

The Queen Elizabeth Academy



Options Booklet 2020

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Principal's Introduction



I am delighted to introduce you to TQEA options booklet for 2020. We hope that you will find important information about the courses that we offer for study by our students in years 9-11.

I am proud that we offer a broad and balanced curriculum at this school. It is a curriculum which allows students to take options which are both varied and exciting and which will help support them as they progress towards their careers. The decisions that Year 8 will be taking now, with the support of parents and teachers, are crucial and I urge you to take time to consider your subject choices carefully. Please study this booklet and talk to staff at school to ensure that you have all the information you need.

At TQEA students achieve well and we aim to ensure that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to compete with any students across the country. GCSEs and other level 2 courses are a vital indicator for young people to progress successfully to college courses, university degrees, employment and work based training. Therefore, it is important that you choose options which match your interests and career aspirations.

You will notice in the booklet that we offer a core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science and Religious Education. We have guided choices for some pupils which allow them to thrive and progress in certain academic areas. There are also new subjects for students to explore such as Engineering, Ancient History and Sociology. With all of these options, it often helps to talk to other students who are already doing these subjects, to find out more about what they are like to study.

Please remember that you will be choosing options for the remainder of your time at TQEA and, therefore, it is vital that you choose subjects which are right for you for the next three years and beyond. With students now required to stay in education or work based training until the age of 18 there is no doubt that these qualifications will support the next stage of your journey.

Whatever subjects you decide to do you will find that the learning at TQEA will ensure that you progress as an individual, achieve excellent results and make a positive contribution to the wider community.

Our dedicated staff are always here to help and provide further guidance should you require it.

Mr. N Harding (Principal)

The Curriculum

TQEA's Curriculum Intent

We've developed a broad and balanced curriculum that enables students to learn, recall and apply knowledge and skills across different contexts, supported by robust and consistent assessment. This will create successful and resilient lifelong learners who can cope in a range of changing contexts.

Core Subjects

All students will study the following GCSE subjects:

- ◆ English Language and English Literature
- ◆ Maths
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Religious Education
- ◆ PSHE

Students will also participate in core PE which is not a qualification, unless students take it as an option. Some students are also given the choice of French or Spanish as a compulsory core subject. Other students can choose one of these languages as an option.

What is the EBacc?

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

- ◆ English Language and Literature
- ◆ Maths
- ◆ The Sciences, including Computer Science
- ◆ Geography or History
- ◆ A Language

The EBacc is made up of the subjects which the Russell Group of Universities says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees. Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their opportunities beyond school. 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. The government's ambition is to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022, and 90% by 2025.

The Curriculum

Options Subjects

Students will all study 4 Options subjects.

All students have to choose from either Geography, History or Ancient History. If students wanted to they could study all of these by choosing them in their 'Free Options'.

Some students are directed to choose a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) and can study either French or Spanish. All students are allowed to do a MFL, even if they haven't been directed.

Students then choose 2, or 3, more subjects, to make their 4 option subjects. These are classed as their 'Free Options'.

You will find a page devoted to each option. While TQEA is proud of the breadth of options, due to unforeseen issues, some options may not be able to run. As a result, not all students may get all of their preferred options choices, making it important that they provide a reserve.

Other subjects

PSHE

From September, every student in Year 9 will have a discrete, weekly, Personal, Social and Health Education lesson. They will develop the essential skills and knowledge needed to live healthily and deal with issues they may face as they approach adulthood.

Our objectives are that each student is encouraged to *develop self-esteem, confidence, independence and responsibility and to make the most of their abilities; play an active role as future citizens and members of society; develop a healthy lifestyle and keep themselves and others safe; develop effective and fulfilling relationships and learn to respect the difference between people.*

We offer a spiral curriculum in PSHE which builds on the students' own experiences and the work done in Key Stages. PSHE will cover key topics such as: health and well-being including mental health, substance misuse, sex and relationships education, diversity, British Values, the media, e-safety, economic well-being and financial literacy. Careers education will also be delivered during these lessons. There will be many other opportunities where students are able to develop and practise their personal and social skills. These will include: *assemblies; being aware of the decision-making processes through Student Voice; tutorial discussions on the 'Thought for the Week'; Whole School Focus Weeks; Student Leadership opportunities – College Captains, Peer Mentors, Anti-bullying Ambassadors, Extra-curricular activities (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh award scheme & sports clubs).*

Core PE

PE is a continuation of previous experiences and a provision of new activities. PE's emphasis still lies in participation and involvement in activity, but individual students can also pursue their own interests. All students take part in a form of PE, to maintain physical fitness, but also to develop social skills/interests.

