

Nottingham Free School Options **2016**

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 and by making good progress and achieving their best, will give students more options and 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. Many 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 PSHE lessons. Their tutor and class teachers are available if further support is needed. The options evening on **Wednesday 2nd 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.

As the grading system is changing, we do not yet know what the exact requirements will be, but our curriculum is designed to ensure all students have the maximum options available to them after GCSEs. 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.

**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.
* Complete the form at the back of the booklet and hand to your child’s tutor by Friday 11th 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 computing **or** ICT should be chosen, not both and history should only be chosen in this list if you want to study history **and** geography.

Spanish will be indicated with a ✓ if you are following an English Baccalaureate curriculum.

Art

Computing\*

Drama

Food

History\*

ICT\*

Music

PE

Philosophy & Ethics

Product Design

✓

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 **Friday 11th 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 sport after they leave Nottingham Free School. Students work 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.

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| Subject: English Language Exam Board: AQA |
| 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. |

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| Subject: English Literature Exam Board: AQA |
| 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 the 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 may interesting career opportunities such as publishing, the media, theatre, academic routes and teaching, to name just a few. |

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| 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 progresses 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 analysists, science and technology professionals, programmers, software developers, financial analysts and teaching and research professionals. |

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| 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. Coursework (controlled assessments) are no longer included but pupils will still complete set practicals which will be assessed in the written examinations as well as in class. The majority of the topics covered are identical in the trilogy and the separate science course, the main difference being the separate science pupils will cover an extra element and will take an extra three examinations (one in each subject). |
| 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. At each level and for each qualification, pupils 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. |

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| 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> |
| 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 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. |

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.

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| Subject: Art and Design Exam Board: AQA |
| Full course title |
| Art and Design (Fine Art) |
| Course code |
| 8202 |
| Website address |
| http://www.aqa.org.uk/ |
| Examination / controlled assessment percentages |
| 60% Coursework, 40% Exam |
| Course outline |
| The GCSE course is designed for pupils to expand their skills using a variety of techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, photography, textiles and sculpture.  Pupils 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. Pupils 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 pupils 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 is school, over 2 days. Preparation time for this will take place during lessons. |
| Additional Information |
| Pupils will be expected to purchase sketchbooks during the course. Financial assistance may be available from school.  Art GCSE can lead to several career paths such as various 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. |

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| 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 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. |

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| Subject: Drama Exam Board: AQA |
| Full course title |
| GCSE Drama |
| Course code |
| DRAFT 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. Pupils 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. Pupils 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, 1 hour and 45 minutes, open book, 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. Skills such as collaboration and communication 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 actors, directors, producers, designers, stage managers and many more. |

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| 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.  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.  *These assessments will be on tasks released by WJEC* |
| 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. |

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| Subject: Geography Exam Board: AQA |
| 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 – local investigation   + Physical Geography – regional investigation |
| Assessment details |
| There will be 2 exams each worth 50% of the overall grade (subject to confirmation)   * Physical Geography and Geographical Skills * Human Geography and Geographical Skills |
| 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. |

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| Subject: History Exam Board: AQA |
| Full course title |
| History |
| Course code |
| 8145 |
| Website address |
| http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/history |
| 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 equipment to every lesson. You should have a pen, pencil, ruler, eraser and a pencil sharpener.  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. |

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| Subject: ICT Exam Board: OCR |
| Full course title |
| Cambridge Nationals Certificate in ICT |
| Course code |
| J810 |
| Website address |
| http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals-ict-level-1-2-j800-j810-j820/ |
| Examination / controlled assessment percentages |
| Written paper – 25%  Coursework – 75% |
| Course outline |
| The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. The new Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and provides a solid understanding of the subject which can use in everyday working lives. The three themes which will be covered are: business information systems, creative and technical.  Students will study the following units:   * Understanding computer systems * Using ICT to create business solutions * Creating digital images * Creating an interactive product using multimedia components * Creating dynamic products using sound and vision * Handling data using spreadsheets and databases |
| Assessment details |
| The certificate will be assessed through coursework completed in lessons and a one-hour written examination. |
| Additional Information |
| Standard classroom equipment is needed every lesson.  The Cambridge Nationals Certificate in ICT is an alternative to GCSE ICT but relies less on mathematical skills. This qualification can lead to further study in games and multimedia design. |

