

YEAR 9 OPTIONS BOOKLET 2025



www.mosslands.co.uk



IMPORTANT DATES

Year 9 Parents Evening	Thursday 30th January
Final date for students to return their Option Form	Monday 10th February



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Key Stage 4 Options Booklet for 2025, which I hope you find interesting and informative.

The information in this booklet details the process of choosing your options for study during Y10 and Y11. In making your choices, you need to consider carefully, these four subjects will make up 40% of your lesson time over the next two years.

The purpose of this booklet is to:

- Present to you and your parents the curriculum and courses which are planned for September 2025.
- Advise you of performance measures at Key Stage 4.
- Explain the syllabus content, course structure and assessment arrangements for these courses.
- Help you to make decisions, which will be appropriate, relevant and lead to success in the next and subsequent stages of student life.

Our aim is to provide you with a broad and balanced curriculum, tailored to your individual needs which leads to a range of possibilities and opportunities post 16.

Since the National Curriculum continues until the end of Year 11, some of what is studied at Key Stage 4 is compulsory. These subjects are outlined on The Core Programme pages of this booklet. The rest of the Key Stage 4 curriculum is optional. You will need to spend some time discussing and selecting which subjects to study for the next two years.

For students, this is an exciting but often challenging time and I would urge you to communicate with Subject Tutors, Form Tutors, House staff, Careers Advisors and myself in order to ensure that the right decisions are made, as changing courses in September is very difficult.

It is important that the Options Form is returned to school no later than Monday 10th February.

The Options booklet contains a wealth of information about courses, examinations and other requirements and so should be kept safe so you can refer to it over the next two years. Please note, that although we aim to provide you with your first choice courses, we cannot guarantee this as some courses are limited in number by the need for specialist facilities. It is possible that some courses may not run due to lack of numbers and some combinations will prove impossible to timetable. This is why you are asked to select reserve choices and these need just as careful consideration as your preferred choices.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Mosslands, I would like to wish you every success as you embark on this new and exciting phase of your education.

Mr J Sanford
(Deputy Headteacher)



Q&A - GUIDANCE

What subjects must I study?

All students must study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (which counts as 2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs if you take Separate Sciences), Core ICT (Digital Literacy), PE, RE and Careers.

What changes have there been to GCSEs?

As you may be aware the Government has completed a process of moving GCSE grades from the traditional letter grades (A*-G) to numerical grades (9-1, where 9 is the highest). All of your qualifications will be reported numerically in the summer of 2027, apart from the vocational qualifications e.g. BTEC or CTEC subjects.

What other considerations are there?

The Government has performance measures by which schools and students are judged. Three of these are the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), Progress 8 and Attainment8. Colleges, Universities and employers look at an individual's performance in these areas.

The EBacc is achieved if a student gains a minimum of GCSE grade 5 in English, Maths, at least two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanities (Geography or History) subject.

The Attainment and Progress 8 scores takes an average of the 'Best 8' GCSE grades (or equivalent) a student achieves, including English, Maths and at least 3 other EBacc subjects.

Based on the Government's current position it is believed that the EBacc and 'Best 8' qualifications will become increasingly important. Consequently, you will want to make sure you are well placed to capitalise on these measures.

Can I take anything I want?

You already know that some subjects are compulsory. You need to make four option choices (one from each block).

Out of your four choices, you should include at least one subject from History, Geography, French, Spanish, Computer Science and Separate Sciences (These are all highlighted in yellow on the options form).

If this presents you with any difficulties, please speak to Mr Sanford. It is possible that some subjects will not run because of lack of numbers or that some courses will be oversubscribed. That is why you are asked to indicate a reserve choice in each block, indicating it with a '2', and you need to think about these as carefully as your preferred choices.



Do I have to choose a language?

The short answer is no. However, there is a strong demand for people with qualifications and proficiency in at least one modern language and such qualifications will strengthen future applications for Higher and Further Education. If you enjoy languages, you should think carefully about studying French or Spanish. Also be mindful that a language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate.

Will I be able to change my mind next year?

No - it will not be possible to move between subjects after the beginning of Year 10 so you are signing up now for a two year programme.

Will I be able to cope with the work?