The Curriculum

How to choose options?

We are using a paperless options process called 'SIMS Options Online'. After Options Evening, students will receive an email where they can make their choices. They can also indicate a reserve in case their preferred option is not viable. We strongly suggests parents read this email so that they can be part of this incredibly important process. The deadline for options choices is **the 24th April**. After then, students will have choices allocated on their behalf.

Career Advice—Kudos

Kudos is an online programme which will give students all of the information they need to make important decisions about future careers and what subjects, courses and training they can do to reach their career destination.

If students are unsure of what careers they might be interested in, Kudos can give ideas based on what they like and dislike. Students can also discover what careers their subject choices can lead to. Packed with information on what employers are looking for, what students can earn in the future and what qualifications they'll need, Kudos is a passport to exploring the future. Students will be creating accounts on Kudos in ICT lessons at school. If they have not yet done this, they can create an account on the following website <https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk> using our access code which is 'goodyear39'.



Ancient History

Introduction to Subject

Ancient History is a fascinating course that involves the study of people and events across the Ancient Greek and Roman World. It gives students the opportunity to study some of the most interesting characters in western history such as Alexander the Great, Cleopatra and Hannibal. The course covers a number of areas of the ancient world including Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Ancient Britain and Ancient Persia (the naughty people in the movie *300!*). The subject offers an exciting opportunity to study the ancient world and explore its influences on modern society – did you know that around 150,000 words in the English language have their origins in Ancient Greek, including the word *marmalade*! The study of Ancient History is unique as it also includes the study of the physical past through Archaeology. This will include the study of such things as ancient buildings, statues, coins and weapons.



Key topics studied

- ◆ The Persian Empire 559-465 BC
- ◆ Athens in the 5th Century BC
- ◆ The origins of the Roman Empire
- ◆ Roman Britain, AD 43-84

How will I be assessed?

- **Two papers, equally weighted, both 100 marks with questions ranging from simple one word answers to extended writing tasks and questions requiring an essay style approach.**
- **Paper 1: Greece and Persia; Paper 2 Rome and its neighbours. Both 1hr 45 minutes long.**

Possible careers

- ◆ Journalist
- ◆ Lawyer
- ◆ Museum Curator

Linked Subjects

- ◆ History
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Sociology



Art & Design

Introduction to Subject

Students with an interest and talent in Art have a good chance of success on the GCSE course, provided they work hard. During the course, different themes and projects are introduced which are intended to help students develop their drawing, painting, printing, 3D, research and design skills. Students will be taught new skills and techniques, as well as being encouraged to improve those they already know and have developed at Key Stage 3. Students will begin to develop a good idea of what their strengths are and with support, will become more independent in their approach to projects.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Observational drawings and recordings
- ◆ Artist research/development/influence
- ◆ Encouragement of personal creativity
- ◆ Media Exploration
- ◆ Design & outcomes

How will I be assessed?

- **The course is made up of 2 components. The Personal Portfolio is worth 60% of the total grade and the Externally Set Assignment is worth 40%.**
- **The four Assessment Objectives are based around artists, drawings, media, design and outcomes.**

Possible careers

- ◆ Fine Artist
- ◆ Art Director
- ◆ Designer (Interior, Architect etc.)
- ◆ Art/Gallery Curator
- ◆ Animator

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Design Technology
- ◆ English Literature
- ◆ History
- ◆ Engineering



Business Studies

Introduction to Subject

Whether you are interested in owning a business, managing a business, or working for a business, this subject is for you. Be sure to impress any employer or investor by gaining a knowledge of how businesses are run and how they should be managed. Students are encouraged to consider the practical application of business and economic concepts. The GCSE Business specification caters for all abilities. It is tested by a range of question styles, ranging from multiple choice and short answer questions to then analysing case studies and writing essay style answers.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Business in the real world
- ◆ Influences on business
- ◆ Marketing
- ◆ Production and procurement
- ◆ Finance
- ◆ People in business
- ◆ Operations Management
- ◆ Business Law

How will I be assessed?

- ◆ Paper 1 - Influences of operations and HRM on business activity — 1hr 45 Exam
- ◆ Paper 2 - Influences of marketing and finance on business activity — 1hr 45 Exam

Possible careers

- ◆ Banking
- ◆ Marketing/Advertising Executive
- ◆ Retail Management
- ◆ Accountancy
- ◆ Personnel

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Statistics
- ◆ English
- ◆ Maths
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ Computing



Computer Science

Introduction to Subject

Computer Science is as much a skillset as a subject. Students learn abstraction and decomposition skills through their programming in Python. Skills that would apply to Mathematics and Engineering disciplines. Students study the intricacies of how computers work and share information through the constantly changing role they play in society. We develop and analyse different problem solving methods and apply them to programming problems to solve real world situations.



