

Yardleys School

Working together for a better future



PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

2019 – 2022

It's time to make your preferences known

Year 8 Options & Progress Evening

Thursday 21st March 2019 (4.45pm – 8.00pm)*

***ARRIVE TO COLLECT REPORTS AT 4.45PM, ATTEND A PRESENTATION AT 5.10PM AND MEET WITH TEACHERS FROM 5.45PM**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND STUDENTS

At Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11) all students have to study these core subjects:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE (GCSE)

MATHEMATICS (GCSE)

TRIPLE SCIENCE (GCSE)

This ensures that all students have a balanced curriculum, including the literacy and numeracy skills required for Further Education and the world of work.

For Parents or Carers, this is a really important time for your son or daughter. They now need to think carefully about the option subjects they want to study for the next few years. In some subjects, there is a controlled assessment or coursework portfolio element, which may run from the beginning of the course. In others, there are terminal examinations only.

By working together, we can make sure that your son or daughter leaves school with the best possible qualifications that will enable access to the most appropriate post-16 pathway to cater for their needs.

As Parents or Carers, your support and encouragement will be vital over the coming years.

Options & Progress Evening for Year 8 Students and Parents/Carers

This will take place on Thursday 21st March 2019. Please arrive between 4:45pm and 5:00pm to collect a report pack for your child. You will have the opportunity to visit subject staff from 5:45pm. There will be a presentation at 5.10pm within the Main Hall by Mr Evans (Headteacher) and Mr Pohl (Deputy Headteacher) who will discuss the KS4 Options Process.

OPTION SUBJECTS

Some of these subjects will be new to students and some are an extension of Key Stage 3. Students will study 3 optional subjects in addition to the core subjects. The timetable allocation for each option subject is 2 hours per week in year 9, with 3 hours per week in years 10 and 11.

These subjects will help students to access the wide range of courses on offer in colleges when they leave school.

If you need any further help or information please contact:

Mr Pohl on 0121 464 6821

STUDENT TIMETABLE

All students will have a timetable made up of 25 lessons (each of 55 minutes in length), together with a 50 minute 'Enrichment Period' on Wednesday afternoons.

Subject	Yr9 Weekly Lesson Allocation
Core compulsory subjects	
English	5
Mathematics	5
Triple Science	6
Core PE	2
Preparation for Work	1
Option subjects	
Option 1	2
Option 2	2
Option 3	2

MAKING YOUR PREFERENCES ADVICE TO STUDENTS

- Remember – you have to study English, Mathematics and Science.
- You will need to choose 5 optional subjects, in preference order, but will only study 3 of these. The additional choices are required should an option not run or the combination of choices not allow an exact timetable fit. We will try to provide you with your top 3 choices, but this may not always be possible
- The subjects that you choose will ‘open the doors’ to future learning pathways and careers. It is vital that you choose wisely and work hard to achieve the best grades possible!

Choose the subjects:

1. THAT YOU LIKE
2. THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
3. THAT ‘OPEN THE DOORS’ TO FUTURE PATHWAYS & CAREERS
4. THAT YOU THINK YOU WILL DO WELL IN

DO NOT choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it – you may not be placed in the same group!

REMEMBER

- The qualifications you achieve at KS4 are yours for life! You can use them at any time in your life to get onto a further education course.
- Every grade at examination level is of value. There are many different courses to study from age 16 onwards. There are college courses to suit everyone (please feel free to discuss post 16 courses with Mrs Price, our Careers Education Advisor).

EBacc

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure for schools, awarded when students secure a good pass across a core of five academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language. It is not a qualification in itself. Whilst we don’t make this qualification compulsory, we do encourage high achieving students to choose a language subject with history or geography.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

When you are reading the information about the different subjects, think about what will suit **you**.

- Some subjects have some controlled assessment or coursework portfolio element – this helps you to gain marks towards your final grade **BUT** you may have to do extra at various times throughout the course in preparation.
- Some subjects require more reading and writing than others.
- Some subjects are more practical than others (but all have reading, writing and exams).
- Some subjects, like Drama, will require you to work with others in groups and even perform to an audience as well as doing written work and exams.
- Some subjects, like Sport Science, may require special skills as well as written work and exams.

If you need advice – speak to the teacher who teaches you in Year 8 or speak to the staff below for the following areas –

Art and Design – **Mr Cross or Ms Davies (Rm 109)**

Computer Science / ICT - **Ms Chauhan-Rowe (Rm 113)**

Design & Technology - **Mr Deaves (Rm 114)**

Drama – **Ms Clarke (Cooper Hall)**

English – **Ms Austin (Cooper Hall)**

French / Spanish - **Ms Cuniappen or Ms Bernard (Cooper Hall)**

Geography - **Mr Porter (Cooper Hall)**

History – **Ms Deakin (Cooper Hall)**

iMedia – **Mr Armstead (Rm 110b)**

Maths – **Ms Soliman (Atrium)**

Sport Science – **Mr Cross (Rm 109)**

Religious Education – **Ms Jones (Cooper Hall)**

Triple Science – **Ms Hiley (Cooper Hall)**

Careers Education Advisor - **Ms Price (Atrium)**

CORE SUBJECTS

(All students will study these)

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Triple Science
- Preparation for Work (Year 9 only)

IMPORTANT NOTES REGARDING GCSE REFORMS

Grading

The Government announced a couple of years ago that there would be changes made to the current grading system and, by the time your child receives his/her grades, they will be in the form of numbers and not letters. The grading system will run from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade.

