

Year 9 Options Booklet 2026



www.mosslands.co.uk



Important Dates

Year 9 Parents Evening - Thursday 26th February

Final date for students to return their Option Form - Monday 2nd March



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.



Introduction

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 Options Booklet for September 2026.

This booklet is designed to help you make informed choices about the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11.

Over the next two years, four option subjects will make up around 40% of your timetable, so it is important to choose carefully.

Inside this booklet you will find:

- *An overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum*
- *Information about compulsory (core) subjects*
- *Details of each optional subject, including assessment and progression*
- *Guidance to help you make the right choices for your future*

Our aim is to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that supports individual strengths, interests and ambitions, while keeping as many post-16 pathways open as possible.

Some subjects are compulsory and form part of the Core Programme. The remaining subjects are optional, and students are encouraged to discuss their choices with parents, teachers, tutors and careers staff.

Choosing your options is an exciting step, but it can also feel challenging. Please take time to read this booklet carefully and ask questions. Changes after the start of Year 10 are extremely difficult, so thoughtful decisions now are essential.

Please note:

- *While we aim to offer students their first choices, this cannot always be guaranteed*
- *Some courses may not run due to numbers*
- *Timetabling constraints mean not all subject combinations are possible*
- *Reserve choices are therefore just as important as first choices*

The completed Options Form must be submitted by Monday 2nd March. We wish you every success as you begin this important stage of your education.

Mr J Sanford
Deputy Headteacher

CARE, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE



Q&A - Guidance

What subjects are compulsory?

Everyone studies a Core Programme alongside their option choices. This includes:

- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Science (two GCSEs, or three if you choose Separate Sciences)
- Core ICT (Digital Literacy)
- PE, RE and Careers

What changes have there been to GCSEs?

- GCSEs are graded from 9–1, with 9 being the highest grade
- This replaces the former A–G* grading system
- Results will be reported using numerical grades in summer 2028
- Vocational qualifications (e.g. BTEC / CTEC) use different grading systems

What other considerations are there?

Schools and students are measured using three main performance measures:

- English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- Attainment 8
- Progress 8

These are often looked at by colleges, universities and employers.

To achieve the EBacc, students need at least grade 5 in:

- English
- Maths
- Two Sciences
- A Modern Foreign Language
- History or Geography

Attainment 8 and Progress 8 are based on a student's best eight GCSE results, including English and Maths.

These measures are becoming increasingly important, so choosing subjects carefully can help keep future options open.



Can I take anything I want?

No. Some subjects are compulsory, and you must choose four option subjects, one from each option block. At least one of your choices must be from the highlighted subjects on the options form.

Do I have to choose a language?

No – however, studying a language can be highly beneficial. Languages support future study, careers and form part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). If you enjoy French or Spanish, you should consider choosing one.

Can I change my options later?

No. Options form a two-year programme and changes after the start of Year 10 are not usually possible.

Will I be able to cope with the work?

You will choose some subjects because you enjoy them or have done well in them, but you might also pick a subject because it could be useful for your future. It's usually best to avoid subjects you've really struggled with, as success comes from building on your strengths. Remember, you get out of your courses what you put in. Working consistently in class and at home, completing homework, and using independent study effectively are all key to doing well and enjoying your learning.

How do I choose?

Choosing the subjects you will study over the next two years is an important decision. While you don't need to have your career fully planned, and you won't be leaving school for at least another two years, it's important to recognise that the subjects you choose could influence your future. Aim to maintain a balanced selection of subjects to keep as many career options open as possible.

Your ideas about careers and jobs may change over time, so it's a good idea to think in terms of a general career direction rather than focusing on a single, specific job. If you have a particular career in mind, check which subjects are needed, but still aim to maintain a balanced selection to keep your options open.

Qualifications

ALL COURSES LAST TWO YEARS

GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most subjects are assessed mainly through exams at the end of the course, though some also include practical work or projects. GCSEs are graded from 9 to 1, and not all students do exactly the same class work. In some subjects, there may be a choice of papers or questions to suit different abilities. Teachers will guide you on which tasks and papers are right for you throughout the course.

Tip: Work steadily, ask questions, and use the support available—your effort will make a real difference to your success.

BTEC and Other Tech Awards

Tech Awards are practical, real-world qualifications that help you develop useful skills for work or further study. BTEC Level 2 First Awards are equivalent to one GCSE and are graded Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction*. Taking a Tech Award does not stop you from progressing to Level 3 courses after 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		Distinction 2	
F	2	Merit 1.5	
G	1	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 option choices from the choices below.

You must choose at

least one subject in yellow.