Key topics studied

- ◆ 1.1 System architecture
- ◆ 1.2 Memory and Storage
- ◆ 1.3 Computer Networks
- ◆ 1.5 Systems software
- ◆ 1.6 Morals and Ethics
- ◆ 2.1 Algorithms
- ◆ 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- ◆ 2.3 Producing robust programs
- ◆ 2.4 Boolean logic
- ◆ 2.5 Programming languages an Integrated Development Environments

How will I be assessed?

Two examination papers, equally weighted, both of 80 marks:

- **Computer Systems**

Possible careers

- ◆ Software and App development
- ◆ Computer games authoring
- ◆ Information Security Analyst
- ◆ Computer Hardware Engineer

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Science



Drama

Introduction to Subject

Drama is a form of expression which is about much more than just acting. Throughout the course students develop the skills of observation, communication, teamwork, analysis and empathy - which are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people and the skill of planning and collaboration to meet tight deadlines. The course demands energy, enthusiasm and the ability to work sensitively with others. Students must have a commitment to extra-curricula involvement in order to get the best out of the subject. Almost three quarters of the course is assessed on a student's written answers, rather than their acting. The course also involves the study and analysis and evaluation of a range of play texts and how productions are staged.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Performance of plays
- ◆ Analysing and evaluating live theatre
- ◆ Theatre practitioners
- ◆ Stage craft and management
- ◆ Study of plays
- ◆ Improvisation, script writing and directing

How will I be assessed?

- **Component One: Understanding Drama** (Written exam, 1 hour 45 minutes 40%)
- **Component Two: Devising Drama** (Devised performance 10% and written coursework log 30%)
- **Component Three: Texts in Practice** (Performance of two extracts from one play 20%)

Possible careers

- ◆ Performing/production
- ◆ TV and Film
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Teaching
- ◆ Human resources

Linked Subjects

- ◆ English Literature
- ◆ Music
- ◆ History
- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Art



Engineering

Introduction to Subject

Students who choose Engineering will look at the development of key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research; observation; measurement; production; using computer-aided design (CAD) and disassembly. Students will increase their knowledge of key engineering sectors (mechanical, electrical/ electronic and engineering design) and the interrelation of each in industry. Students will also gain knowledge of the stages involved in planning and implementing an engineering project as well as key skills involved in the investigation of solutions to engineering problems in response to a given brief.

The UK is proud of its engineering heritage and this BTEC is a good first stage for aspiring engineers.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Exploring Engineering Sectors and Design Application (Internal) **EXPLORE**
- ◆ Investigating an Engineering Project (Internal) **DEVELOP**
- ◆ Responding to an Engineering Brief (External) **APPLY**

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1—2 internally assessed assignments—30% of the course.
- Component 2—3 internally assessed assignments—30% of the course.
- Component 3—Externally assessed tasks (practical and written)—40% of the course.

Possible careers

- ◆ Mechanical Engineering
- ◆ Design
- ◆ Electrical Engineering
- ◆ Manufacturing
- ◆ Production

Linked Subjects

- ◆ STEM (at KS3)
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Maths and Statistics
- ◆ Computing
- ◆ Art



English Language

Introduction to Subject

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day – and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life. English will help you work independently, creatively, think critically and communicate your ideas with confidence. English at TQEA is structured with a high degree of academic rigour but the content is engaging and fun.



Key topics studied

- ◆ English Language and literary texts
- ◆ Written Language
- ◆ A range of texts including fiction and nonfiction
- ◆ Novels, plays and poetry
- ◆ Creative writing

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1– 50% (20th century text: 40 marks reading; 40 marks writing)

Paper 2– 50% (21st century and 19th century texts: 40 marks reading; 40 marks writing)

Possible careers

- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Publishing
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Marketing

Linked Subjects

- ◆ English Literature
- ◆ History
- ◆ Media
- ◆ RE
- ◆ Sociology

Qualification Details: GCSE AQA English Language (8700) Curriculum Leader: Mr Armishaw



English Literature

Introduction to Subject

English Literature is the perfect partner to English Language. The skills of both subjects overlap and interweave: studying one benefits the other. English Literature will see students reading a range of established literary texts in the English canon, spanning three centuries, allowing students to be critical in their analysis. By the end of the GCSE, students will have a grasp of some of the most important texts of English Literature and will be able to confidently comment on their significance and their importance. They will be able to recognise that whilst a text had a particular purpose, audience and context, a text can also resonate to today (Macbeth reflected in Donald Trump, or austerity reflected in 'An Inspector Calls').