You will obviously choose some subjects because you have succeeded in them. Remember that a subject may be very useful even if you do not like it. However, it is wise to avoid any subject in which you have experienced real difficulty. You will get out of your courses what you put into them. This means that you must work steadily both in class and at home. Independent Study and homework is an essential part of all examination courses.

How do I choose?

Choosing the subjects you will study for the next two years is an important crossroad in your life. Although you do not have to decide upon your career now, and even though you will not be leaving school for at least another two years, it is important to realise that the subjects you choose could affect your future. It is important to keep a balance of subjects in order to keep as many career doors open as possible.

Remember that:

- Your ideas about careers and jobs might change
- It is wise to have a general career direction in mind rather than one specific career
- If you think you know what you want to do as a career, check the subjects you need, but still keep an overall balance.

To help making choices, use the following:

www.mosslands.co.uk

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

www.stem.org.uk/cx4wt

When do I have to choose?

You must make your decision by the week following the Parents' Evening. This is shown on the second page of this booklet. The Option form must be returned to your Form Tutor on time.



- Select subjects which you enjoy studying and remember those that may be new to you.
- Select subjects that you are good at.
- Ask family, friends and teachers for advice.
- Find out everything possible about a subject as you will be taking it for two years.



- Select a subject because your friend is doing it: you probably won't be in the same class.
- Select a subject because you like the teacher: you will probably have a different teacher at Key Stage 4.
- Select subjects that are too similar: you should have a range of qualifications for your future and to vary your days.

QUALIFICATIONS

ALL COURSES LAST TWO YEARS

GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most GCSE subjects require you to take examinations at the end of the course which count for 100% of the assessment. Some courses have an element of the skills which are assessed practically or by project. The assessment mechanisms for each course are shown on the subject information pages.

GCSEs are now graded from 9 to 1 but students will not do exactly the same class work. In some subjects there will be a choice of papers or questions to suit their abilities. Students will be guided as to which papers and questions they will attempt and the work they will undertake during the course.

BTEC or other Tech Awards

Tech awards are applied qualifications designed to fully engage students. They provide a more practical real - world approach to learning and skills development. The qualification could be in readiness for the workplace or continued study at the next level whether in an academic environment or a more specialist applied area.

E.g. the BTEC Level 2 First Awards are equivalent to one GCSE graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Taking a Tech award does not prevent students from progressing to Level 3 courses post 16.

Legacy GCSEs	New GCSE Grades	Vocational Qualifications	
A*	9	Distinction * 8.5	Level 2
	8		
A	7	Distinction 7	
B	6	Merit 5.5	
	5		
C	4	Pass 4	
D	3	Distinction * 3	Level 1
E	2	Distinction 2	
F		Merit 1.5	
G		Pass 1	
U	U	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)	

CARE, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE



THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

The Core Programme

This is taken by every student.

You will study:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- PE
- RE
- Careers (including Citizenship, Work Related Learning & Enterprise Education).

Choosing Options

You will need to make four options choices from the choices below. You must choose at least one subject in yellow.

If you have any difficulties, please talk to Mr. Sanford

OPTIONS

Art
Construction & The Built Environment (Tech award)
Computer Science
Design Technology
Drama (BTEC)
Food & Cookery (Tech award)
French
Geography
History
Information and Digital Technology (BTEC)
Music
Media Studies
RS: Philosophy and Ethics
Separate Sciences
Spanish
Sport Studies (Tech Award)



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

You will:

- Demonstrate your understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Develop close reading and analytical skills in evaluating specific texts
- Write descriptive and narrative pieces
- Write to present a viewpoint
- Develop communication skills through discussion and presentation.



ASSESSMENT

This two year course is assessed through external examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50% of GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50 % of GCSE

Spoken Language: This is set and marked by your English teacher. It is a compulsory part of the course and is certified separately.

OTHER INFORMATION



It is a requirement that students study both English Language and English Literature.

English is an important requirement for many careers and Higher Education courses and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS ADLEY

QUALIFICATION

GCSE English Language (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4292/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

You will:

- Develop close reading and analytical skills in evaluating specific texts
- Read and study a Shakespeare Text
- Read and study a 19th Century Novel
- Read and study a Modern Text
- Read and study a collection of poetry on the theme of power and conflict.



