



Nottingham Free School Options 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

The coming weeks are an exciting time in your child's education. The curriculum at Nottingham Free School allows your child to choose their GCSE option subjects in Year 8 and to begin them in Year 9.

We want all students to have a positive learning experience at GCSE. By making good progress and achieving their best in all subjects, students will have greater career choices in future years.

Below are some common questions that are asked about the options process. Please take some time to read through them before discussing subject preferences with your child.

Frequently asked questions

I've heard about all of the changes to GCSEs – what are they and how do they affect my child?

Education is experiencing huge changes to GCSE and A Level subjects. Each subject has a revised curriculum with the aim of making British qualifications comparable to those across the world. This has resulted in the inclusion of more difficult content, for which we are already preparing our students.

The government want all children to receive a broad curriculum made up of core subjects; English and maths, EBacc subjects; science, history, geography, computer science and a foreign language, as well as other foundation subjects. This range will give them a strong foundation for whatever they choose to do after year 11.

In addition, the GCSE grading system is changing and students will receive a score on a scale of 1 to 9 (with 9 being the highest). The GCSE grades A* - G will no longer exist.

How have you chosen the courses/exam boards?

All qualifications are new for all schools so we have spoken to many other schools and decided upon the most accessible courses for our students based on the available information. Some of the courses only have draft specifications at this stage so some may change as the final course information gets released. However, this will not affect the decision making process at this stage as the broad content of each course will remain the same.

What support will my child receive when making choices?

All year 8 students have had an initial presentation about the range of subjects on offer and will have three lessons dedicated to choosing options in their PSHCE lessons. Their tutor and class teachers are available if further support is needed. The options evening on **Tuesday 7th March** gives you the opportunity to speak to staff about each available option subject. We would also encourage you to discuss this with your child at home. After making their choices, each student will have an individual interview with a member of the leadership team.

What if they have no idea what to choose?

If really unsure, it is always best to choose subjects that your child enjoys and can achieve well in. Talking to their class teachers and tutors is always useful too.

All students will have to continue with a broad range of core subjects: English, maths, science, history or geography and Spanish (for most students). These subjects are required by all routes post-16 e.g. college, universities, apprenticeships and so any option subjects chosen will not create or stop any potential career paths.

What subjects do they need to get into college, university or an apprenticeship?

All students have to remain in education or training until they are 18 years old. The majority of college courses and apprenticeships require good grades in English and maths as a priority.

The new entry requirements for many courses, including A Levels (or equivalent) and apprenticeships are likely to include English, maths, and other core subjects at a grade 5 or higher. The most important point is for students to make good progress in all of their subjects and achieve the highest grades possible.

Nottingham Free School will be offering a range of academic A-levels at Post-16 and further information about the entry requirements will be made available nearer the time, along with information about the wider range of Post-16 provisions available to students in the local area.

Students hoping to enter university are advised to pursue a traditional suite of subjects which can include the EBacc subjects as mentioned previously. Further information about higher level apprenticeships, which lead to A-Level or degree qualifications, will be made available to students as part of their careers unit of work within PSHCE.

What do we do now?

- Make sure you read through this booklet, even those subjects that you think you are not interested in!
- Talk to teaching staff about the subjects you are interested in choosing, especially those you are unsure about.
- Attend the options evening on Tuesday 7th March – it is always useful to visit the subjects you are unsure about.
- Complete the form at the back of the booklet and hand to your child's tutor by **Wednesday 15th March**.
- All students will receive a letter to inform them of their choices; this will be after Easter as this process takes a long time.

Option choices

All students will do English, maths, science, PSHCE, RE and core PE as well as history or geography.

Humanities

Please place a tick in the relevant box to show your preferred option out of History and Geography.

If you wish to study history **and** geography, you need to tick geography in these boxes and then choose history as one of your preferred options in the list below.

History

Geography

Option Choices

Please choose your top 6 subjects and rank order them from 1 to 6, with 1 being your first choice.

*Note that if you are interested in computer science and ICT, only one of them can be chosen, not both.

History should only be chosen in this list if you want to study history **and geography.

If you are in 8a or 8b, you will be following an EBacc curriculum and will be studying Spanish. A number 1 will be pre-filled in the Spanish box; please place the numbers 2 to 6 in the boxes according to your preferred choices.

