultural and historical context of the texts we read and apply this to specific points of the text, to illuminate meaning.
- Complete a range of specific tasks for their study of English Language, including the study of a range of non-fiction and fictions texts, from which they can evaluate writers' choices.
- Write in various styles and for different purposes, such as writing an article where they present a specific argument or writing a descriptive short story.
- Engage in a range of debates and complete a presentation to an audience for the separate Spoken Language Endorsement for English Language.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

English Literature (No NEA/Coursework element)

Paper 1:	Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel 40%
Paper 2:	Modern Texts and Poetry 60%

English Language (No NEA/coursework element)

Paper 1:	Reading and Producing Creative Texts – Fiction 50%
Paper 2:	Exploring Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives 50%



MATHEMATICS

Overview:

GCSE Mathematics opens the door to many higher education courses and careers, such as: education, engineering, psychology, architecture and of course, accountancy.

Mathematics develops your mental ability to solve problems in all aspects of life and we hope to make your learning experience as productive and enjoyable as possible.

Much of the work you have studied at Key Stage 3 is revisited and developed at GCSE but you will also study new areas of the subject that should interest and motivate you.

The topics are divided into the following six areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and Measurement
- Probability
- Statistics

During the course you will be expected to:

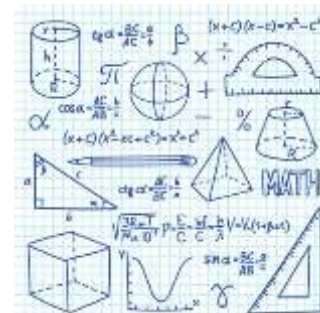
- Use a variety of mathematical skills and knowledge to solve problems
- Use logic and reason to solve problems
- Solve functional maths problems
- Learn and apply relevant formulae and methods to problems
- Understand and interpret statistics
- Apply the mathematics you learn to real life situations

Assessment consists of 3 equally weighted examinations papers:

Paper 1	1 hour 30 minutes	Non Calculator (33%)
Paper 2	1 hour 30 minutes	Calculator (33%)
Paper 3	1 hour 30 minutes	Calculator (33%)

Examination Board: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>



BIOLOGY

Overview:

The Edexcel 9-1 Biology GCSE course is studied over three years.

Topics studied:

- Key concepts in Biology
- Cells and control
- Genetics
- Natural selection and genetic modification
- Health, disease and the development of medicines
- Plant structures and their functions
- Animal coordination, control and homeostasis
- Exchange and transport in animals
- Ecosystems and material cycles

Practical work

Students must complete eight mandatory Core Practicals, in addition to other practical work completed throughout the course.

Careers

Biology is a key subject for lots of STEM careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals and includes; forensic science, doctor, dentistry, nursing, psychology, physiotherapy, environmental science, zoology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, teaching, science writing, genetics and research. Biology is also excellent preparation for non-scientific careers, thanks to the skills it provides – everything from analytical thinking to writing reports.

Examination board: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#%2Ftab-Biology>

Paper 1:	1 hr 45 minutes 50%
Paper 2:	1 hr 45 minutes 50%



CHEMISTRY

Overview:

The Edexcel 9-1 Chemistry GCSE course is studied over three years.

Topics studied:

- Atomic structure and bonding
- States of matter and mixtures
- Chemical changes
- Extracting metals and equilibria
- Alloys and quantitative chemistry
- Groups in the periodic table
- Rates of reaction and energy changes
- Fuels and Earth science
- Tests for ions
- Hydrocarbons and hydroxyls

Practical work

Chemistry is a practical subject and as such involves a lot of experimentation. In addition, students must complete eight mandatory Core Practical's during the course.

Careers

Chemistry is a preferred subject for the degree level study of more courses than any other subject. Chemistry is essential or highly recommended for the following careers: Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Food Science, Forensics and Biochemistry. In fact, there are chemists working in every field imaginable – from military logistics to accountancy in the City.