ASSESSMENT

This two year course is assessed through external examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1:
Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
1 hour 45 minutes
64 marks
40% of GCSE

Paper 2:
Modern Text and Poetry
2 hour 15 minutes
96 marks
60% of GCSE



OTHER INFORMATION

It is a requirement that students study both English Language and English Literature and therefore will gain two separate GCSEs in the English subjects.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS ADLEY

QUALIFICATION

GCSE English Literature (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4447/6

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

MATHS



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

Maths GCSE is a core subject taught to all students at GCSE. It is an essential part of any student's education, with many employers and Universities requiring Maths GCSE as part of their entry criteria. The course also allows students to become numerate, think clearly and logically and analyse situations, all of which will help them in everyday life. The Higher course also provides a good grounding for those students who want to go on and study Maths A Level or Further Maths A Level, as students will have to devise solutions to more complex problems.

During the course students will study:

- Number - this includes money, decimals, fractions and percentages.
- Algebra - algebra allows students to solve more complex problems and study sequences, solving equations and formulae.
- Geometry and measures - studying shapes allows students to understand the world around them. They will look at problems involving angles, measures, 2-D and 3-D shapes. The higher course will also look at trigonometry and circle theorems.
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change - students will study the relationships between two or more variables. This area of mathematics has applications in science, engineering, business and economics. They have particular use in chemistry and physics where they can be applied to anything from rates of chemical reactions to the proportion of the gravitational pull of stars on planets.
- Probability - students will look at how likely events are to happen. Probability is used widely in maths, statistics, finance, science, artificial intelligence and computer science.
- Statistics - here students will learn how to collect and interpret data, how to construct a variety of graphs and how to calculate and interpret averages.



ASSESSMENT

The course is based entirely on exams.

Students sitting the Higher Tier (Level 9 to 4) and the Foundation Tier (Level 5 to 1) will follow a Linear course.

The Linear course consists of three papers at the end of Year 11, a non-calculator and two calculator papers.

OTHER INFORMATION

GCSE Maths is an important requirement for many careers and Higher Education courses and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

The Higher course will prepare a student for A/AS Level Maths and Further Maths, which is also offered at the school. Maths is a requirement for many careers and opens up many doors.

Careers involving Maths specifically include Engineering, Banking, Finance and many more.



CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS LOON

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Maths (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4700/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel

SCIENCE



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

The Combined Science option is equivalent to two GCSEs and covers the three Science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For the Biology topics the content is based on key Biological principles such as cell division, respiration and photosynthesis. Students will also study homeostasis and response, bioenergetics, and inheritance, variation and evolution.

Chemistry content begins by reviewing students understanding of atomic structure and the periodic table. Other topics include organic chemistry, chemical analysis and using resources.

The key themes of forces, energy, waves and electricity run through the Physics content of the specification. Students will also study the particle model of matter and atomic structure.

Opting for Combined Science at GCSE provides the breadth of knowledge necessary to study Science at Level 3.

A strong performance in GCSE Combined Science allows students access to pursue Science related careers and apprenticeships.



ASSESSMENT

Combined GCSE will be assessed through six examination papers at the end of year 11 (two for each discipline). All papers are 1 hour 45 minutes long and are equally weighted towards the final grade.

All examinations consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response question types.

There are 16 required practical activities for the Combined Science GCSE and these will be integrated and assessed within day-to-day teaching.

OTHER INFORMATION



Science is a compulsory subject at key stage 4 and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

Students will either take the Combined Science (Double Award) or Triple Science (3 Separate GCSE qualifications) pathway.

Students will be advised as to which course they are best suited to follow. Students on the Double Award Science pathway complete a qualification equivalent to two GCSEs.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Double Award (9-1)

Science QN Code: 601/8758/x

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS WESTON

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS



CARE, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE



ART & DESIGN



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

This is a broad based Art and Design course that prepares students well for access to Post-16 study. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two dimensional techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. This may include Fine Art (Drawing, Painting, Mixed media) and Graphic Communication with some use of computer software graphics packages.

Students will be expected to develop their practical work by exploring relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to an area of art, craft and design. This will require independent research and investigation into a particular theme; this may be from a period or aspect of Art or Design from the past or from recent times and could be from anywhere in the world. Their practical response to this research must show an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions investigated. Some critical annotation is required in the later stages of the course in order to elucidate visual connections made and working methods employed.

Career paths may include: Architecture, Product Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Construction, Photography, Illustration, Animation, Fashion, Metalwork, Jewellery Design, Model-making, Museum Model-making, Museum Curatorship, Stone Masonry and Printing.



ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Portfolio of Work
Coursework consists of one extended or two projects that are set internally by the subject teacher. There will be coursework deadlines throughout the duration of the course. It is this/these project/s that make up the student's portfolio of work. The Coursework Portfolio makes up 60% of the final assessment and is marked out of 96.

Component 2: Externally Set Project
A Question paper, written by the Examination Board and issued from 1st January in the final year of the course, provides the starting point for a final project. After an allocated period of preparation time, students must produce a final piece of work during a supervised controlled test period of 10 hours. The work produced during this time must be unaided.



OTHER INFORMATION

To meet the standards of a GCSE course in Art and Design, students will be required to complete work outside of lesson times -the department runs lunchtime and evening sessions on set days.

This may take the form of independent research and investigation into a particular theme or may require the completion of practical work.

It is important that students enjoy and feel confident in their ability with the practical aspects of this subject.

A basic range of art materials and access to the internet at home would be useful but is not compulsory. Suppliers of specific materials can be sought through the GCSE teaching staff.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS WADDILOVE

QUALIFICATION

GCSE ART (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8087/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Eduqas

COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is a creative subject that will develop your mathematical, logical reasoning and problem-solving capabilities. The Computer Science GCSE values computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills and write programs to solve many problems.

Computer systems (J277/01)

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental



Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (J277/02)

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Practical Programming

All students will have the opportunity to undertake programming tasks, either to a specification or to solve problems during their course of study. Students will need to draw on some of the content in both components when engaging in the practical programming aspects of the course.



ASSESSMENT

Computer Systems J277/01

Exam covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory (50% of total GCSE marks)

Computational thinking, algorithms and Programming J277/02:

Exam covering the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles (50% of total GCSE marks)

OTHER INFORMATION



During the course you will have access to after-school support to help you prepare for each unit assessment.

Your lessons will be made up of theory and practical programming sessions. You will be expected to complete weekly homework assignments and catch up on any work missed in your own time.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8355/x

Level: 1/2

Exam Board: OCR

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS SOUTHWOOD

CONSTRUCTION

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

This hands on and very practical based qualification is designed to offer learners the opportunity to learn about the world of construction. The qualification will allow learners the opportunity to learn and develop a wide range of construction based skills including joinery, carpentry, bricklaying, tiling, painting and decorating and plumbing. The practical tasks are underpinned by a range of theory assignments that cover areas such as Health and Safety, Construction Management and Financing a construction project.

The course is structured into 3 units.

These are:

1. Safety and security in construction (Externally assessed examination)
2. Developing construction projects (Internally assessed coursework)
3. Planning construction projects (Externally assessed coursework)

The units provide learners with 'real world' experiences within the subject of construction to prepare them for further learning post 16 here at school, an apprenticeship or a work based college course.



ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 will be assessed by an online examination.

Units 2 and 3 are assessed via a range of project work and practical tasks completed during the three year course.

OTHER INFORMATION

You will be expected to learn a range of new skills throughout the duration of the course.

There is a significant amount of paperwork and coursework to be completed but this is a real life course that is taught in a real life situation, to enrich and reinforce the skills required to embark upon a career within the Construction industry.



CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS SILVANO

QUALIFICATION

Level 1/2 Award in
Constructing the Built Environment

QN Code: 601/0543/4

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

This is a new course that allows pupils to learn about design and manufacture in a very hands on and practical environment. Pupils will design a variety of products ranging from children's toys to furniture and lighting, and then fully realise and manufacture these using a range of materials, tools and processes.

The course has a real emphasis on the new materials and technologies that are emerging from smart materials to solar and battery energy forms. Pupils will study and learn about the latest developments within the world of technology and then apply this learning to their own practical assignments.



Learners will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. They will gain knowledge of the applications and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals and polymers and also learn about possible careers within the wide ranging subject of Design and Technology.

If you have a passion for designing and making, for taking things apart to see how they work, for tinkering in the garage or workshop, or if you simply want to keep abreast of technological developments in the ever changing world in which we live, then this is the course for you!



ASSESSMENT

The course is structured into two units:

Core principles, technical principles and design principles
(2 hour Examination)

Extended design and make assignment
(Controlled Assessment)

Each unit is worth 50% of the final GCSE grade.