Specification changes

The information contained on the following pages represents existing course formats. Over the coming months, some examination boards may continue to release specification updates for some courses. One thing that has changed from previous specifications is the examination and controlled assessment weighting. There is generally now a greater emphasis on the examination component within the course.

Parents/carers will be kept informed by the School of any major changes to course specifications that may affect their child.

English Language

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award** (Note: This is separate to English Literature)

Examination / Coursework Breakdown

Paper 1 – Fiction and Imaginative Writing (1 hour 45 minutes - **40%**):

Section A (Reading)

- **Fiction** (1 hour)
 - A series of **short answer** and **extended essay questions** on an unseen 19th century fiction extract.
 - Students will be required to **analyse** and **evaluate** the **language, structure** and **ideas** in the extract.

Section B (Writing)

- **Imaginative Writing** (45 minutes)
 - A choice of two writing tasks - the tasks will be based on the same theme as the reading extract.
 - **Vocabulary, spelling, punctuation** and **grammar** are assessed.

Paper 2 – Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing (2 hours 5 minutes - **60%**):

Section A (Reading)

- **Non-Fiction** (1 hour 15 minutes)
 - A series of **short answer** and **extended essay questions** on two thematically linked, unseen 20th and 21st century non-fiction extracts.
 - Students will be required to **analyse, evaluate** and **compare** the **language, structure** and **ideas** in the texts.

Section B (Writing)

- **Transactional Writing** (45 minutes)
 - A choice of two writing tasks - the tasks will be based on the same theme as the reading extracts.
 - **Vocabulary, spelling, punctuation** and **grammar** are assessed.

Course Description

English Language and Literature is a combined GCSE course leading to the award of two GCSE grades. Students have four hours of English per week in Years 9-10 and five hours in Year 11.

The new GCSE has enabled the English department to bring in new and exciting themes at KS4 which students will study as they prepare for their Language and Literature GCSEs. Specifically, in preparation for their Language examinations, pupils will examine and create a range of non-fiction texts; compare and contrast a variety of transactional and literary non-fiction texts; and analyse and create their own imaginative fiction texts using their Literature texts as inspiration.

Students will complete all GCSE exams at the end of the course; Exams are no longer tiered.

Benefits

English is a core subject and therefore compulsory for students to study. The study of fiction and non-fiction texts in English Language demonstrates effective writing and allows us to delve into a range of themes and issues that are both historically important and extremely relevant to our lives today. Furthermore, by developing pupils' written and spoken language, we equip students with the transferrable skills needed to be successful in further and higher education and to confidently and accurately express themselves in all aspects of adult life.

Student Voice

"I enjoy this subject because when we come to English, we get to express ourselves and share our own experiences with our peers; even though the work is challenging, we cover topics that I can relate to my life."

Year 10 Student

"English is helping me to become a better writer. We're also encouraged to link key words and skills to what we're doing in other subjects; even my other teachers have noticed that my grammar is improving and that's definitely because of my English teacher!"

Year 10 Student

English Literature

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award** (Note: This is separate to English Language)

Examination / Coursework Breakdown

Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes, **50%**):

Section A (1 hour)

- Shakespeare, 'Romeo and Juliet'
 - **Two questions** – one based on an extract of approximately 30 lines and one on the whole play

Section B (45 minutes)

- Post- 1914 British Drama or Fiction, 'Animal Farm'
 - Choice of **essay questions**.
 - Vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation are all assessed.

Paper 2 (2 hours 15 minutes, **50%**):

Section A (1 hour)

- 19th Century Fiction, 'Frankenstein'
 - **Two questions** – one based on an extract of approximately 400 words (provided), and one based on whole novel, (closed text exam).

Section B (1 hour 15 minutes)

- Poetry
 - One question **comparing** one named poem from poetry anthology and another anthology poem of students' choice.
- One question asking students to **compare two unseen contemporary poems**.

Course Description

English Language and Literature is a combined GCSE course leading to the award of two GCSE grades. Students have four lessons of English per week in year 9.