Key topics studied

- ◆ Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'
- ◆ Conan Doyle's 'The Sign of Four'
- ◆ Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'
- ◆ A collection of poetry, ranging from the 18th century to the contemporary, focused on 'power and conflict'
- ◆ 'Unseen' poetry

How will I be assessed?

- **2 exams: Paper 1 is 1 hour and 30 mins (40%); Paper 2 is 2 hours and 15 mins (60%)**
- **Paper 1: 'Macbeth' and 'The Sign of Four'**
- **Paper 2: 'An Inspector Calls', conflict poetry comparison and unseen poetry**

Possible careers

- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ Accounting
- ◆ Publishing
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Marketing

Linked Subjects

- ◆ English Language
- ◆ History
- ◆ RE
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ Drama



French

Introduction to Subject

French is very important for present and future careers. If students enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE French is an excellent choice. Students will be adding an international dimension to their choice of Key Stage 4 subjects, which is something many universities and future employers look for. French does not rely solely on writing but also relies on speaking, listening and reading skills. Students will be able to use revision apps, such as Memrise, to engage their learning of vocabulary. Above all, being able to speak French is fun!



Key topics studied

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international, and global, areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

How will I be assessed?

- **The course is split between Higher/Foundation GCSE**
- This course is broken into skills which are examined separately. The GCSE has changed so there is no controlled assessment; it is broken down into assessed units:
- Writing 25%
- Speaking 25%
- Reading comprehension 25%
- Listening comprehension 25%

Possible careers

- Teachers; holiday reps
- Interpreters/translators
- Scientists; businesses
- International lawyers

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Geography
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ History

Qualification Details: GCSE AQA 8658 Curriculum Leader: Mrs N Harris



Geography

Introduction to Subject

The world in which we live in, is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. Geography tackles, investigates and searches for answers, developing knowledge and understanding for big issues and challenges like environmental responsibility; our global interdependence and place in the World; cultural understanding and tolerance. The transferable skills which Geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking and provides a firm basis for life-long learning. You will be able to see the world that you live in, question and answer why it is like this and what the future holds.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Ever changing rivers and coasts
- ◆ Growing UK cities
- ◆ The future of energy
- ◆ World cities
- ◆ Developing World Countries
- ◆ Climate change and the threats to the planet

How will I be assessed?

- Geography is a linear course, which means that students will be assessed at the end of Year 11. There are 3 units in which students are assessed.
- Unit 01 – Living in the UK – 30% Unit 02 – The World around Us – 30% Unit 03 – Geographical Skills – 40%

Possible careers

- ◆ Discover new places — Travel Agent, Tourism Officer, Media Researcher
- ◆ Enjoy being in the outdoors — Coastal Manager, Geologist, Civil Engineer, Surveyor, police force
- ◆ Interested in people— Planner, Social Worker, Market Researcher, Diplomat

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Science
- ◆ English
- ◆ Maths
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ History



History

Introduction to Subject

History offers a storehouse of information about how people and societies behave. How can we evaluate war if the nation is at peace unless we use historical materials? How can we understand genius, the influence of technological innovation, or the role that beliefs play in shaping family life, if we don't use what we know about experiences in the past? This is what historians consider an analytical approach. In addition, History well told is beautiful. It involves skilful writing and accuracy. An excellent foundation for life.



Key topics studied

- ◆ America 1840-1895 Expansion and Consolidation
- ◆ Britain : Health and the People c1000-present
- ◆ The Inter-War Years 1918-1939
- ◆ Elizabethan England c1568-1603.

How will I be assessed?

- Two exams, both containing two papers, equally weighted, each paper has 40 marks plus six SPAG marks with questions ranging from 4-16 marks. Questions range from source or interpretation questions to low 6 essay style questions worth 12– 16 marks.
- **Exam 1** : America and Inter-War; **Exam 2**: Health and the People and Elizabeth.