OTHER INFORMATION

The subject leads directly into A Level Product Design.

Developing a wide range of practical making skills including using hand tools for cutting or shaping, casting or moulding, and using joining and finishing techniques in a range of materials.

Learners will also develop an understanding of commercial processes and an in-depth knowledge of materials and their properties. Additionally learners will gain transferable skills such as communication and teamwork that will benefit them in the workplace.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Design and Technology

QN Code: 603/0984/2

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS SILVANO

DRAMA

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

This practical, engaging and stimulating course allows you to develop a range of skills and techniques in DRAMA and ACTING. This course will provide you with a multitude of opportunities to perform and learn in a practical environment.



Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. You will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level.

ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of performance styles. You will understand how different practitioners develop performance work.

Assessment:

- Practical exploration of performance styles
- Portfolio work
- Written reviews of observed performance work



COMPONENT 2 - Developing Skills & Techniques

You will develop your acting skills & techniques in practical workshops and performances. You will perform both devised & scripted work.

Assessment:

- A log book tracking your performance progression.
- A written review of your final performance piece.

COMPONENT 3 - Performing to a Brief (External Exam)

You will work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.

Assessment:

- Written evaluations & recording of final performance.

OTHER INFORMATION

The Drama Department has high expectations of its students. This is a practical and creative subject which requires you to act and behave in a mature and responsible manner

Theatre trips are organised to influence your practical work and to support your Actor's Logs.



CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS BRETT

QUALIFICATION

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in
Performing Arts

QN Code: 603/0406/6

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel

FOOD & COOKERY

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in the Hospitality and Catering industry and/or Food Technology. It will provide learners with experience of many different sectors although the main focus will be the preparation and presentation of food and customer service within the hospitality industry.

The course is structured into 2 units.
These are:

1. The Hospitality and Catering Industry (Externally assessed examination)
2. Hospitality and Catering in Action (Internally assessed coursework)

Both units will be delivered within 'real world' scenarios providing the pupils with experiences that prepare them fully for the assessments and for further study after their GCSE qualifications. The course will be very practical in nature and pupils can expect to be undertaking catering based practical tasks in the Food Technology rooms at least once every two weeks.



ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 is an externally assessed 80 minute examination that tests the pupil's knowledge of the hospitality industry and catering skills and techniques.

Unit 2 is an extended piece of coursework that allows the pupils the individuality to design, prepare and present a multi dish meal for a specific client.

OTHER INFORMATION

The department commits itself to teaching students to prepare and cook food products in a safe and hygienic manner, understanding the nutritional value of dishes.

We aim to bring out the full potential of each student, allowing them to discover and develop their own style and culinary tastes whilst ensuring students learn the necessary skills to successfully complete the course.



CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS SILVANO

QUALIFICATION

Level 1/2 Award in
Hospitality and Catering

QN Code: 603/7022/1

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

FRENCH



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

The GCSE course covers a range of topics and improves skills in Reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries and communities where French is spoken.

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs. Themes include:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 1 covers the following three topics:

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others

Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle

Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 2 covers the following three topics:

Topic 1: Free-time activities

Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations

Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Theme 3 covers the following three topics:

Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest

Topic 2: Media and technology

Topic 3: The environment and where people live



ASSESSMENT

The GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (4-9). Students must take all four exams, each worth 25% at the same tier at the end of Year 11.

- Papers 1 - Listening
- Paper 2 - Speaking
- Paper 3 - Reading
- Paper 4 - Writing



OTHER INFORMATION

- Online interactive homework to aid vocabulary learning
- Website recommendations for online study opportunities
- Careers advice on how to pursue French at post-16 and beyond
- A foreign language is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS LIDDLE

QUALIFICATION

GCSE FRENCH (9-1)

QN Code: 610/2790/X

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

GEOGRAPHY



WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

There has never been a better or more important time to study Geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, economic change and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you could choose to study. It is fun, exciting, challenging and very current. Whatever your passion for the world - fascination with landscapes or concerns about inequality -

GCSE Geography will provide you with the knowledge and transferable skills that will reward you personally and advance you professionally.

The specification is split into three units. They cover topics ranging from the challenge of natural hazards, the living world, urban issues and challenges, physical landscapes in the UK and the changing economic world. In addition, the topics of weather hazards, climate change and ecosystems have been introduced to highlight the threats to the human race in the future.