The new GCSE has enabled the English department to bring in new and exciting themes at KS4 which students will study as they prepare for their GCSE. Students will study Language and Literature alongside one another, and, in preparation for their Literature examinations will explore poems from the 'Clashes and Collisions' anthology as they examine presentations of war and conflict; debate the role of nature and nurture as they explore the novel 'Frankenstein'; debate the role of loyalty in the play 'Romeo and Juliet'; and finally assess the significance of the satirical allegory 'Animal Farm'.

Students will complete all GCSE exams at the end of the course. Exams are no longer tiered.

Benefits

English is a core subject and therefore compulsory for students to study. The study of Literature- novels, poetry and plays – models effective writing and allows us to explore in lessons: social, moral, spiritual and cultural values, concerns and debates. Subsequently, students have better access to a range of subjects within their studies, and are encouraged to read widely and independently thereby leaving school with the emotional maturity and skills needed to support future learning.

Student Voice

"What I like most about studying literature in English is that it is a great way to expand your vocabulary; finding new words you can then use in your own writing. I also like the way our teacher makes links between the texts we study in class and modern writings – books, film, music and even computer games! It's amazing to see how older texts are often inspirations for some of the more modern novels that are popular today."

Year 10 Student

Mathematics

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Examination / Coursework Breakdown

Examination: 100%

Course Description

AIMS:

- To encourage pupils to develop confidence, understanding and a broad range of mathematical skills.
 - To provide opportunities for pupils to think and communicate mathematically, in clearly written, spoken and graphical forms.
 - To develop pupils' problem solving skills so that they can apply their mathematical knowledge and ability in a wide variety of situations - practical or theoretical, familiar or unfamiliar.
 - To comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context
 - To build a firm foundation from which to study mathematics further.
- GCSE mathematics is an important foundation for many courses and careers. Almost all jobs and careers require mathematics.
 - There has been an increase in the breadth and depth of content to be covered at both Foundation and Higher tiers.
 - The new structure of the papers will see fewer questions targeted at the lowest grades and more questions targeted at the highest grades at both tiers.
 - The number of formulae that students can be provided with in the examinations has been reduced, so students will need to memorise some formula.
 - The assessments will cover the following content headings:
 - Number.
 - Algebra.
 - Ratio, proportion and rates of change.
 - Geometry and measures.
 - Probability.
 - Statistics.

ASSESSMENT:

- The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or higher tier.
- All three papers must be at the same tier of entry
 - Paper 1 (non-calculator) – 1 hour 30 mins – 80 marks
 - Paper 2 (calculator) – 1 hour 30 mins – 80 marks
 - Paper 3 (calculator) – 1 hour 30 mins – 80 marks
- Tiers of entry:
 - Higher: Grades 9 – 4
 - Foundation: Grades 5 – 1

Benefits

Mathematics is a core subject and therefore compulsory for students to study. It teaches you practical applications for everyday finance and budgeting. Problem solving skills and logical thinking will open doors to many industries ranging from Architecture to Engineering to Medicine and even Law.

Student Voice

"Maths is used in all subjects. It's really important! My teacher helps me address my weaker areas and how I can improve. 'Mymaths', 'MathsWatch' and 'iamlearning' are really good resources and help me a lot."

Year 11 Student

Triple Science

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Edexcel**

Qualification Weighting: **Triple Award (3 separate GCSE's)**

Assessment

GCSE Route

Examination: **100%**

	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
GCSE Combined Science	Two Papers Paper 1 and Paper 2 Each test = 1 hr 45 min	Two Papers Paper 1 and Paper 2 Each test = 1 hr 45 min	Two Papers Paper 1 and Paper 2 Each test = 1 hr 45 min

Course Description

Studying Triple Science leads to three separate GCSE awards in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The new GCSE course does not have a coursework element and has a 100% terminal exam – which means that all of their exams will be sat at the end of Year 11. To cover the practical aspects of the course pupils are required to complete 8 core practical experiments for each different specialism (24 in total) and keep a record of these in their practical log books. These practical experiments will then be assessed within the written exams at the end of Y11.

Students will study a variety of interesting topics throughout the course, but some of the new material being covered includes:

- Biology - Disease and the development of medicines, the eye and brain.
- Chemistry - Fuel cells
- Physics - Astronomy, and nuclear physics
-

If you would like more information on the new specification please look at the following website:

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

Suitability and Benefits

Everybody will study triple Science. This means you are able to sit separate tiers for each specialism, e.g. Higher for Biology and Foundation Chemistry to support you if you are weaker in one of the three Sciences

For students interested in scientific careers such as Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Engineering, Research Science, triple science provides an excellent precursor to college level study in these areas.

However, even those who are not interested in pursuing a 'science career' will benefit from an enhanced understanding of the world around you. Studying triple Science also teaches you valuable transferrable skills applicable to everyday life e.g. recording data accurately, evaluating a method and suggesting improvements as well as learning how to manipulate data effectively.

Student Voice

"Triple science focuses on all subjects equally, and I enjoy it more than KS3 because we go into more detail"

Year 9 student

"The most interesting part about science is understanding why things happen – and there is so much I didn't know I didn't know until I studied triple science."

Year 10 student

"You do lots of practical experiments and it helps with our learning. We get plenty of opportunity to practise our skills. My favourite so far has been dissecting a real heart"

Year 11 student

"You get 3 teachers for triple science, so the teacher is always an expert on the topic"

Year 9 student

OPTION SUBJECTS

(Up to three subjects will be studied from this list)

- Art and Design (GCSE)
- Computer Science (GCSE)*
- Design & Technology (GCSE)
- Drama (GCSE)
- French (GCSE)*
- Geography (GCSE)*
- History (GCSE)*
- IT (OCR)
- iMedia (OCR)
- Sport Science (OCR)
- Religious Education (GCSE)
- Spanish (GCSE)*

***EBacc Subject**

Art and Design

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **GCSE**

Assessment Schedule

Students will work developing foundation skills in year 9, with a practice examination within the summer term; which may count as a piece of coursework, if of a high standard.

In year 10, students will produce two projects and have a mock examination which, again, could count towards a final coursework grade.

In year 11, students will produce an extended piece of coursework and complete the final examination.

To summarise, one extended project will be submitted for coursework, with best work from other projects and a final 10 hour examination will be sat over two days of normal lesson time.

Examination: **40%** (including a term's preparation and 10 hours of examination time).

Coursework Portfolio: **60%** (one extended project with best work from other projects)

Course Description

To include –

- Drawing and painting.
- Sculpture and 3D modelling.
- Photography.
- Printing.
- Textile work.
- Contextual studies/research into artists and their work.
- Your work exhibited in the annual Arts Evening.

Enrichment / Extra-curricular opportunities

Students are encouraged to attend the after school art club sessions and would benefit from visiting the free art galleries in the local area.

Suitability and Benefits

- GCSE Art requires students to be able to work independently both at school and at home.
- GCSE Art allows and encourages creative work, using a range of art materials and techniques. This should equip students with a range of transferrable artistic skills for future study at college or preparation to become an artistic practitioner.
- Art is a therapeutic tool for self-expression.

Student Voice

“Choosing Art as an option is a good idea if you enjoy expressing yourself through colour and imagination. I enjoy using different styles of art to portray my ideas. I enjoy experimenting with materials and techniques.”

Year 10

Student

“Five of our year 11 class already have places at college to carry on studying art next year.”

Year 11

Student

Computer Science

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment Schedule

Schedule: **2 exams at the end of year 11 (90 minutes each) and a 20 hour programming project**

Examination: **100%**

Course Description

This qualification has real relevance in our modern world. While learners will no doubt already have some knowledge of computers and related areas, the course will give an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on “behind the scenes”. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement. Learners will study computer programming which will help them develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills which will help them design systems for the future.

Units of work to be completed

Component 01 (50%)	Computer Systems
Component 02 (50%)	Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming
Component 03 (20 hours)	Programming Project

Suitability and Benefits

Information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If learners want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone.

Learners who have taken Computer Science GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at AS Level and A Level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject area. The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Skills and qualities needed to be successful on this course

- Hard working
- Independent learner
- Good at problem solving
- Critical thinking and analysis
- Mathematical mind
- Ability to write down solutions to problems for other people to understand

Student Voice

“I really enjoy Computer Science; it’s a great course if you are interested in the technical side of computers. Computing is quite Mathematical so if you enjoy Maths you will certainly enjoy Computing.”

10 student

Year

Design and Technology

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **Eduqas (part of WJEC)**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Assessment Objective 1 - Investigate and Identify the Needs of the User – 10%

Assessment Objective 2 - Design and Make Prototypes and Products – 30%

Assessment Objective 3 - Analyse and Evaluate Wider issues in D&T – 20%

Assessment Objective 4 - Apply Technical Principles and Designing and Making Skills – 40%

Examination: 50%

2 hour paper sat in the summer of Year 11

NEA (Non-Examined Assessment – Coursework): 50%

Consisting of three elements:

- Informal Evidence – Sketchbook;
- Formal Evidence – Portfolio;
- Final Prototypes/Product.

Course Description

A GCSE in Design and Technology allows students to identify and solve real problems. Students are encouraged to work creatively, apply technical knowledge and practical skills to design and make products that meet the needs of a specific user. They will have opportunities to learn about and use a wide range of modern materials and processes, including Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture. The Exam Board set a range of Contextual Challenges that forms the basis of their final NEA in Year 11.

Year 9

- Students are taught Core Knowledge and Understanding about Materials, Processes and Design and Technology in the Modern World.
- Students will undertake a Mini-Project that is structured in the same way as their final NEA.

Year 10

- Students further develop their Core Knowledge and Understanding, including a wider range of Modern and Smart Materials and Electronic and Mechanical Systems.
- Students will undertake a more detailed Design and Make Project that is structured and assessed in the same way as their final NEA Coursework.
- Their final GCSE NEA is launched by Eduqas at the end of the summer term.

Year 11

- Students will undertake their final GCSE NEA up until the end of the Spring Term in Year 11.
- They will submit all evidence for final assessment which will then be moderated internally and by the examination board.
- They will sit their final exam in the summer of Year 11.

Suitability and Benefits

- This course would suit those wishing to study Product Design at A/S or A level at college.
- Careers leading from Design and Technology include Engineering, Graphic Design, Product Design, Media, Construction, Fashion Design, Interior Design etc

Student Voice

“The course allows you to build loads of skills in designing and making. I not only developed my use of various hand tools, but also learnt how to use the new CAD/CAM equipment, including the 3D printer and scanner!”

Year 10 student

Drama

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **EDEXCEL**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **3 components**

Component 1: Teacher assessed performance (10%) with a portfolio to compliment the process (30%) total worth 40%

Component 2: Scripted performance exam of two extracts of a play (Performance to outside examiner), worth 20%

Component 3: 1 written examination worth 40% in year 11.

Examination (written and performance): **60%** Controlled Assessment including written Coursework: **40%**

Course Description

Component 1 Devising – Internally assessed 40%

- Students take part in an exploration of a theme/topic/issue such as The Refugee Crisis and create a devised performance or realise the design for the performance based around this theme. Students will produce a portfolio of coursework evidence either written (max 2000 words), verbal evidence recorded (8-10 minutes) or both (750-1000 words and 4-5 minutes recorded).

Component 2 Performance from a text - Externally assessed 20%

- Students will either perform in and/or design for **two key extracts** from a performance text.

Component 3 Theatre Makers in Practice – Written Exam 40%

- Students will practically explore and study one complete performance text which they will answer questions on in the exam paper from an actor and director's point of view.
- Students will also be expected to answer two questions in the exam on a live theatre production they have seen with their class.

Assessment criteria

For component one students will be assessed in both practical and written coursework on their use of the explorative strategies, drama mediums and elements of drama that are embedded in the programmes of study that students have already begun to learn about in KS3. The external assessment (component two) allows students the opportunity to choose either to perform or contribute to the performance support in lighting, sound, set and props, costume or make-up/masks.

Enrichment / Extra-curricular opportunities

All Drama students will be required to attend additional rehearsals at lunchtimes and in half term in the lead up to their final performances of component one and two. Furthermore it is **compulsory** that GCSE students take part in the school's annual production either as a performer or designer.

During this course students will have the opportunity to visit backstage areas of some of Birmingham's theatres and attend a variety of live theatre performances.

Suitability and Benefits

Skills and Qualities students needed to be successful in this course

- To enjoy working as a team but also to be able to work independently.
- To be willing to perform and participate in rehearsals at lunchtime and after school.
- To think creatively and imaginatively with an interest in live performance.
- To be organised and manage time effectively.

Educational and Career benefits

- The performance elements of this course will develop confidence that can be used **in all areas of life.**
- Students explore a play text which will develop the skills they also use in English, but in a practical way.
- The exploration of a theme or issue and examining the social and historical impact of different periods of history will also develop skills as an independent enquirer, research and presentation as well as help to develop planning, time management, communication and organisational skills.
- If students are thinking of a career in the performing arts as an actor or in a backstage/management area, this course is a must!

Student Voice

"Apart from the fantastic trips that we go on, Drama is a subject that allows you to express yourself in different ways and as different characters. We also love indulging in the worlds of the characters. Furthermore Drama is a great subject for improving our confidence."

students

Year 10 GCSE

French

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing Exams in summer of Year 11. Each skill is worth 25%.**

Examination: **100 %** Controlled Assessment: **N/A**

Course Description

French GCSE develops upon content studied at Key Stage 3, delving into topical teenage issues.

Content will be covered in an engaging manner, enabling students to not only develop a life-long love of language learning, but also developing linguistic skills and an understanding of grammatical structures.

Students who study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE will grow in confidence and gain a greater understanding of other cultures and of the multi-cultural society in which we live.

Suitability and Benefits

Students taking a Modern Foreign Language must be hardworking, independent learners who can show resilience and dedication. We recommend that this option will be suitable for you if you are currently working at a Grade 5 at KS3.

French GCSE is regarded as a highly academic subject, which is greatly valued by reputable colleges and universities. It would suit and support any career path offering opportunities to work abroad or with foreign companies. It is also one of the subjects included on the E-Bacc, should you decide to go down the academic route.

By taking French GCSE, you will be able to demonstrate to colleges, universities and employers that you have a variety skills and qualities that you can use cross-curricular and in the world of work.