Examination Board: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#%2Ftab-Chemistry>

Paper 1:	1 hr 45 minutes 50%
Paper 2:	1 hr 45 minutes 50%

Chemistry is

9 2 7 F Fluorine 18.9984032	92 2 8 18 32 21 9 2 U Uranium 238.02891	7 2 5 N Nitrogen 14.00674
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PHYSICS

Overview:

The Edexcel 9-1 Physics GCSE course is studied over three years.

Topics studied:

- Key Concepts of Physics
- Motion and Forces
- Conservation of Energy
- Waves
- Light and the Electromagnetic Spectrum
- Radioactivity
- Astronomy
- Work and Energy
- Forces and their Effects
- Electricity and Circuits
- Static Electricity
- Magnetism and the motor effect
- Electromagnetic Induction
- The Particle Model
- Forces and Matter

Practical work

Students will complete eight Core Practical's as part of the GCSE Physics course, in addition to other practical work completed throughout the course.

Careers

Physics plays a significant role in Engineering, Aeronautical Design, Astronomy, Medicine, Electricity, Computing, Information Technology and Telecommunications. A thorough grasp of GCSE Physics would be vital in careers associated with any of the areas above. In addition to this, GCSE Physics would be beneficial in Mathematical and Economic careers.

Examination Board: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#%2Ftab-Physics>

Paper 1:	1 hr 45 minutes 50%
Paper 2:	1 hr 45 minutes 50%



CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Overview:

Today's world is full of exciting and diverse career opportunities. At Fort Pitt Grammar School, we want students to feel confident and prepared to take each step in their educational journey with the aim of them achieving their ultimate career goal.

Careers education is provided for students through opportunities within the curriculum. At each stage in our students' educational careers, we deliver Focus Days to support their understanding of the different pathways that are available to them and provide them with opportunities to visit workplaces and universities. Students also have access to our online careers platform, Unifrog. This enables students to search for information about career sectors or jobs based around particular subjects. Students are also able to log their skills and experiences on Unifrog, which will help them to build a portfolio to support onward applications to Sixth Form and beyond. The school also provides additional opportunities for developing work skills through our programme of external speakers including work experience and personal guidance interviews in Year 10 and National Citizenship Service in Years 11 and 12. Students also get the opportunity to undertake work experience in Y12.

Careers Information is provided in a number of different ways. We recognise that students may have different pathways they wish to follow. Many will wish to go to university, including Oxbridge and Russell Group, while others may prefer a degree or higher level apprenticeship route. We aim to provide a programme of visiting speakers for each possible pathway so students will gain an understanding of what skills and experiences are needed to ensure they are successful in their applications.

For individual advice and guidance, students can discuss their career choices with their Form Tutor, subject teachers or Head of Year. Additionally, parents and students can contact sdoran@fortpitt.medway.sch.uk if there are any questions relating to career pathways.



PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH EDUCATION

Overview:

PSHE is a school subject through which students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives now and in the future. It helps young people to stay healthy and safe, while preparing them to make the most of life and work.

PSHE lessons help young people embrace change, feel positive about who they are and enjoy healthy, safe, responsible and fulfilled lives. Students are able to recognise and manage risk, take increasing responsibility for themselves, their choices and behaviours and make positive contributions.

Most importantly, PSHE lessons enable students to develop 'life skills'.

It enables you to focus on personal development through a variety of interesting lessons that will help to:

- reflect on your personal achievements and strengths
- recognise your own worth
- make the most of your abilities
- develop your confidence
- develop your sense of respect and responsibility
- develop and recognise the importance of good relationships within family and friendship groups
- recognise and respect the difference and diversity of other backgrounds and cultures
- understand how to develop choices towards a healthier, safer lifestyle (also being informed of drug, relationship and sex education)
- consider issues that will enable you to become an informed citizen

Several outside speakers are invited into lessons. Past examples include Teenage Cancer Trust; Drug Awareness Narcon; Safe driving Kent Fire & Rescue, Metro Charity & Alcoholics Anonymous



Overview:

If you enjoy:

- communicating and explaining your ideas
- thinking creatively and making decisions
- working with numbers to solve business problems
- learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands



Then the GCSE Business course is the **right subject for you**.