The specification also includes human topics such as changing cities, global development, resource management, energy resources and water management.

Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges.

Students will also be required to develop an understanding of fieldwork techniques and data analysis skills which will be practice in fieldwork opportunities during Year 10. Previous field studies have included, retail studies in Liverpool, river studies in North Wales and Tourism studies in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

OTHER INFORMATION

Geography is not only an up-to-date subject which is relevant to the lives of everyone but it is also one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects which you can study. It is so important that The Guardian newspaper recently called it a 'must-have' subject at GCSE and A Level. The subject brings together the world of scientific facts and processes with human interaction and reaction. It is a subject, which involves problem-solving and enquiry - skills which can be used to solve problems rather than just think about them.

In terms of future employability, Geography is one of the subjects most valued by employers. This is because of the wide range of skills, which you develop, and the ability to problem solve. The unemployment rate amongst Geography university graduates is the lowest of all subjects according to the Higher Education Careers Service.



ASSESSMENT

The Physical Environment
Written examination: 37.5% of the qualification

The Human Environment
Written examination: 37.5% of the qualification

Geographical Investigations
Written examination: 25% of the qualification—64 marks
The exam includes multiple-choice questions, short open, open response, calculations, and 8-mark and 12-mark extended writing questions.



QUALIFICATION

GCSE B Geography (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8153/9

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS JONES

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

HISTORY

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

Component 1—Studies in Depth

This component is in two parts:

- The Elizabethan Age, 1558-1603
- The USA—A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-1929

Component 2—Studies in Breadth

This component is in two parts:

- The Development of Germany, 1919-1991 (Period Study)
- Changes in Crime and Punishment in Britain, c500 to the present day (Thematic Study).



A history student will develop the following skills through their study:

- Research skills
- Communication + writing skills
- How to construct an argument
- Problem-solving
- Organisational skills
- Enquiry
- Critical analysis

For more information, see the History GCSE options information booklet available from your teacher or from Mr Cauldwell in D04.



ASSESSMENT

Component 1

Written examination of 2 one hour papers, worth 50% of the final grade.

Component 2

A two hour written examination, split into 2 papers of 45 minutes and 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 50% of the final grade.



OTHER INFORMATION

During the course, there are opportunities for:

- Intervention
- Exam Masterclasses
- Residential and day trips

History is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures. It is highly regarded by all colleges, universities and employers as a rigorous, academic subject with excellent career prospects.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MR CAULDWELL

QUALIFICATION

GCSE HISTORY (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8239/8

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

ICT

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

What will you study in this subject?

You will explore user interface design and development principles, investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project, discover how to develop and review a digital user interface, explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations. Draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence, develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools, explore how modern information technology is evolving, consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing and understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.



What is the aim of the course?

The Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology will enable students to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to user interface designs, data management, data interpretation, data presentation, data protection and effective use of digital information technology as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. This builds on the learning that has already taken place at Key Stage 3.



ASSESSMENT

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Technical Award in Digital Information Technology is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH).

It has three components to be completed. You must complete all three components. This BTEC Technical Award in Digital Information Technology has components that are assessed internally and a component that Edexcel sets and marks externally.

Units

- Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques (36 GLH)
- Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data (36 GLH)
- Effective Digital Working Practices (48 GLH)



OTHER INFORMATION

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support to help you prepare for each unit.

Your lessons will be used to teach you skills related to the unit topic and to practice exam techniques to help you develop the required knowledge for the course.

QUALIFICATION

BTEC Technical Award in Digital Information Technology

QN Code: 603/7050/6

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Pearson

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MR INMAN

MEDIA STUDIES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

As a GCSE Media Studies student, you will analyse how media products like TV programmes and music videos use images, sounds, language, and representations to create meaning.

You will learn about the media industry and how the industry affects how media products are made.

You will investigate media audiences, exploring who are the people who watch, read and consume the products, and considering how different people might be affected by media products differently, and why.

You will study lots of different media forms, such as:

- Television
- Online Media
- Advertising and Marketing
- Film Marketing
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Social and Participatory Media
- Music Video
- Radio
- Video Games



ASSESSMENT

Assessment will consist of a mixture of examinations and non-examined assessment.