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| Subject: Music Exam Board: Edexcel |
| Full course title |
| 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, composing and appraising. The performing component consists of solo performing, ensemble performing and approaches to performing. The composing component consists of developing musical ideas, compositional techniques and strategies, ensuring technical control and coherence, methods of notating composition scores. The appraising component consists of musical elements, musical contexts and musical language. |
| Assessment details |
| Performing (30% of final mark):  Perform for at least 4 minutes’ combined duration (solo – at least 1 minute in duration and ensemble – at least 1 minute in duration). Each performance marked out of 30 marks.  Composing (30% of final mark):  Compose 2 compositions, of at least 3 minutes’ combined duration (1 from a brief set by Edexcel, of at least 1 minute in duration, 1 free composition set by the student, of at least 1 minute in duration). 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. |

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| Subject: Philosophy and Ethics Exam Board: AQA |
| 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> |
| 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. |

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| 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> |
| 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 instructor and many more pathways. |

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| Subject: Product Design Exam Board: OCR |
| Full course title |
| Product Design |
| Course code |
| J305 (this refers to the current code which is in the process of changing) |
| Website address |
| <http://www.ocr.org.uk> |
| Examination / controlled assessment percentages |
| 40% examination 60% controlled assessment |
| Course outline |
| The GCSE course continues to develop the skills and understanding you have already been working on during years 7 & 8. Product Design will provide the opportunity to develop your design and enterprise capabilities using a variety of materials and, in particular, to encourage imagination, innovation and flair as well as encourage you to combine designing and modelling skills with knowledge and understanding. |
| Assessment details |
| There are four units which make up the Product Design course;   * Developing and Applying Design Skills 30% (Controlled Assessment) This unit requires you to work within a context set by a client you will be required to produce a design portfolio. * Design and Making Innovation Challenge 20% (Examination) A 6 hour examination, set by OCR, undertaken in two 3-hour sessions, normally on consecutive days. * Making, Testing and Marketing Products 30% (Controlled Assessment) This unit requires you to either develop further the work undertaken in either of the two previous units, or to develop an existing product or new product of your choice. * Design Influences 20% (Examination) This unit will test your knowledge and understanding of the factors that influence designing. The questions have no material bias.   The percentages shown above are subject to change when the new curriculum is released. |
| Additional Information |
| For Product Design lessons you will need to bring your equipment to every lesson. You should have a pen, pencil, ruler, and a sketch book or display folder.  Product Design 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 you will project manage 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 to name a few! |

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| Subject:Spanish Exam Board: AQA |
| Full course title |
| Spanish |
| Course code |
| 8698 |
| Website address |
| http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/spanish/specifications/AQA-8698-SP |
| Examination / controlled assessment percentages |
| 100% examination |
| Course outline |
| The GCSE course continues to develop the skills and understanding you have already been working on during years 7 and 8. Topics are based on the core areas of identity and culture; local, national and international and global areas of interest and current and future study and employment. |
| 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.  At the end of the course, pupils 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 (25%)  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.  At various times throughout the course you will sit an internally-assessed exam in order to show your current progress and what you need to do to improve further.  Final decisions about tiers of entry are not made until the later stage of the course. |
| Additional Information |
| Compulsory resources needed: Spanish vocabulary booklet (provided), plastic A4 folder to store book and worksheets.  Optional/recommended resources: AQA Spanish GCSE revision guide and/or workbook, Spanish verbs book.  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, air hostess, broadcast journalist, logistics and distribution manager, tour manager, international aid/development worker. |

**Name: Tutor group:**

Complete this form and hand to your tutor by **Friday 11th March** at the latest.

**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 computing **or** ICT should be chosen, not both and history should only be chosen in this list if you want to study history **and** geography.

Spanish will be indicated with a ✓ if you are following an English Baccalaureate curriculum.

Art

Computing\*

Drama

Food

History\*

ICT\*

Music

PE

Philosophy & Ethics

Product Design

✓

Spanish