You'll start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You'll learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Then you'll move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You'll learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You'll learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and you'll explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows

After this qualification you'll understand the world of business and have developed skills in:

- making decisions and developing persuasive arguments
- creative and practical problem solving
- understanding data, finance and communication

What can I do after I've completed the course?

A GCSE Business course could help prepare you for an entrepreneurial role and help you to gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, like accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

Visits: Previous visits have included Thorpe Park, Westfield Shopping Centre and Disneyland Paris.

Examination Board: Edexcel

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

Paper 1: Written examination	1 hr 45 minutes 50%
Paper 2: Written examination	1 hr 45 minutes 50%

The GCSE consists of two external examination papers. These papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. Most of these questions will be based on information given to you in the examination papers.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Overview:

Computers are everywhere, you use them every day, carry them in your bags and pockets. However, the design and use to which we put them is lacking a feminine voice. There are not enough female computer scientists out there in the world. So, if you want a say in design, development and implementation of the next generation of computer technology, then consider taking Computer Science as an option.

GCSE Computer Science combines theoretical and practical programming studies, focusing on the ability to understand how computer systems work. Students have opportunities to increase their awareness of the ways in which computing applications are developed, develop their programming skills (non-assessed), and opportunities for various trips to Computer Science and Technology related places.

Topics covered:

- Systems Architecture
- Memory and Storage
- Computer Networks, connections and protocols
- Network Security
- Ethical, legal and cultural concerns associated with Computer Science
- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean Logic
- Programming Languages and IDEs



Careers

Computer Scientists are in high demand! GCHQ offer female only courses to attract candidates into the world of cyber-security. The skills taught within the specification are highly transferable, ensuring a wealth of other careers are open to students.

Examination Board: OCR

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

Paper 1:	1 hr 30 minutes 50%
Paper 2:	1 hr 30 minutes 50%



DRAMA

Overview:

- Do you enjoy performing?
- Are you full of ideas?
- Do you work well in a team?
- Do you like working hard to achieve your best?
- Are you imaginative and creative?
- Are you well organised?

This course is all about exploring, creating and performing, so if you have a flair for acting, a good imagination and enjoy working with others, then Drama is the course for you.

The course is very practical, focusing on your development of skills in both scripted and devised performance. You will learn about key Drama practitioners, as well as strategies for creating and developing your own original work. You will study a range of plays and there will be theatre trips to see what you have learnt in theory put into practice.

The course requires **full commitment** and **time**...be prepared for this!

Examination Board: EDUQAS

<http://eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/>

Component 1:	Devising Theatre - 40% (Performance, Portfolio and Evaluation)
Component 2:	Performing from a Text - 20% (Performance Only)
Component 3:	Interpreting Theatre - 40% (Written Exam – 1 ½ hrs – Questions on Set Text and Live Theatre Evaluation)

Assessment Objectives

AO1: Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance

AO2: Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance

AO3: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how Drama and Theatre is developed and performed

AO4: Analyse and evaluate own work and the work of others



FILM STUDIES

Overview:

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th century, and a major art form of the last hundred years. Film Studies is therefore the ideal course for those who enjoy and appreciate the power and influence of films – you will learn how films generate meanings and responses, and how film works as a powerful medium of representation.

The films you will study will introduce you to a broad range of films from around the world, as well as giving you a historical perspective on film. For example, you will learn about the development of Hollywood, how genres change, how the contexts in which films are produced affect films, and how elements such as cinematography and editing change and develop. You will also explore contemporary independent American film, as well as films produced outside the US, such as in Europe.

Furthermore, production work is a significant part of this course; you will have the opportunity to create a high-quality film – a superb opportunity to really showcase your creativity!

This course will provide you with exciting opportunities to broaden your knowledge and understanding of film, alongside your own passion and enthusiasm. You will work collaboratively with others, but also have opportunities to be independent, active students of film whilst being fully supported by our teaching and commitment to your achievement.