Student Voice

"I have been learning French for five years and really enjoy this subject. This is because learning a new language allows you to integrate into a different culture and it brings people together. I would recommend GCSE French to students that strive to connect links between other nationalities. In addition, this helps me break the language barrier with different speakers and allows me to communicate with them. Moreover having a language is highly regarded by colleges as they are more likely to accept students with language GCSE."

Year 11 student

Geography

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **3 exams at the end of year 11, 2 knowledge based and 1 a skills paper**

Examination: **100%**

Course Description

Over the two year GCSE course you will cover lots of interesting topics in two main areas:

Living with the physical environment

Discover more about the challenge of natural hazards and the living world, physical landscapes of the United Kingdom and human interaction with them. This unit develops an understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, biological and meteorological processes and features in different environments (the science of planet Earth). It provides you with the knowledge about the need for different ways to manage our planet for the future and different ways humans have changed our planet (planned or unplanned) in both positive and negative ways. We will also look at the challenges of climate change and world governance.

Challenges in the human environment

This unit is all about human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change across time and place. You will develop an understanding of the factors that produce a wide variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and both within and across different countries; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments.

Over previous years there have been a number of fieldtrips, including a trip to central Birmingham to look at how our city is changing and a day at Carding Mill Valley investigating the physical world and the science behind nature. You are guaranteed a minimum of 5 days of fieldwork to prepare you for the skills exam. We also run optional residential trips to different rural areas and are looking at the possibility of field trips abroad.

Suitability and Benefits

Take this subject if -

- You want to know about the world you live in and how it is changing.
- You want to go to college – as an academic subject and a part of the E-BAC, both colleges and universities like to see Geography.
- You want to give your opinions on real world problems and suggest solutions, justifying what you think and why – an important skill!
- This is a practical subject giving many relevant skills including computer and GIS work, data analysis and practical scientific investigation.
- You want a career in business management, the financial, environmental or media sectors – the main career routes of Geography graduates. This subject provides many transferable skills and abilities that employers are looking for. In 2015 it was the most employable of all degree subjects with 95% of all graduates employed within a year of completion (UCAS)

Student Voice

“Geography is more scientific than I thought so if you enjoy Science you will also enjoy Geography.”

“Picking Geography is the start of a new adventure, where you can learn new skills along the way.”

“Choosing Geography was the best decision I ever made – I’m even considering a career in Geography.”

“When learning Geography it helps you with other subjects, and helps to improve your skills.”

“I have loved the fieldtrips – they have helped me to see the world in a different perspective, and I got to push a ‘friend’ into a lake... ;-)”

“It’s a subject that makes amazing memories, and will be the subject you will most look forward to when choosing your options.”

Year 11 student

History

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **3 exams to be taken at the end of Y11**

Examination: **100%**

Course Description

In History, students will study –

Year Nine: Paper 1 (30%)

- Medicine through time – a study of how medicine changed from 1250 to the present day.

Year 10: Paper 2 (40%)

- Elizabethan England 1558-88 – How Elizabeth ruled England, threats that she faced and what England was like at the time.
- The American West: Native Americans, Cowboys, The Gold Rush and the conflict between Native Americans and the US government.

Year 11: Paper 3 (30%)

- The USA 1954-65: this unit covers the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War.

Suitability and Benefits

You should consider GCSE History if:

- You want to find out about the past and how it links into the present and future.
- You are considering going to college (especially if you are doing A-Levels)
- You want to have excellent skills of communication, enquiry, research, and argument which look good on your CV and to future employers and colleges.
- You are interested in law, media, medicine, business, sociology or economics.

Student Voice

“History is really interesting as you get to find out about how medicine has changed over time.”

“We cover a lot of different periods of History so there is something in the course for everyone.”

Current History students

IT

Qualification Type: **Cambridge National Certificate**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Coursework: Set assignment that assesses a student's ability to develop a technological solution to a real world problem (50%) 20 hours

Examination: Exam to assess a student's understanding of tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions (50%) 1 hour 45 mins

Course Description

Cambridge Nationals are vocational technical qualifications for 14-16 year olds. They have been created to support students who want to develop practical skills and knowledge relating to IT. Data Manipulation and Project Management are vital skills for success in employments and higher education and are among key transferable skills required by employers. Cambridge Nationals in Information Technologies develops students understanding of these skills through the development of creative products to solve real world problems. Taking this qualification will prepare you for a career in a data driven future.

Suitability and Benefits

Information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If learners want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of Information Technologies, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone.

Learners who have taken this qualification and who then progress to study the subject at Level 3 will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this subject area. Skills and qualities needed to be successful on this course

- Hard working
- Independent learner
- Good at problem solving
- Sticking to deadlines
- Good written skills
- Ability to write down solutions to problems

Student Voice

"I really enjoy IT, it is a great course to learn how IT projects are completed in the real world, there is a lot more to it than you actually think."

Year 10 student

iMedia

Qualification Type: **Cambridge National Certificate**
2

Qualification Level:

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Year 9: Research, planning, creating and evaluating a magazine/online advert for a computer game called Time Chaser. Exam skills and extended project work related to the exam. Comic strip project.