- Art
- Computing*
- Drama
- Food
- History**
- ICT*
- Music
- PE
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Product Design
- 1 Spanish

It is important to note that we cannot guarantee every student is able to study all of their highest ranking choices as we have to ensure reasonable class sizes for all groups. If this is the case or if any choices cannot be offered due to low demand we will speak to each student individually to help them make their final choices.

Please keep this page as a record of your choices as the last page of the booklet will need to be handed in.

Turn to the last page and complete the option form after you have read all of the information, spoken to relevant teachers and your parent(s)/carer(s) and attended the options evening.

Hand your completed form to your tutor by **Wednesday 15th March** at the latest.

Core Subjects

All students will continue to study the following subjects throughout years 9, 10 and 11:

English (language and literature), maths, science, PE, PSHCE, religious education and one of history or geography.

The following section gives further details about each of the courses including those which do not lead to an examination. History and geography information is included in the options section.

All courses followed will have internal assessments, including two formal assessment weeks per year in order to gauge progress and identify any areas for improvement.

Physical Education

At KS4 the aim of Physical Education is to encourage students to lead a healthy active lifestyle and provide them with the necessary experiences to continue to participate in physical activity after they leave Nottingham Free School. Students work individually and in groups and follow a wide programme of study for both winter and summer activities that includes sports such as football, rugby, aerobics, table tennis, rounders, athletics and netball. Students are informed of their programme of study and are therefore expected to attend lessons with the correct equipment and kit to enable full participation.

PSHCE

Although no formal qualification is achieved in PSHCE, through the pursuit of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education students learn about and explore the world in which they live. Students challenge their own views and opinions on topics that matter to them. Our aim within PSHCE is to inform and create a safe environment for the discussion of issues and to develop skills in showing sensitivity and respect to the feelings, experiences and views of every member of the class.

The topics covered throughout the years cover such things as inter-personal skills, substance abuse, body image, sex and relationships, careers, health, the law, prejudice and discrimination and personal and online safety.

Full course title

English Language

Course code

8700

Website address<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

100% examination

Course outline

The GCSE course continues to develop the skills and understanding you have been developing during Key Stage 3. All four key skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening are covered.

Assessment details

There are two exams, both of which are 1 hour and 45 minutes long and are non-tiered.

Paper 1 covers creative reading and writing. (One literary fiction text, descriptive or narrative writing). Paper 2 covers writers' viewpoints and perspectives. (One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text, writing to present a viewpoint.)

Spoken language is assessed by the teacher through presentation skills and use of standard English in lessons. It is not included in the GCSE grade awarded but will be reported separately.

At the beginning of Year 9, you will be allocated to a group based primarily on your achievement in Year 8 including the June examination.

Additional Information

You will need to bring your normal school equipment to every lesson.

English Language opens doors to a wide variety of further education opportunities and careers. Strong language skills will help you to succeed in every subject area and career, with all employers, colleges and universities looking for a good GCSE in English. In addition, the subject can lead to many exciting careers such as media and journalism, law, publishing and teaching.

Full course title

English Literature

Course code

8702

Website address<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

100% examination

Course outline

The GCSE course continues to develop the skills and understanding you have been developing during Key Stage 3. Prose, drama and poetry are all studied.

Assessment details

There are two exams, both of which are non-tiered.

Paper 1 covers Shakespeare and a 19th century novel. It is worth 40% of the GCSE qualification and lasts for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Paper 2 covers modern texts and poetry, including unseen poetry. It is worth 60% of the GCSE qualification and lasts for 2 hours and 15 minutes.

At the beginning of Year 9, you will be allocated to a group based primarily on your achievement in the June examination in Year 8.

Additional Information

You will need to bring your normal school equipment to every lesson and should have a reading book with you every day. English Literature opens doors to a wide variety of further education opportunities and careers. As well as helping you to succeed in all areas of study and employment due to the strong communication skills that it develops, the subject also leads to many interesting career opportunities such as publishing, the media, theatre, academic routes and teaching, to name just a few.