Examination board: EDUQAS

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab_overview



Component 1: Key Developments in US Film Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes	35% of qualification Section A: US film comparative study e.g. <i>Singin' in the Rain</i> and <i>Grease</i> Section B: Key developments in film and film technology Section C: US Independent film e.g. <i>Ladybird</i>
Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes	35% of qualification Section A: Global English language film e.g. <i>Slumdog Millionaire</i> Section B: Global non-English language film e.g. <i>Girlhood</i> Section C: Contemporary UK film e.g. <i>Attack the Block</i>
Component 3: Production Non-exam assessment	30% of qualification One genre-based film extract (2-2 ½ minutes) One evaluative analysis (750-850 words)

FINE ART

Overview:

Fine Art GCSE is a broad and flexible course where you can further develop an appreciation for the creative process, through a practical response. You will use a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, materials, techniques and processes. Students will explore critically how artists, craftspeople and designers from diverse cultures, times and societies have arrived at solutions and communicated meaning using the formal elements. Students will use this knowledge when developing new ideas, recording observations and creating outcomes that fully realise their personal intentions. Fine Art is for students who enjoy being creative and creating practical work, the course will provide you with an exciting opportunity to identify your individual artistic strengths and transferable skills that can be incorporated into your other lessons and beyond.

During the course you will:

- **Explore a wide range of techniques and working methods**, to enable you to find and develop your own personal strengths and areas of interest.
- Visit **galleries and exhibitions**.
- **Analyse the work of professional artists and designers** to inform your own ideas

It is vital that you speak with the relevant members of the Art department to ensure that you are matched to the best Art option for your skills.

GCSE Fine Art focuses on developing the traditional skills of drawing and painting and exploring more experimental art activities in both two and three dimensions.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

Unit 1 Controlled Assessment	80 Marks – 60% Includes 2 or more guided projects Topics set by teacher
Unit 2 Externally Set Task	80 Marks – 40% Topic chosen from selection on examination paper 10 hour focussed study to produce final outcome



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Overview:

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specification is an interesting, creative and stimulating course designed to teach you about food in its widest sense.

Aims:

The course focusses on developing practical cookery skills and an in-depth knowledge and understanding of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. It covers the topics of: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585/subject-content/food,-nutrition-and-health>

- Food
- Nutrition and health
- Food Science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

Careers:

The food industry is a major employer and offers a wide range of career opportunities. In 2022 the Food sector employed 3.7 million people (www.gov.uk). The study of Food Preparation and Nutrition will be a good grounding for such a career as well as being a very useful practical life skill.

The study of Food Preparation and Nutrition will be a good grounding for such a career as well as being a vital practical life skill.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585>

The exam consists of 2 Units.

Unit 1: Written Examination:	A 2 hour written exam which represents 50% of your final grade
Unit 2: NEA	Non Exam Assessment which forms 50% of the final GCSE grade made up of a food investigation task (15%) and a food preparation task (35%)



FRENCH

Overview:

Parlez-vous français? Aimez-vous le français?

If you like French lessons at the moment, then you will definitely enjoy the GCSE course!

Why should I learn French? As new technology brings people together across the globe, studying a language becomes ever more important in preparing you for living and working in the 21st century. The GCSE French course will teach you how people live in France and 46 other countries where French is spoken. If you wish to go to University, a GCSE in French is highly regarded, and, when applying for a job, it might just give you the edge over other candidates.



How is the course organised? You will use a mixture of digital, online and interactive resources during lessons to cover a range of GCSE topics. You will also learn about French culture as well as developing your language skills. There are four exams at the end of the course which will test your ability to understand and communicate effectively in French. You will be studying a new specification and as part of new requirements you will need to have a good knowledge of a wide range of set vocabulary. Also new elements of assessment in the examinations will include dictation and reading aloud. During the course of your GCSE studies there will be opportunities to take part in trips to France in order to practise your spoken French.

Are you convinced yet? France is easily accessible from this area, and, knowing the language when travelling or staying in France, is a valuable advantage. There is an increasing demand for people with language skills.

Examination Board: AQA

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8652>

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



GEOGRAPHY

Overview:

Geography is one of the most diverse subjects on the curriculum, it takes in aspects of Arts, Science, Sociology, Economics, Politics, History and many more. Geography is highly valued by universities and industry alike. A facilitating subject, if you choose to study Geography you will develop a wealth transferable skills.

Examination board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment 35% (1 hr 30-minute exam)

Section A – The challenges of natural hazards- Tectonic hazards, Tropical storms, Extreme weather in the UK.

Section B – Physical landscapes of the UK- Coastal & river landscapes in the UK.

Section C – The living world- Ecosystems, Tropical rainforests & hot deserts.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment 35% (1 hr 30-minute exam)

Section A – Urban issues and challenges- World population growth, urban growth in Nigeria and in the UK & features of sustainable urban living.

Section B – The changing economic world- Global variation in economic wealth and quality of life, reducing the development gap, social and cultural changes due to economic development, economy and employment in the UK.

Section C – The challenge of resource management - Uneven distribution of energy resources, changing demand and provision of resources in the UK and sustainability of energy sources.

Paper 3: Geographical applications- 30% (1 hr 30-minute exam)

Section A – **Issue evaluation**- Problem solving and decision making

Section B – **Fieldwork** – 2 geographical enquiries, investigating changes in the River Darent as it flows downstream and the success of the regeneration schemes in Margate.

Section C – **Geographical skills**- Creating and interpreting graphs and maps, statistical analysis and the use of GIS systems (e.g. Google Earth)



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Overview:

GCSE Graphic Design is all about visual communication and learning how to convey a message, idea or identity through image and text. This course will provide you with an insight into working methods used in the commercial world of art by illustrators, designers, photographers and typographers.

Alongside developing the traditional skills of drawing, painting and print-making, there will be opportunities for mixed media work and model-making as well using photography and digital imaging software, such as Adobe Photoshop.

You will explore the role of visual design as a means of communication and the important role played by artists and designers in the business world.

During the course you will:

- Analyse the work of professional artists and designers to inform your own ideas
- Explore a wide range of techniques and working methods, to enable you to find and develop your own personal strengths and areas of interest

You will need commitment and enthusiasm and must enjoy the practical process of creating artwork. It is vital that you speak with the relevant member of the Art department to ensure that you are matched to the best Art option for your skills.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

Unit 1: Controlled Assessment	80 Marks - 60% Work from at least two projects showing a range of different approaches and skills, which is presented in a portfolio.
Unit 2: Externally Set Task	80 Marks - 40% Topic chosen from a selection. 10-hour focused study under examination conditions.



HISTORY

Overview:

When you choose to study History, you will not only be opening a window on the past; but will gain an understanding of how our society today has been formed and how we have come to be the people we are.

History is even more important now in the modern world so that as a society we can analyse and reflect on the past in order to make the future a better place.

You will study 5 modules which are used to determine your GCSE exam grade. These are:

- Medicine through Time (1250 to present), The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
- Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91,
- Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941
- Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588.

This course contains a mixture of some of the most fascinating areas of study in History. You will need to have an enquiring mind, be prepared to formulate your opinions and be able to express your ideas well. This subject demands a lot of reading and written work to obtain the best grades.

Examination Board: Edexcel

[Edexcel GCSE History \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

Assessment: 100% - Examination – three written papers

Paper 1: Medicine and the Historic Environment c1250-present	1 hr 15 minutes 30%
Paper 2: Superpower relations: 1941-91, Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588	1 hr 45 minutes 40%
Paper 3: Russia and the Soviet Union 1917-1941	1 hr 20 minutes 30%



MUSIC

Overview:

You need to be open-minded, enjoy a range of musical styles, be able to play an instrument and/or sing, and be able to read music confidently.

Performing: One solo performance and one ensemble performance under examination conditions. You will also take part in many group performances to develop your skills.

Composing: You will compose pieces individually and in groups. You then choose your best two individual pieces as coursework; one to a Brief set by the Exam board and one free composition.