Year 10: RO82 Creating a digital graphic. RO81 Pre-production skills

Year 11: RO84 Storytelling with a comic strip project. RO91 Digital Video Game Proposal

Course Description

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. This qualification will help students develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

The students sit TWO mandatory units of pre-production and creating digital graphics which serve to underpin the qualification and reflect key industry skills. The pre-production skills unit (RO81) is assessed through an examination and contributes 25% of the marks for the Certificate size qualification. A further TWO units (Comic strip and digital photography units) are assessed through a practical task-based assessment with OCR-set tasks.

Suitability and Benefits

This subject is suitable for those who possess good English and ICT skills. There are opportunities to incorporate elements of Drama, Photography, English and of course, IT. Media Studies offers the chance to be imaginative and creative and good ideas and inquisitive thinking will always be rewarded with high marks.

Media Studies is relevant for a wide range of careers as the mass media plays an increasingly important part in everyone's lives. It would benefit you if you are thinking of entering careers such as business and marketing, advertising, research, film, TV, radio, newspaper/magazine publishing, website or game designing to name just a few.

Student Voice

"I loved making my own DVD cover and learning about different photographic techniques."

**Year 10
student**

"Media Studies is great because you get to experience what it's like to work in the media."

Year 11 student

Sport Science

Qualification Type: **Cambridge National Certificate**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **OCR**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessed Components	Examination Assessment	Practical Assessment
Fitness training principles First aid and risk assessment Sport Nutrition Responses to exercise	1 Written exam - 25% of Qualification	Over three units, students are assessed in scenario based coursework. 75% of Qualification

Course Description

The course is made up of four units all worth 25% of your overall grade. The first unit will be assessed by examination. The following three units will be assessed by assignments tasks based on theory and practical elements.

Your Cambridge National Award will comprise of the four units below -

1. R041 Reducing the risk of sport injuries (exam assessed)
2. R042 Applying principles of training (course work assessed)
3. R043 The body's response to physical activity (course work assessed)
4. R045 Sports nutrition (course work assessed)

Suitability

Skills and Qualities that students need to be successful include –

- A keen interest in Physical Education and Sport
- Enjoying working as part of a team and to be able to work independently
- Ability in demonstrating content understanding through coursework and assignment based tasks
- Being organised and managing time effectively
- Displaying a good understanding of Sciences, particularly Biology

Student Voice

"I like the fact that my sporting abilities can help me to achieve in this subject. I enjoy the theory lessons, where we get to discuss some of the issues affecting sports professionals such as dietary requirements or drugs. This is by far my favourite subject!"

Year 11

student

"I like the fact we get to design and complete our own training programme as part of our assessment for the 'Applying principles of training' unit. I have really seen my fitness improve and have learnt lots about training methods and principles of training which I can use outside of school at the gym."

Year 10

student

"I really enjoy how most of my work is coursework assessed; I find I show my understanding better through assignments rather than written exams. I also like how by the end of year 9 25% of my GCSE equivalent award will have been completed, easing the pressure for my year 11 studies."

Year 9

student

Religious Education

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: Christianity and Islam **1.45 hour paper** Applied Ethics **1.45 hour paper**

5 questions per topic question. Ranging from 1 to 12 marks. 12 marks are essay based answers. **Four** topics must be answered within **each paper**.

Examination: **100%** Exam taken in Yr11

3 hours in total over **2 papers**.

Course Description

We are a passionate, high-achieving and popular department within the school. The Religious Education (R.E.) GCSE is interesting, challenging and fun! It really gets pupils to gain a knowledge of past, present and future global issues.

Throughout KS4, students will study a broad range of topics, from theology based modules to applying their religious knowledge to Ethics. The two religions covered under theology are; Islam and Christianity. Pupils will be learning the core **beliefs** both religions have and then how religious people put them into **practice**.

Course Content:

Islam - Core Beliefs and practices (History of Islam, including the main prophets such as Ibrahim and Muhammad (PBUH) and the main articles of faith within Sunni and Shia Islam)

Christianity - Core Beliefs and practices (History of Christianity, including the Life of Jesus and his teachings from a Protestant and Catholic interpretation)

Ethics- Relationships and families and Religion (Inc. marriage and family roles.) **Peace and Terrorism** (Inc. past and present conflict/terrorism and religious responses), **Crime and Punishment** (within different societies/law systems and countries) and **Religion and Life** (Inc. treatment of animals, sanctity of life and the environment)

Yr9 will be spent just on theology: Islam and Christianity (2 lessons a week)

Yr10-11 will be applied ethics/revision. (3 lessons a week)

Suitability and Benefits

R.E. is a great qualification for any job that involves working with people i.e. doctor, teacher, shop worker, office worker or solicitor. R.E. helps learners understand the way people think and act. It also helps pupils to challenge misconceptions and empathise with others within society. It gives students knowledge of issues within the world. For some pupils, it also enables them to understand their faith and put their religious practices/beliefs into context.