Possible careers

- ◆ Archaeologist
- ◆ Genealogist
- ◆ Media Research
- ◆ Museum Curator
- ◆ Law-Solicitor, Barrister

Linked Subjects

- ◆ English Literature
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Media Studies
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ Art



Hospitality and Catering

Introduction to Subject

Food studies allows students to develop a knowledge of foods including their functional and chemical characteristics as well as a sound knowledge of their nutritional properties and the impact of this on health and well being. The subject encourages students to explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) and to understand the socio-economic and environmental factors around sourcing, preparing and cooking food. The knowledge base of the course is underpinned by a range of practical activities and skill sessions. The course includes study of the Hospitality and Catering industry and possible careers within it.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Healthy eating, diet and nutrition
- ◆ Types of foods and food commodities
- ◆ Cooking and preparation methods
- ◆ Traditional British and foreign foods
- ◆ The hospitality and catering industry
- ◆ Practical food preparation, cooking and presentation skills

How will I be assessed?

- One written exam counting 40% of the grade containing a range of types and lengths of questions
- One non-exam assessment completed in school including a practical exam session

Possible careers

- ◆ Food scientist
- ◆ Dietician
- ◆ Product development
- ◆ The hospitality and catering industry
- ◆ Environmental health

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Sports Science
- ◆ Science



Information Technology

Introduction to Subject

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Around 1.46 million people work in digital companies and there are around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time.

This course looks to give real work place scenarios and situations to students. Students are expected to independently research and evaluate methodologies and strategies to develop and build tools to aid the businesses from a digital background. This course fosters and builds skills of time management and independence and can benefit students abstract thought.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
- ◆ Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
- ◆ Component 3: Modern technology/ Cyber Security/ implications of Digital Systems/ Communication

How will I be assessed?

- ◆ Components 1 & 2 are internally assessed coursework assignments, each with 3 individual coursework's, totalling 6 worth 10% each.
- ◆ Component 3 is externally assessed through an exam, and is worth 40% of the total course.

Possible careers

- ◆ App development
- ◆ Logistics
- ◆ Data modeller/analyst
- ◆ Graphic design
- ◆ Web development

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Computer Science
- ◆ Business Studies
- ◆ STEM
- ◆ Art and Design
- ◆ Media Studies



Qualification Details: BTEC in Digital Information Technology Curriculum Leader: Mr Packwood

Mathematics

Introduction to Subject

Mathematics is not just as a collection of skills; but a way of thinking. We aim to inspire our pupils to appreciate the beauty of Mathematics and use its logic skilfully across all areas of the school curriculum and life. GCSE Mathematics is a subject that every student has to study, with the importance of the subject never being more prominent. Almost every profession uses mathematics in some form on a daily basis.



Key topics studied

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

How will I be assessed?

- GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9).
- Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series. Each paper is 90 minutes in length regardless of tier. There is no coursework component to the course.

Possible careers

- ◆ Architect
- ◆ Risk Management
- ◆ Accountant
- ◆ Engineer
- ◆ Computer Game Designer

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Statistics
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Computer Science
- ◆ Engineering



Media Studies

Introduction to Subject

In Media Studies, students analyse and think critically about the way we communicate information and ideas. Media forms are major sources of modern culture and entertainment, making up much of our cultural diets. What we see in the cinema, broadcasting (television and radio), advertising, photography and the press, help us form ideas about the world around us, and in Media Studies we explore how and why the media do this and the impact this has on audiences. Students will also have the opportunity to be creative and imaginative as they design and produce their own media based material such as films, magazines and websites. Media Studies is a fascinating and thought-provoking subject, ideal for students who enjoy learning brand new skills, using technology and being creative.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Film and Television Industries
- ◆ Music Videos and Magazines
- ◆ News and Advertising
- ◆ Video Games and Social Media
- ◆ Analysing media language and representation
- ◆ Practical application (creating own media forms)
- ◆ Understanding media contexts
- ◆ Media theories

How will I be assessed?

- **Paper 1**—Television and Promoting Media (35%)
- **Paper 2**— Music and News (35%)
- **Non-examination Assessment**—Designing your own website/magazine/music video (30%)

Possible careers

- ◆ Journalism
- ◆ TV/Film production
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Video/ audio editing
- ◆ Graphic design

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Computing
- ◆ English
- ◆ History
- ◆ Art and Design
- ◆ Business Studies



Music

Introduction to Subject

GCSE Music will provide a contemporary, accessible and creative subject with an integrated approach to the three main elements of Music: performing, composing and appraising. Students are encouraged to be creative and to broaden their musical horizons and understanding, being inspired and challenged. Students will explore performance and composition with a focus on their own instrument and genre choices and explore new instrumental skills. It is essential students receive peripatetic tuition throughout the course: this is vital for the 60% controlled assessment component. Through the various genres, styles and eras students will explore musical context, musical language, and performance and composition skills.