Areas of Study and Set Works for the Listening Examination:

Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820

- J S Bach: 3rd movement from Brandenburg Concerto no. 5 in D major
- L van Beethoven: 1st movement from Piano Sonata no. 8 in C minor 'Pathétique'

Vocal Music

- H Purcell: Music for a While
- Queen: Killer Queen (from the album 'Sheer Heart Attack')

Music for Stage and Screen

- S Schwartz: Defying Gravity (from the album of the cast recording of 'Wicked')
- J Williams: Main title/rebel blockade runner (from the soundtrack to 'Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope')

Fusions

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release (from the album 'Volume 2: Release')
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio (from the album 'Esperanza')

Examination Board: Edexcel

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

Component 1: Performing Non-examined Assessment	Students perform for at least 4 minutes 60 marks 30%
Component 2: Composing Non-examined Assessment	Students compose two compositions of at least 3 minutes 60 marks 30%
Component 3: Appraising examination	1hr 45 minutes 80 marks 40% consisting of listening questions and an essay



PSYCHOLOGY

Overview:

Why study Psychology? Apart from it being the best subject that you will ever study! It helps you to understand why people behave as they do, for example what motivates people? Why do people imitate each other? How do we develop into individuals and what has an impact on our personality?

How will Psychology help your career?

Psychology is relevant to all areas of your life, as you will always work with people and/or animals. The career options are endless from Clinical Psychology, to Sport, Health, Educational and Criminal.

The topics covered in GCSE Psychology relate to the topics that are covered in the A level specification. This course gives you a good basic understanding that will help you decide if you want to continue into A Level Psychology; where you would study topics such as Schizophrenia and Forensic Psychology.

This is a 2-year course, covering: Memory, Research Methods, Perception, Developmental Psychology, Social Influence, Brain & Neuropsychology, Psychological Problems and Language, Thought & Communication.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour	1 hr 45 minutes 100 marks 50%
Paper 2: Social Context and behaviour	1 hr 45 minutes 100 marks 50%

Access the online book for GCSE Psychology

- USERNAME: srobert6
- Password: student6



SOCIOLOGY

Overview:

What is Sociology?

Sociology is the study of individuals and groups within society. Sociologists research and study what makes people behave in the ways they do. Questions which Sociologists consider include:

- *Are we born the way we are or are we shaped by other factors?*
- *How do the family, education, peers, the media, and work affect the way we behave?*
- *How are we controlled?*

What will I study if I choose Sociology?

The course content covers the following:

Topic 1 – The Family <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Functions of the family• Family Forms• Conjugal roles• Changing relationships• Criticisms of the family• Divorce	Topic 2 - Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roles and functions• Relationship between education and capitalism• Educational achievement• Processes in school
Topic 3 – Crime and Deviance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social construction of crime• Social control• Criminal and deviant behaviour• Data on crime	Topic 4 - Social Stratification <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theories of stratification• Socio-economic class• Life chances• Poverty• Power and authority• Power relationships

If you are interested in taking Sociology, please speak to Mrs Doran for more information.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education	1 hr 45 minutes 50%
Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification	1 hr 45 minutes 50%



SPANISH

Overview:

Hablas Español?

Have you enjoyed Spanish so far? If so, why not set your sights on a GCSE in Spanish and aim for one of the top grades at the same time!



Since the days of the Spanish Empire, Spanish has become one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, with 21 countries having it as their official language. These include Spain, and most countries in Central and South America, as well as in many parts of the USA. So if you like travelling, Spanish is a great language to study.

If you're aiming for a top university, having a Spanish GCSE will surely impress! If you want to improve your job prospects, speaking Spanish would also certainly help. Spain is one of Europe's leading industrial countries and Spanish is one of the most important languages for business relations with Spain, Latin America, and the USA.

How will I learn?

During the course a variety of interactive resources will be used to make lessons both fun and informative in order to help you achieve your potential. You will develop a range of language and communication skills and will eventually sit a range of examinations testing these skills at the end of the course. You will be studying a new specification and as part of new requirements you will need to have a good knowledge of a wide range of set vocabulary. Also new elements of assessment in the examinations will include dictation and reading aloud. During your GCSE Spanish studies you will have the opportunity to take part in a visit to Spain to improve your spoken Spanish as well as increasing your cultural awareness.