Component 1: Written examination: 1 hour 30mins, 40% of qualification

Component 2: Written examination: 1 hour 30mins, 30% of qualification

Component 3: Non-exam assessment: Media Production, 30% of qualification

OTHER INFORMATION



During the GCSE Media course you'll develop and practise a range of skills which will equip you for progression to A Level study.

They will also help you hugely in other areas such as English and Humanities.

Media Studies will even help you to develop skills that you'll be able use in your other subjects such as critical thinking, analysis, research, planning, practical skills, time management, essay writing skills and more.

CONTACT



QUALIFICATION

GCSE Media Studies

QN Code: 603/1115/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Eduqas

MUSIC

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

What will you study in this subject?

Performance

Learn to play a variety of music which can be used for your solo and ensemble (group) performances as detailed in the assessment section.

Composition

Use ICT software to make two compositions (pieces of music) as detailed below. You can use either Sibelius where you write music using notation or programs such as Cubase or Garage Band where, if you play guitar for example, you can record tracks straight into a computer.

Appraising

This is the exam element of the course where essentially you listen to a variety of music and answer questions related to the music. This is further detailed in component 3 of the assessment section. The good news with this however is it is only 40% of the whole course so the exam element doesn't have as much impact as a lot of other GCSE courses.



ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Performing Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 30% of qualification A minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other piece(s) may be either solo and/or ensemble. One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study of the learner's choice.

Component 2: Composing Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated 30% of qualification Two compositions, one of which must be in response to a brief set by WJEC. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of four, each one linked to a different area of study. The briefs will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief.

Component 3: Appraising Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes (approximately) 40% of qualification This component is assessed via a listening examination. Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study. Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble Area of study 3: Film Music Area of study 4: Popular Music Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by WJEC

OTHER INFORMATION

You will be needed to give up some of your time after school mainly in year 11 to work on your compositions as it can be a fairly long process. The performance element is also linked to your performance grade on your instrument. For example, if you perform less than a grade 3 exam piece by the time you are in year 11, your grade can be slightly capped. Due to this, it is a good idea if you are a beginner performer to get lessons on your instrument, or continue them if you already have them, at either Mosslands or privately. Come and see me individually as I can help you with this in terms of advice.

You do not need to read music to do GCSE music

Voice / Singing counts as an instrument!

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Music (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8131/X

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MR WINTERBOTTOM

RS: PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

50% of this course (component 1) is based on the following four themes:

Issues of Life and Death

Within this theme students will study beliefs about life after death, the origins of the universe, the value of human life from both religious and non-religious points of view.

Issues of Good and Evil

Within this theme students will study the nature of good and evil, causes of crime, criminal justice, forms of punishment and attitudes towards justice from both religious and non religious points of view.

Issues of Human Rights

Within this theme students will study human rights and social justice, issues of wealth and poverty, racial prejudice and discrimination and the attitudes of both the religious and nonreligious towards these issues.

Issues of Relationships

Within this theme, students will study the characteristics of relationships, marriage and family life, same sex relationships and gender roles from both religious and non religious points of view.

The remaining 50% (components 2 & 3) is divided between in depth studies of both Christianity and Buddhism. Students will study the origins, traditions and practices of the religions as well as appreciating the role of religion in wider society. Students will study the impact of spirituality on individual daily life and the varying interpretations of religious texts.



ASSESSMENT

Component 1:

- Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World
- 2 hours written examination.
- 50% of qualification.

Component 2:

- Study of Christianity
- 1 hour written examination
- 25% of qualification.

Component 3:

- Study of a World Faith - Buddhism
- 1 hour written examination
- 25% of qualification

OTHER INFORMATION

Upon successful completion of the course, students can go on to study Philosophy and Religion at A Level. Outside of education, such students are educated and responsible thinkers able to tackle some of society's most pressing issues and allowing them to develop skills such as:

- Being sensitive to the intricate ways in which beliefs mould and influence an individual's values and behaviour
- Understanding diverse interpretations of texts and traditions, providing students with valuable perspectives when navigating conflicting viewpoints in their future careers
- Self-awareness, initiative, creativity, and teamwork
- Communication and leadership - Religious Studies students make outstanding contributors in various professional and social settings

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS MORAN

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Religious Studies (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8879/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

SEPARATE SCIENCE

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

The Separate Science option allows students with an interest and aptitude in Science to access three separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For GCSE Biology the content is based on key Biological principles such as cell division, respiration and photosynthesis. Students will also study infection and response, bioenergetics, and inheritance, variation and evolution.