Subject: Maths

Exam Board: AQA

Full course title

Mathematics

Course code

8300

Website address

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

100% examination consisting of 3 exams each 1 hour 30 minutes long; the first is non calculator followed by 2 separate calculator papers.

Course outline

The GCSE course further develops and deepens the skills and understanding you have already built up over the last two years. Each of the units studied are based around topics from the core areas of number, algebra, proportional reasoning, geometry, probability and statistics.

Assessment details

The path that you take through the GCSE content will be based on your previous achievement in year 8.

There are two tiers of entry for the final exam in year 11; foundation, which covers grades 1-5 and higher, which covers grade 4-9. Each of the 3 papers you sit can cover content from any part of the course through a mixture of different question styles; from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as you progress through the allocated tier paper. Final decisions about tiers of entry are not made until the later stage of the course, usually in year 11.

Additional Information

You will need to bring all your equipment to every maths lesson. This includes a pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, compasses and scientific calculator. The school recommended calculator is the Casio fx-83GT PLUS

Having a good maths GCSE will open up many career opportunities whether this is mathematically orientated or not. Almost 2,000,000 people now work in jobs where mathematical qualifications are essential, this is a rise of 20% since 2011. Research shows that students with mathematical qualifications go on to a wide range of interesting careers, including actuaries, economists, statisticians, management consultants, business analysts, science and technology professionals, programmers, software developers, financial analysts and teaching and research professionals.

Subject: Science

Exam Board: AQA

Full course title

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics (For those studying separate sciences)

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (worth 2 GCSEs)

Course code

Biology – 8461, Chemistry – 8462, Physics – 8463

Combined Science: Trilogy - 8464

Website address

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

100% examination

Course outline

All GCSE science courses will develop the scientific skills and understanding introduced in years 7 and 8 as well as introducing new scientific ideas. The majority of the topics covered are identical in the trilogy and the separate science course, the main difference being the separate science students will cover an extra element and will take an extra three examinations (one in each subject).

For all courses, set practicals will be examined in class and knowledge from these will also be examined in the written papers.

Assessment details

There are two tiers of entry for the final exam: foundation, which covers grades 1-5 and higher, which covers grades 4-9. At each level and for each qualification, students will sit 6 exam papers at the end of the course. (2 in Biology, 2 in Chemistry and 2 in Physics). Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes long for the Combined Science: Trilogy course and 1 hour and 45 minutes for each separate science.

At the beginning of Year 9, you will be allocated to a group based primarily on your achievement in Year 8, including the June assessment.

Final decisions about tiers of entry are not made until the later stage of the course.

Additional Information

For science lessons you will need to bring your equipment to every lesson. You should have a pen, pencil, ruler, protractor, and scientific calculator. You will not need your own lab coat.

Both routes will allow you to go on to a career in science, however the separate science route will better prepare you for an A-level qualification.

All employers will look at your English, maths and science grade so a good grade in science will allow you to succeed in any career of your choice. Students with good science qualifications are highly sought after for a whole variety of STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) careers.

Subject: Religious Studies

Exam Board: AQA

Full course title

Religious Studies

Course code

Religious Studies A (8061)

Website address

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-short-course-8061>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

100% exam

Course outline

Religious Education is a compulsory part of secondary education. At Nottingham Free School students will study a religious studies course that will result in a qualification worth ½ GCSE.

What do I study?

- Christian and Muslim beliefs and teachings.
- Peace and Conflict: Christian teachings about war, peace, terrorism, forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Relationships and Families: Christian teachings about marriage, divorce, sexual relationships, contraception, the role of men and women and same-sex marriage.

Assessment details

One written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes.

A combination of short answer and extended answer type questions.

Additional Information

Standard classroom equipment is needed for every lesson.

Possible career paths: teacher, social worker, lawyer, police officer, medical professional and many other caring roles.

You will gain many transferable skills such as constructing arguments, communication, debating, and evaluation skills as well as having a firm grip on current, worldwide events.

Option Subjects

The following pages give pertinent information about each of the courses available at GCSE level. Students will choose four of these subjects, with Spanish being a compulsory choice for all those students following the English Baccalaureate suite of subjects.

All courses followed will have internal assessments, including two formal assessment weeks per year in order to gauge progress and identify any areas for improvement.