Key topics studied

- ◆ My Music
- ◆ Rhythms of the World
- ◆ Conventions of Pop
- ◆ Film Music
- ◆ The Concerto Through Time

How will I be assessed?

- Two performance pieces, one solo and one ensemble; both performances are the students' choice of genre (30%)
- Two Compositions, one students choice of genre, one set to OCR brief (30%)
- Listening and Appraising Exam (40%)

Possible careers

- ◆ Professional Musician
- ◆ Sound Engineer
- ◆ Music Producer
- ◆ Music Teacher
- ◆ Music Therapist

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Media
- ◆ English
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Art
- ◆ Maths



Religious Education

Introduction to Subject

Religious Studies is an important subject to study in 21st Century Britain. Not only is it increasingly important to have clear understanding of faiths that pupils may come in contact with, Christianity is embedded within our culture and shapes our society today. Religious beliefs and teachings are only 50% of the GCSE. Philosophy and Ethics is a key component of the GCSE with pupils looking at question such as, “Are all humans equal”, “Is It ever right to end a life?”, “Is marriage still relevant today?” and “What do I think about life after death?” It is these questions that give opportunity to show critical thinking, developed reasoning and evaluation skills. It is these skills which employers expect in candidates.



Key topics studied

- ◆ Relationships
- ◆ Life and Death
- ◆ Good and Evil
- ◆ Human Rights
- ◆ Christianity
- ◆ Hinduism

How will I be assessed?

- There are three exams. Two papers are worth 25% of the course total and one hour each – Hinduism and Christianity. There will be two sets of A-D questions in each paper.
- The third paper, worth 50% of your GCSE grade, is two hours long and is on the Philosophy and Ethics part of the course looking at Human Rights, Relationships, Good and Evil and Life and Death.

Possible careers

- ◆ Careers in law
- ◆ Police work
- ◆ Working for the government
- ◆ Teaching
- ◆ Social work

Linked Subjects

- ◆ History
- ◆ English
- ◆ Sociology
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Citizenship



Science – Trilogy

Introduction to Subject

Students study the content of GCSE Science, which helps them to make sense of the Science they come across in everyday life. They come to appreciate what Science can tell them about themselves, the environment and the Universe. Students achieve two GCSE grades, with scores from each Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) combined to define an overall double grade. Their overall grades are determined through linear assessment at the end of their Year 11 studies. Practical skills are assessed through written assessment, incorporated into each of their individual Year 11 examinations.



Key topics studied

- Forces and energy
- Waves and Magnetism
- Atomic structure and states of matter
- Types of chemical reactions
- Plant structures and their functions
- Human Biology

How will I be assessed?

- AQA Trilogy GCSE (9–1) in Combined Science consists of six externally examined papers. These are available at foundation tier and higher tier.
- Each paper is 1 hour and fifteen minutes in duration and consists of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions.

Possible careers

- ◆ Engineer
- ◆ Sports Science
- ◆ Doctor
- ◆ Veterinary surgeon
- ◆ Pharmacist

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ English
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ RE
- ◆ PE



Science – Triple

Introduction to Subject

Students who study Separate Science achieve a GCSE in each of the three Sciences. GCSE Science helps students to make sense of the world and universe around them, and explain the Science they come across in everyday life. Students come to appreciate what Science can tell them about themselves, the environment and the universe. Students achieve three separate GCSE grades; one in Biology, another in Chemistry and a third in Physics. Their overall grade for each Science GCSE is calculated through linear examinations. Practical skills are assessed through written assessment, incorporated into each of their individual Year 11 examinations.



Key topics studied

- Forces and energy
- Waves and Magnetism
- Atomic structure and states of matter
- Types of chemical reactions
- Plant structures and their functions
- Human Biology

How will I be assessed?

Each of the sciences consist of two externally-examined papers. Each paper is one hour forty-five minutes long and consists of a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open-response questions. These are available at foundation tier and higher tier. The content of the course includes twenty one core practicals.

Possible careers

- ◆ Engineer
- ◆ Sports Science
- ◆ Doctor
- ◆ Veterinary surgeon
- ◆ Pharmacist

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ English
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ RE
- ◆ PE

Qualification Details: GCSE AQA : 8461, 8462, 8463 Curriculum Leader: Miss K Rowan



Sociology

Introduction to Subject

Sociology holds up a mirror to society and explains how society is formed and shaped. While psychology analyses the individual, it is important to recognise that Sociology is different in that it is the study of human social relationships and institutions. The subject matter is diverse, from crime and religion, to the family and social class. We look at the different approaches to view society, and how these have been shaped by historical sociologists. There is a range of analysis of data required, as well as an appreciation of research methods, culminating in detailed and evaluative written answers. Sociology is an exciting subject that explains important matters in our lives, our communities and the world.