GCSE Chemistry content begins by reviewing students understanding of atomic structure and the periodic table. Other topics include organic chemistry, chemical analysis and using resources.

The key themes of forces, energy, waves and electricity run through the Physics GCSE specification. Students will also study the particle model of matter and space physics.

Studying the separate sciences means students will cover more content than GCSE Combined Sciences. Opting for separate sciences at GCSE provides the breadth of knowledge necessary to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A-level.



ASSESSMENT

Each GCSE will be assessed through two examination papers at the end of year 11. Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes long and are equally weighted towards the final grade.

Students opting for Triple Science will therefore sit 6 Examinations. All examinations consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response question types.

There are 8 required practical activities for each GCSE and these will be integrated and assessed within day-to-day teaching.

OTHER INFORMATION

Science is a compulsory subject at key stage 4 and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

Students will either take the Combined Science (Double Award) or Triple Science (3 Separate GCSE qualifications) pathway.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS WESTON

QUALIFICATION

GCSE

QN Code Biology: 601/8752/9
QN Code Chemistry: 601/8757/8
QN Code Physics: 601/8751/7

Level: 1 & 2
Exam Board: AQA

SPANISH

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

The GCSE course covers a range of topics and improves skills in Reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.

The vocabulary in this qualification enables students to communicate across a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to their current and future needs. Themes include:



Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 1 covers the following three topics:

Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others

Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle

Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 2 covers the following three topics:

Topic 1: Free-time activities

Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations

Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Theme 3 covers the following three topics:

Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest

Topic 2: Media and technology

Topic 3: The environment and where people live



ASSESSMENT

The GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (4-9). Students must take all four exams, each worth 25% at the same tier at the end of Year 11.

- Papers 1 - Listening
- Paper 2 - Speaking
- Paper 3 - Reading
- Paper 4 - Writing



OTHER INFORMATION

- Online interactive homework to aid vocabulary learning
- Website recommendations for online study opportunities
- Careers advice on how to pursue Spanish at post-16 and beyond
- A foreign language is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate and 'Best 8' achievement measures.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS LIDDLE

QUALIFICATION

GCSE SPANISH (9-1)

QN Code: 610/3530/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

SPORT STUDIES

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT

The Sport Studies course has both a practical and theoretical element to it as well as incorporating various pieces of written coursework. The course is split into 3 modules of varying weighting:

Contemporary issues in sport (40%) - Issues that affect participation in sport, role of sport in promoting values, Hosting major international, sporting events the role of national governing bodies in sport and technology in sport

Performance and leadership in sporting activities (40%) - Key components of performance, applying practice methods to support improvement in performance, organising and planning a coaching session, delivering a coaching session and evaluating a coaching session

Sport and the media (20%) - The different sources of media that cover sport, positive effects of the media in sport and negative effects of the media in sport.

Students will experience a mixture of activities and sports before deciding on which sport to focus their Performance and leadership coursework on. These sports include Football, Basketball, Handball, Rugby, Badminton, Table Tennis and Volleyball. The students will also learn how to effectively use gym training methods in order to improve performance in sport.



ASSESSMENT

Each module on the Sport Studies course carries varying weighting towards the final grade as shown above.

The methods of assessment of these units are:
Contemporary issues in sport - Exam (40%)

Performance and Leadership - practical and coursework (40%)

Sport and the media - coursework assessment may also be carried out using video (20%)

OTHER INFORMATION

A variety of resources are used during the course to maximise student attainment and enjoyment. These include access to: Fitness Suite, astro-turf, sports fields, 2 sports halls, Thorndale Tennis Centre, Leasowe Swimming Pool, Moreton Driving Range, Bidston Golf Club, Underground Fitness Centre, Soccer Dome.

Students are able to continue their study of Physical Education into the Sixth Form where we currently offer The Cambridge Technical Extended Certificate in sport and physical activity (1 A level equivalent) Diploma (2 A level equivalent) and Extended Diploma (3 A level equivalent) courses.



CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MR METCALFE

QUALIFICATION

Sport Studies
(Cambridge National Award)

QN Code: 603/7107/9

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: OCR

THE MOSSLANDS SCHOOL



CARE, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE