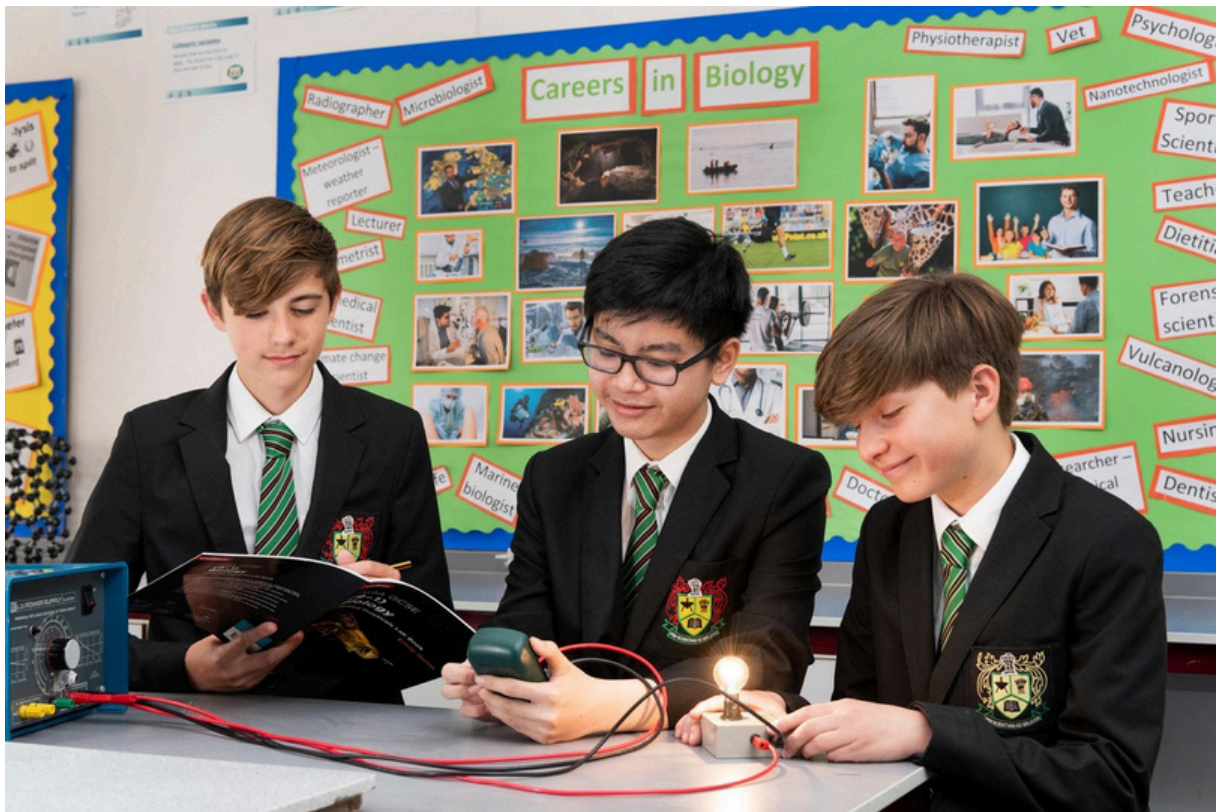
If you have any difficulties, please talk with Mr Sandford.

OPTIONS

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



The Core Programme



CARE, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE



English Language

What will i 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.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE English Language (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4292/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

Contact

SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS ADLEY



English Literature

What will i 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.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE English Literature (9-1)

QN Code: 601/4447/6

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

Contact

SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS ADLEY



Maths



What will i 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 – Working with money, decimals, fractions and percentages.

Algebra – Solving equations, using formulae and understanding number patterns (sequences).

Geometry and Measures – Studying shapes, angles, measurements, and 2D and 3D shapes. Higher tier students will also learn trigonometry and circle theorems.

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change – Understanding how quantities relate to each other. This is important in subjects like science, engineering, business and economics.

Probability – Calculating how likely events are to happen. This is used in areas such as statistics, finance and computer science.

Statistics – Collecting and analysing data, drawing graphs, and calculating and interpreting 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)

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 for A/AS Level Maths.

Both of which are 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.



QUALIFICATION

GCSE Maths (9-1)

QN Code:601/4700/3

Level:1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel

Contact

SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS LOON



Science



What will i learn about?

Combined Science (Equivalent to Two GCSEs)

Covers the three main sciences: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is equivalent to 2 GCSEs.

Biology topics include:

Cell biology, Respiration and photosynthesis, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution

Chemistry topics include:

Atomic structure and the periodic table, organic chemistry, chemical analysis and using resources.

Physics topics include:

Forces, energy, waves, electricity, atomic structure and the particle model of matter.

This qualification provides the broad scientific knowledge needed to study Science at Level 3.

Strong performance can lead to 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 DoubleAward (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 and Design



What will i 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.

QUALIFICATION

GCSEART (9-1)

QN Code:601/8087/0

Level:1 & 2

Exam Board: Eduqas

Contact

SUBJECT LEAD:
Miss Connor



Computer Science

What will I 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 evaluates computational thinking, helping learners to develop the skills and write programs to solve many problems. Computer Systems (J277/01)

Topics include -

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

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 COMPUTERSCIENCE (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8355/x

Level: 1/2

Exam Board: OCR

Contact

SUBJECT LEAD:

Mr Ballantyne



Construction

What will i learn about?

A hands-on course introducing the world of construction.

Develops practical skills such as:

Joinery

Carpentry

Bricklaying

Tiling

Painting and decorating

Plumbing

Includes theory work covering:

Health and Safety

Construction Management

Project Planning and Finance

Course Structure (3 Units):

Safety and Security in Construction (externally assessed exam)

Developing Construction Projects (internally assessed coursework)

Planning Construction Projects (externally assessed coursework)

Provides real-world experience and prepares students for:

Further study (post-16)

Apprenticeships

Employment in construction



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 will I 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.

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MRS SILVANO

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Design and Technology

QN Code: 603/0984/2

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

Drama

What will i 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 and Cookery

What will I 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 will I 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

QUALIFICATION

GCSE FRENCH (9-1)

QN Code: 610/2790/X

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS LIDDLE

Geography



What will i learn about?

There has never been a more important time to study Geography. In a world facing climate change, migration, economic shifts and global inequality, Geography helps you understand the challenges shaping our future. It is engaging, relevant and equips you with valuable skills for further study and employment.

The course is divided into three units, covering topics such as natural hazards, ecosystems, urban issues, physical landscapes in the UK, and the changing economic world. You will explore global development, resource management, energy and water security, as well as the impacts of climate change.

Fieldwork is a key part of the course. Students develop practical investigation and data analysis skills through real-world studies. Previous trips have included retail studies in Liverpool, river investigations in North Wales, and tourism studies in the Yorkshire Dales.

GCSE Geography builds knowledge, confidence and transferable skills that will support you both personally and professionally.

Other Information

Geography is a relevant and exciting subject that helps you understand the world around you. It combines scientific knowledge with human issues and develops important problem-solving and enquiry skills. The Guardian has described Geography as a 'must-have' subject at GCSE and A Level. It is highly valued by employers because of the wide range of transferable skills it develops. In fact, Geography graduates have one of the lowest unemployment rates, according to the Higher Education Careers Service.



Assessment

- The Physical Environment – Written exam (37.5%)
- The Human Environment – Written exam (37.5%)
- Geographical Investigations – Written exam (25%, 64 marks)



Exams include a variety of question types such as multiple choice, short-answer, calculation questions, and extended writing questions worth 8 and 12 marks.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE B Geography (9-1)

QN Code:601/8153/9

Level:1 & 2

Exam Board:WJEC Eduqas

CONTACT



SUBJECT LEAD:
MISS JONES

History

What will i 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.

QUALIFICATION

GCSE HISTORY (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8239/8

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

CONTACT

SUBJECT LEAD:
MR CAULDWELL



ICT

What will i 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

PearsonB TEC 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 will I 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.

QUALIFICATION
GCSE Media Studies

QN Code: 603/1115/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Eduqas

CONTACT

SUBJECT LEAD:

Mrs S G Hoar



Music

What will i learn about?

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 Duration: 4-6 minutes Assessment: Non-exam, internally assessed, externally moderated
Weighting: 30% of the qualification **Requirements:** Perform at least two pieces One must be an ensemble of at least 1 minute Other pieces can be solo or ensemble One piece must link to chosen area of study **Component 2: Composing** Duration: 3-4 minutes Assessment: Non-exam, internally assessed, externally moderated

Weighting: 30% of the qualification

Requirements: Two compositions One in response to a WJEC set brief (choose 1 of 4, each linked to an area of study) The other is a free composition with your own brief **Component 3: Appraising** Duration: ~1 hour 15 minutes Assessment: Written listening exam **Weighting:** 40% of the qualification **Structure:** 10 questions (2 per area of study) **Areas of study:** Musical Form and Devices Music for Ensemble Film Music Popular Music

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 and Ethics

What will I 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 non-religious 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

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Religious Studies (9-1)

QN Code: 601/8879/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC Eduqas

CONTACT

SUBJECT LEAD:

MRS MORAN



Seperate Science

What will i learnabout?

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

Sport Studies

What will i learn about?

Combines practical and theoretical elements
Split into 3 modules with different weightings

1. Contemporary Issues in Sport (40%)

Factors affecting participation in sport
Sport's role in promoting values
Hosting major international sporting events
Role of national governing bodies
Technology in sport

2. Performance and Leadership in Sporting Activities (40%)

Key components of performance
Applying practice methods to improve performance
Organising, planning, delivering, and evaluating a coaching session
Students experience multiple sports before choosing one for coursework:
Football, Basketball, Handball, Rugby, Badminton, Table Tennis, Volleyball
Use of gym training methods to enhance performance

3. Sport and the Media (20%)

Different media sources covering sport
Positive and negative effects of media on 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.



QUALIFICATION

SportStudies
(CambridgeNational Award)

QN Code:603/7107/9

Level:1 & 2

Exam Board: OCR

CONTACT

SUBJECT LEAD:
MR METCALFE



The Mosslands School



CARE, COMMITMENT, CHALLENGE