If you require further information about any of these courses, please contact school and ask to be directed to the appropriate member of staff.

Full course title

Art and Design (Fine Art)

Course code

1FA0

Website address<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

60% Coursework, 40% Exam

Course outline

The GCSE course is designed for students to expand their skills using a variety of techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, photography, textiles and sculpture.

Students will develop their own independent styles throughout the course using a range of themes and titles as well as exploring a range of artists' work. Students will learn how to develop ideas from a starting point showing experimentation and refining their work to then create a final piece.

It is important that students understand that although they can specialise later in the course (Year 11) and focus on one or two particular types of media and technique, they will be required to show skills in all different materials and, in particular, drawing is a big part of the course throughout all three years.

Assessment details

Assessment objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are the same across all GCSE Art and Design specifications and all exam boards.

The exams and non-exam assessment will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.
- AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

The 40% examination element is 10 hours of supervised time in school, over 2 days. Preparation time for this will take place during lessons in the eight weeks prior to the exam.

Additional Information

Students will be expected to purchase sketchbooks during the course. Financial assistance may be available from school.

Art GCSE can lead to several career paths in a variety of design jobs such as fashion design, interior design, textile design, also illustration & animation, gallery curator, photographer, the list is fairly extensive. Art can also play an important part in advertising, filmography, events and marketing.

Subject: Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

Full course title

OCR GCSE Computer Science

Course code

J276

Website address

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computer-science-j276-from-2016/>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

Component 1 - Computer Systems – Exam – 40%

Component 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – Exam – 40%

Component 3 - Programming Project – 20%

Course outline

In GCSE Computer Science we will cover the following topics:

Computer Systems

- Systems architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- Network security
- System software
- Moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

- Translators and facilities of languages
- Algorithms
- High and low-level programming
- Computational logic
- Data representation

Programming Project

- Programming techniques
- Design
- Development
- Effectiveness and efficiency
- Technical understanding
- Testing, evaluation and conclusions

Assessment details

The GCSE is assessed through two examinations and a programming project. Both examinations are 1 hour and 30 minutes long and the programming project is conducted over 20 hours of lesson time.

Additional Information

Standard classroom equipment is needed for every lesson.

A GCSE in Computer Science can lead to careers in computer and electronics design, many varieties of programming as well as computer games development. It requires a good level of mathematical skill and understanding as this forms a large part of the programming element of the course.

Full course title

Design and Technology

Course code

8552

Website address<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/introduction>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

50% examination

50% controlled assessment

Course outline

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology, including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

The GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Assessment details

There are four components assessed through the written exam and controlled assessment:

- A01 Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address needs and wants (10%).
- A02 Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose (30%).
- A03 Analyse and evaluate – design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others and the wider issues in design technology (20%).
- A04 Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of technical principles and design and making principles (40%).

Additional Information

You will need to bring your equipment to every lesson. You should have a pen, pencil, ruler, and a sketch book or display folder.

Design and Technology will equip you with many valuable qualities for your future studies and career; these include creative thinking, enabling you to be inspired and challenged. The course will prepare you to make informed decisions when working with real clients. You will participate in collaborative working, developing your communication skills and project managing your controlled assessment. All these skills can lead to careers as a costume designer, design engineer, dressmaker, illustrator, interior designer, jewellery designer-maker, visual merchandiser and web designer.

Subject: Drama

Exam Board: AQA

Full course title

GCSE Drama

Course code

8261

Website address

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama/gcse/drama-8261>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

Component 1: Written exam 40% of GCSE.

Component 2: Devised Performance, 40% of GCSE. This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Performance of Scripted Extract 1 and Extract 2, 20% of GCSE. This component is marked by AQA.

Course outline

GCSE Drama offers you the opportunity to explore drama as a practical art form exploring a range of creative performance skills, genres and theatre practitioners. Students will explore the ways in which meanings are communicated to an audience through choices of form, style and convention. They will create, perform and respond to performance informed by their theoretical knowledge of drama. Students will apply a range of vocal and physical theatrical skills to their performance work, as well as evaluating and commenting on their performance work throughout the creative process.

Assessment details

The GCSE will be assessed at 3 different points throughout the GCSE course.

The 3 components are all assessed in different ways.

Component 1: Written exam (open book), 1 hour and 45 minutes, 80 marks, and 40% of GCSE. Marked externally by AQA.

Component 2: Devised performance, written devising log (60 marks) + devised performance (20 marks), 40% of GCSE. This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Performance of scripted extract 1 (25 marks) and extract 2 (25 marks), 50 marks in total, 20% of GCSE. This component is marked by AQA.

Additional Information

Standard classroom equipment is needed for every lesson.

GCSE drama helps to build and develop a wide range of transferable skills for all students such as: collaboration, communication and presentation skills, enquiring and reflective minds and independent thinking and working are all developed throughout this collaborative and creative course.

GCSE drama also offers a fantastic opportunity for students interested in entering the creative arts and media industries- with endless possible career paths such as actors, directors, producers, designers and stage managers.

Subject: Food

Exam Board: WJEC

Full course title

WJEC GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

Course code

Qualification Accreditation Number: 601/8093/6

Website address

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 50% of qualification

Non-examination assessments (2) 50% of qualification

Course outline

You will learn to interpret recipes to gain a wide variety of food preparation and cooking skills using a selection of commodities and techniques. There is also a focus on how nutrition affects our health, the nutrient sources in our diets and the scientific background of foods and cooking processes. Learning is by a combination of theory and practical lessons.

Assessment details

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

This consists of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content.

Section A: questions based on stimulus material.

Section B: structured, short and extended response questions.

The following assessments will be on tasks released by the exam board:

Food Investigation Assessment 8hrs

A scientific food investigation which will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles of food. A report of 1500 words.

Food Preparation Assessment 12 hrs

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. A report of 15 sides on this process will be produced for assessment purposes.

Additional Information

Normal equipment is required every lesson; in addition you will be required to bring your own ingredients for practical lessons, as well as a suitable container to take home your finished product.

Career options include: child care and health, environmental health, environmental science, dietician and nutrition, healthcare, food science and technology, food industry, sports and physiotherapy.

Degree courses in food related subjects include: BSc(hons) in Food Science and Technology, Food, Nutrition and Dietetics, Public health and Nutrition, Environmental Health, Food Safety and Control, Hospitality Business Management, Food Industry Nutrition and New Product Development.

Full course title

GCSE Geography

Course code

8035

Website address<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

100% Exam based

Course outline

The physical geography element of the course includes:

- Survival threats: extreme weather, tectonic hazards (earthquakes & volcanoes), climate change.
- What is special about the UK landscapes: roaring rivers and dramatic coasts.
- Destroying our planet: how humans exploit the rainforest.
- The stage for World War Three: Antarctica.

The human geography element of the course includes:

- Poor world cities: hidden gems? – challenges and opportunities for people living there .
- Rich world cities: has the shine gone dull? - challenges and opportunities for people living there.
- Is it ok for some people to be poor? – tackling the poverty crisis.
- Will we run out of puff? – resource issues focusing on food, energy and water.

There will be a minimum two full days of fieldwork which covers the following elements:

- Human Geography: a local investigation and Physical Geography: a regional investigation.

Assessment details

There will be 3 exams

- Physical Geography and Geographical Skills (35%)
- Human Geography and Geographical Skills (35%)
- Fieldwork (30%)

Additional Information

A GCSE in Geography will develop a range of transferable skills including:

- IT, communication, independent research and strong presentation skills
- Team work and time management

These could be useful in the following areas: Expedition leader, travel writer, TV researcher, conservation worker, architect, urban planner, environmental consultant, financial risk assessor, transport/logistics manager, diplomat, human rights officer, armed forces, surveyor, town planner, environmental engineer (all fields of engineering), marketing, social worker, hydrologist, hazard prediction and management and weather presenter.

Full course title

History

Course code

8145

Website address<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history/gcse/history-8145>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

100% examination

Course outline

The GCSE course has four main elements:

- *Germany 1890-1945*, which looks at the power of the Kaiser, World War I, the chaos of the inter-war years and the rise and fall of the Nazi party.
- *Medicine Through Time*, a thematic study of the development of medicine from the medieval period to the present day.
- *The Cold War 1945-1972*, looking at key flashpoints of the Cold War era such as the Cuban Missile Crisis, the space race and uprisings in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
- *The Norman Conquest*, which looks in depth at the impact and legacy of William the Conqueror's invasion of England in 1066.