Key topics studied

- ◆ The Sociological Approaches
- ◆ Families
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Crime and Deviance
- ◆ Social Stratification
- ◆ Sociological Research Methods

How will I be assessed?

- Two papers, equally weighted, both of 100 marks with questions ranging from some multiple choice and low order questions to then 4 essay style questions worth 12 marks.
- **Paper 1:** Families and Education; **Paper 2:** Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification

Possible careers

- ◆ Market research
- ◆ Guidance services
- ◆ Public Relations
- ◆ Lawyer
- ◆ HR Representative

Linked Subjects

- ◆ English Language
- ◆ History
- ◆ Religion
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Statistics



Spanish

Introduction to Subject

Languages open doors for students in their future careers. Spanish is not just an important language within the European community but also in many other parts of the world and is the fastest growing international language. The possibilities of using Spanish skills are increasingly valued by employers and are endless. Being able to master a language ensures that you are successful when applying for jobs. Languages develops creativity, imagination and life-long skills such as communication, comprehension, being able to have a good rapport with people around you and dealing with challenging situations in the work place. Languages is a skill for life; learning Spanish will be something students find enjoyable and rewarding.



Key topics studied

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international, and global, areas of interest

How will I be assessed?

- **The course is split between Higher/Foundation GCSE**
- This course is broken into skills which are examined separately. The GCSE has changed so there is no controlled assessment; it is broken down into assessed units:

Writing 25%

Speaking 25%

Reading comprehension 25%

Listening comprehension 25%

Possible careers

- Teachers; holiday reps
- Interpreters/translators
- Scientists; businesses
- International lawyers

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Geography
- ◆ English Language
- ◆ History

Qualification Details: AQA 8698 Curriculum Leader: Mrs N Harris



Sport Science

Introduction to Subject

Sport Science seeks to enable students to be on a shared pathway in Year 9 allowing students to experience both courses. The course is split into practical and theory lessons. Students have the opportunity to bring both sections of the course together with practical examples in theory lessons and bringing the theory to life in practical lessons. In Year 9 there are two overlapping units from **both GCSE and BTEC** looking at personal exercise plans, health, fitness and exercise and practical performance units. A final pathway decision is made at the end of the first year, using assessments, test scores, homework and practical grades to help make this informed decision.



Key topics studied

- Health and Wellbeing
- Media and Sport
- Psychology and Sport
- Skeletal system
- Muscular system
- Cardiovascular system
- Levers and axis in the body

How will I be assessed?

GCSE

- 30% Practical
- 60% Examination
- 10% Coursework

BTEC

- 75% Controlled Assessment
- 25% Online theory exam

Possible careers

- Sports management
- Sports coaching
- Personal trainer
- Teaching
- Physiotherapy
- Movement Analysis

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Science (Human body)
- ◆ Media (Media and sponsorship)
- ◆ Food (Diet and Nutrition)
- ◆ Geography (Culture and Influences)

Qualification Details: Exam Board: GCSE EDEXCEL Curriculum Leader: Miss Wilson



Statistics

Introduction to Subject

Communication, opinion, analysis and enjoyment. Students will now be offered the opportunity to complete a high-quality GCSE in Statistics. With the new curriculum studying statistics in more depth, the students will cover a large section of the course through the normal mathematics lessons but Statistics allows the flexibility to delve a little deeper.



Key topics studied

- ◆ How to collect, summarise and represent unbiased data
- ◆ The skills necessary to read, analyse and interpret data/various diagrams and statistical statements
- ◆ To develop your ability to reason and discuss results
- ◆ How to predict what will happen in the future by making forecasts based on statistical results and considering the probability of something happening.

How will I be assessed?

- This GCSE in Statistics has a straightforward assessment structure, with two externally assessed papers. Both papers contain Multiple choice, short answer and a Statistical Enquiry Cycle question.
- It is available at foundation and higher tiers, making it suitable for students of all abilities and ensuring they're assessed appropriately.

Possible careers

- ◆ Forensic statistician
- ◆ Sports analyst
- ◆ Pharmaceutical industry
- ◆ Entrepreneur
- ◆ Meteorologist

Linked Subjects

- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Science
- ◆ Engineering
- ◆ Geography



Students' Testimony

“I didn't realise how hard one of my subjects was going to be until I spoke to the teacher at options evening. I'm really happy I ended up with the ones I ended up taking. Make sure you speak to the teachers.”