Examination Board: AQA

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8692>

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



SPORT SCIENCE

Overview:

Do you play for a school team or participate in a sport outside of school? Do you have a high level of fitness? If you do, GCSE Sport Science could be the right option for you. GCSE Sport Science comprises of a practical component, a NEA (written coursework) and two written examinations.

Practical Content

GCSE Sport Science is an exciting opportunity for you to cover practical sports in detail, developing skills and tactics and participating with other able athletes in your year. A variety of sports and skills are covered within the two years, and you will get many opportunities to take part in new sports.

Theoretical Content

There are a number of theoretical modules that you will study over the duration of the course and they are:

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Physical Training
- Sports Psychology
- Health, Fitness and Well-Being
- Movement Analysis
- Socio-Cultural Influences
- Use of Data

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

Practical performance is assessed in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or an individual activity).

Students then undertake an analysis and evaluation of a sporting performance and will be required to highlight specific improvement areas of the stated activity for the NEA. Both this analysis and evaluation combined with the practical assessment will equate to 40% of your overall GCSE Sports Science grade.

You will then be assessed on this theoretical content through two written examination papers that are both 1 hour 15 minutes long. Each paper is marked out of 78 and each paper combined, equates to 60% of your overall GCSE Grade (each paper worth 30% of your final grade).

(Please note, GCSE lessons are in addition to core PE which is compulsory through to the end of Year 11.)



TEXTILES

Overview:

This course is for students who enjoy working with their hands, and have fun learning new methods of decorating, making, and constructing fabrics. There will be opportunities to explore creating your own textiles with processes such as dyeing, digital printing, weaving, felting, and then developing these into garments, wall hangings and sculptural textiles using a variety of contemporary and traditional fabric manipulation techniques.

You will:

- Gain experience of contemporary textile artists' techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies.
- Learn to have a critical eye when talking and writing about how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed in images and your own work.
- Begin to consider elements related to social, historical, and cultural issues that will be useful in other subjects you study and in future employment.
- Learn how to develop a skill then experiment and stretch these skills within your sketch book.
- Develop exploration of recording, refining, and presenting textiles outcomes whether they are garments or art pieces.

Additional experiences include **computer-aided design, photography**, and a combination of virtual and real-time **visits to exhibitions**. It is vital that you speak with the relevant member of the Art department to ensure that you are matched to the best Art option for your skills.

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

Unit 1: Controlled Assessment	80 Marks - 60% At least two sketchbooks in a portfolio of work which demonstrates development of textile skills and techniques.
Unit 2: Externally Set Task	80 Marks – 40% Topic chosen from a selection. Preparation period of about six weeks with a 10 hour focussed study under examination conditions.



PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND ETHICS (GCSE 'Religious Studies')

Overview:

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is a fascinating subject that covers the big questions of life such as: Why are we here? Is there an afterlife? What is right and wrong?

We learn in varied ways during lessons, for example, you will spend lots of time engaged in debate and discussion. You will also learn how to put forward strong and persuasive arguments. You should bring an open mind as you will be studying topics from a wide range of different perspectives. This is a Full Course GCSE and is highly respected by employers, colleges and universities.

Why Philosophy, Religion and Ethics?

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics helps you to develop your critical thinking skills; as well as your analysis, evaluate and debating skills. You learn about the beliefs and values of others and have the opportunity to reflect critically on your own.

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics has many applicable careers such as Law, the Government, the Civil Service, the Media, Counselling, Journalism, Social Work, Teaching, Medicine, the Police and the Army, to name but a few. The broad range of knowledge and skills that you gain can in fact be applied to any subject area.

You will study philosophical arguments for and against the Existence of God; why religious and non-religious people believe what they do; along with a wide range of ethical issues such as Religion and Terrorism, Abortion, Euthanasia and the Death Penalty. All of your studies will include the different religious teachings on these issues, as well as non-religious ideas and viewpoints with your personal views being VERY important!

Examination Board: AQA

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

Paper 1: Written examination	The Study of Religious Beliefs and Practices 50% (1 hr 45 minutes)
Paper 2: Written examination	Philosophical and Ethical Themes 50% (1 hr 45 minutes)