Assessment details

There are two final exam papers.

Paper One is based on the two 'modern' topics, and contains ten questions worth between four and twenty marks each.

Paper Two, there are a total of eight questions, worth between eight and twenty marks. Most answers require a few sentences but there is also an essay question.

In each paper, both source skills and subject knowledge are required. Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Additional Information

For history lessons you will need to bring your standard equipment to every lesson.

History is an extremely highly regarded subject by many further education institutions and employers. It teaches a broad range of skills, including analysing evidence, justifying points and clear, structured extended writing. History also gives you a fantastic understanding of how the current world was shaped by significant events in the past. A study of history and the additional skills it provides is a superb way to develop transferable skills that can prove invaluable in almost any profession.

Subject: ICT

Exam Board: Edexcel

Full course title

BTEC Firsts Award in Information and Creative Technology

Course code

600/4789/6

Website address

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/information-and-creative-technology-2012-nqf.html>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

Online Exam – 25%

Coursework – 75%

Course outline

The BTEC ICT is a vocational based qualification that provides students with hands on skills that can be used to go into industry or lead on to further education. Pupils will study some of the following units:

- The Online World
- Technology Systems
- A Digital Portfolio
- Creating Digital Audio
- Creating Digital Graphics
- Creating Digital Video

Assessment details

Will be assessed through coursework completed in lessons and an online exam.

Additional Information

Standard classroom equipment is needed every lesson.

This qualification can lead to further study in electronic and online games, multimedia design and BTEC National qualifications (Level 3 courses taught at many colleges). It also provides a broad range of ICT skills which support all career pathways and general life skills.

Subject: Music

Exam Board: Edexcel

Full course title

Edexcel GCSE Music (2016)

Course code

1MU0

Website address

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

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

Performing (30%), Composing (30%), Appraising (40%)

Course outline

The GCSE course consists of:

- Performing: solo performing, ensemble performing and approaches to performing.
- Composing: developing musical ideas, compositional techniques and strategies, ensuring technical control and coherence and methods of notating composition scores.
- Appraising: musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Assessment details

Performing (30% of final mark):

- Perform for at least 4 minutes' combined duration (Performing as a soloist and in an ensemble).
- Each performance marked out of 30 marks.

Composing (30% of final mark):

- Compose 2 compositions, of which one is a set brief which is chosen by Edexcel.
- Each composition will be out of 30 marks.

Appraising Paper (40% of final mark):

- Section A: Areas of study (Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions), dictation and unfamiliar pieces.
- Section B: Extended response comparison between a set piece of work and one unfamiliar piece.

Additional Information

Students will learn to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, cultural, aesthetic and emotional awareness, and the ability to make music individually and as part of a group.

Possible career paths: Music Producer, Professional Musician, Songwriter, Record Producer, Music Teacher, Composer, Radio DJ, Music Therapist, Music Journalist, Concert Promoter, Stage Manager, Music Blogger, Music Critic, Music Lecturer, Private Instrument Teacher.

Full course title

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics GCSE

Course code

Religious Studies A (8062)

Website address<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>**Examination / controlled assessment percentages**

100% examination

Course outline

Do you enjoy discussing current issues? Are you interested in solving moral dilemmas, investigating different belief systems and developing your own opinion? Philosophy and Ethics is perfect for students who are curious about the big questions in life.

What do I study?

- Christian and Muslim beliefs, teaching and practices
- Peace and Conflict: Is war ever just? What is terrorism? Are some actions unforgiveable? How can we reconcile with enemies?
- Religion and Life: Are religion and science compatible? How should we treat the planet? Should we test on animals? What do religions think about abortion and euthanasia?
- Crime and Punishment: Why is there evil? Why do people commit crime? What is the best way to deal with criminals?
- Relationships and Families: What do religious believers think about marriage, divorce, contraception and same-sex marriage? Are men and women equal? What role do parents play?
- Human Rights and Social Justice: Do the wealthy have a responsibility to take care of the poor? What are our human rights?
- The Existence of God: Does complexity in the universe infer an intelligent designer? Do miracles happen? Why is suffering a problem for God?