“My advice would be to choose subjects you like—not the ones you like because of your friends or the teacher.”

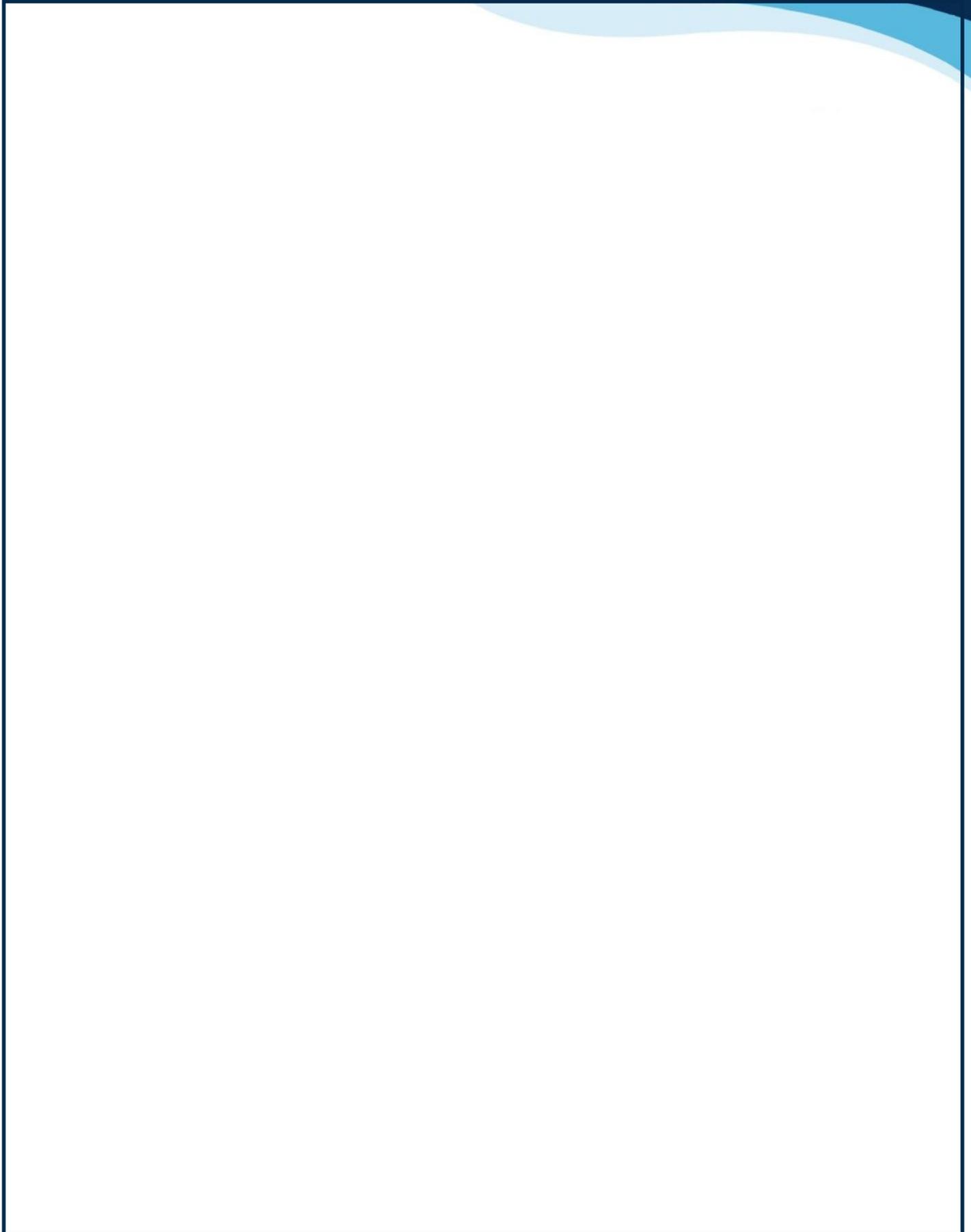


“I got all but one of my choices and I'm really happy with the one I didn't choose. Sociology is now my favourite subject and I want to study it further.”



“When I was taking my options I was a bit anxious but after speaking to my older brother and the subject teachers and thinking about what I would like to do in the future, my decisions were much easier. Looking back at when I chose my options I am happy with them and would not change them.”

Notes Page





**The Queen Elizabeth
Academy**

"We Can and We Will"

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