Assessment details

Two exam papers (50% each). There is a variety of short answer and essay type questions.

Additional Information

The course includes an enrichment trip in Year 10 to places of worship

Possible career paths: teacher, social worker, lawyer, police officer, medical professional and more! You will gain many transferable skills such as constructing arguments, communication, debating, and evaluation skills as well as having a firm grip on current, worldwide events.

Subject: GCSE PE

Exam Board: OCR

Full course title

GCSE (9-1) in Physical Education

Course code

J587

Website address

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-physical-education-j587-from-2016/>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

60% examination, 10% controlled assessment and 30% practical assessment

Course outline

The GCSE course will require students to:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport.
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas.
- Develop the ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being.
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people's involvement in physical activity and sport.

Assessment details

- There will be 2 exams at the end of Year 11.
- There will be a controlled assessment in Year 10.
- There will be an assessment on each pupil's 3 strongest sports (individual and team).

Additional Information

- Standard classroom equipment and the school PE kit are required for lessons.
- It is important that you play for a club outside of school.
- It will prepare you for sports science courses, psychology, sociology and biology.
- It is a stepping stone to a career in teaching, physiotherapy, sports psychology, fitness instructing and many more pathways.

Subject: Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

Full course title

GCSE (9-1) Spanish

Course code

1SPO

Website address

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/spanish-2016.html>

Examination / controlled assessment percentages

100% examination

Course outline

The GCSE course continues to develop the skills and understanding they have already been working on during years 7 and 8. Topics are based on the core areas of identity and culture; local area, holiday and travel; school; future aspirations, study and work and international and global dimension.

Assessment details

There are two tiers of entry for the final exam: foundation, which covers grades 1-5 and higher, which covers grade 4-9. Final decisions about tiers of entry are not made until the later stage of the course.

Students will be assessed in four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

Towards the end of year 11, students will sit 3 exam papers: reading (25%), writing (25%) and listening (25%) There will also be a 7-12 minute (depending on tier) speaking assessment in the April/May of year 11 (25%)

At various times throughout the course, students will sit internally-assessed exams in order to show their current progress and what they need to do to improve further.

Additional Information

Compulsory resources needed: Spanish vocabulary booklets (provided), plastic A4 folder to store book and worksheets. It is important to keep and regularly revisit all vocabulary booklets provided from years 7-11.

Optional/recommended resources: Edexcel Spanish GCSE revision guide and/or workbook (£2.50 each)

Spanish is the second most widely-spoken language in the world after English, so the subject offers huge geographical, cultural and historical scope alongside the ability to become linguistically proficient at a higher level.

Continuing with Spanish to A-level helps students develop confident, effective communication skills and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken. It develops an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning and encourages students to consider their study of the language in a broader context. At degree level, one year is typically spent abroad.

Some career options for students with a degree in languages could include: translator & interpreter, bilingual secretary, international marketing, international business, teacher, medical personnel, cabin crew, broadcast journalist, logistics and distribution manager, tour manager, international aid/development worker.

Name:

Tutor group:

Complete this form and hand to your tutor by **Wednesday 15th March** at the latest.

Please follow these instructions when making your choices:

Circle the class(es) you are in for English and maths 8a 8b 8c 8d

Humanities

Please place a tick in the relevant box to show your preferred option out of History and Geography.

If you wish to study history **and** geography, you need to tick geography in these boxes and then choose history as one of your preferred options in the list below

History

Geography

Option Choices

Please choose your top 6 subjects and rank order them from 1 to 6, with 1 being your first choice.

*Note that if you are interested in computer science and ICT, only one of them can be chosen, not both.

History should only be chosen in this list if you want to study history **and geography.

If you are in 8a or 8b, you will be following an EBacc curriculum and will be studying Spanish. A number 1 will be pre-filled in the Spanish box; please place the numbers 2 to 6 in the boxes according to your preferred choices.

- Art
- Computing*
- Drama
- Food
- History**
- ICT*
- Music
- PE
- Philosophy & Ethics
- Product Design
- 1 Spanish