R.E. GCSE equips students in essay writing, research, explanation and justification skills. R.E. compliments most subjects in school, especially History, Geography, English, Science and Media.

This GCSE now includes deep theological and philosophical/ethical concepts, so it is suitable for anyone who loves a challenge and 'thinks outside of the box'

Religious Education is a written based subject. It does involve **learning some quotes off by heart (Quran, Ahadith and the Bible)** and being able to remember and apply a lot of **academic keywords**. The new exam also means you have to **write a lot of content, in a short amount of time**. You are taught and guided on how to do this over three years and all of our teachers have GCSE experience and extensive knowledge about Islam, Christianity and the world, but you must be aware of the **written demands of this subject**. The exam layout is the same as with the Yr 8 exams (1,2,4,5 and 12 mark question x 4 in each exam).

Student Voice

"I love RE because I can learn more in-depth knowledge about my own and another religion. Paper 2 is my favourite, I get to learn about the world and some controversial topics; such as terrorism and the death penalty. It has made me more confident to voice my opinion and learn how to write an essay similar to A-levels in college. Therefore it has also prepared me for the next steps in my education." Year 10 male.

Year 10 male student

Spanish

Qualification Type: **GCSE**

Qualification Level: **2**

Examination Board: **AQA**

Qualification Weighting: **Single Award**

Assessment

Schedule: **Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing Exams in summer of Year 11. Each skill is worth 25%.**

Examination: **100 %** Controlled Assessment: **N/A**

Course Description

Spanish GCSE develops upon content studied at Key Stage 3, delving into topical teenage issues.

Content will be covered in an engaging manner, enabling students to not only develop a life-long love of language learning, but also developing linguistic skills and an understanding of grammatical structures.

Students who study a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE will grow in confidence and gain a greater understanding of other cultures and of the multi-cultural society in which we live.

Suitability and Benefits

Students taking a Modern Foreign Language must be hardworking, independent learners who can show resilience and dedication. We recommend that this option will be suitable for you if you are currently working at a Grade 5 at KS3.

Spanish GCSE is regarded as a highly academic subject, which is greatly valued by reputable colleges and universities. It would suit and support any career path offering opportunities to work abroad or with foreign companies. It is also one of the subjects included on the E-Bacc, should you decide to go down the academic route.

By taking Spanish GCSE, you will be able to demonstrate to colleges, universities and employers that you have a variety skills and qualities that you can use cross-curricular and in the world of work.

Student Voice

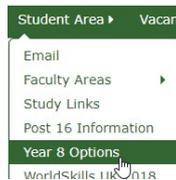
“Spanish – the world’s 3rd most spoken language. Why choose this language to study for your GCSE? – Because it’s a useful language that will strengthen your CV and career prospects as employers highly value candidates that know more than 3 languages as the language industry is expanding rapidly. As hard as it may seem, it is easy to learn and comprehend.”

Year 11 student

Choosing your Subject Preferences (2019)

This needs to be completed on-line by 9am Tuesday 26th March 2019.

1) Login to the School VLE at www.yardleys-vle.com → 



2) Select 'Year 8 Options' from the 'Student Area' menu

Select Your Options

3) Follow the link on the page →  CLICK HERE

T.O.O.L.S.
TimeTabler Options On-Line System

Collecting Student Choices On-line

Please enter your details:

Username:
Password:

4) Login to the T.O.O.L.S. system using the same login credentials you use for IXL. Your username is your 4 digit VLE username and your password is your date of birth in 8 digit format (for example, 1st March 2006 would be 01032006)

5) Confirm that your name appears on the next screen and make your choices – you need to choose 5 subjects and will study 3 (sometimes, it may not be possible to study your top 3 choices).

Check your choices carefully and then press 'Submit'. You will not be able to change these online after they are submitted.

Yardleys School Subject Option Choices To leave without making any choices: [Log out](#)

Choices for: [View your choices](#)
Extra information: [Click here](#) for an example. [Click here](#) for course information.

Step 1 of 2
[Start](#) > Free choice > Confirmation

Please enter your 5 choices by entering 1, 2, 3, etc. in the box by your chosen subjects.

Subject	Choice
Art & Design (Ar)	<input type="text"/>
Computer Sci (Cp)	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Drama (Dr)	<input type="text"/>
Design Tech (Dt)	<input type="text"/>
French (Fr)	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Geography (Gg)	<input type="text"/>
History (Hi)	<input type="text" value="2"/>
IT (It)	<input type="text"/>
iMedia (Ms)	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Sport Science (Px)	<input type="text"/>
Religious Ed (Re)	<input type="text" value="4"/>
Spanish (Sp)	<input type="text"/>

This will send a confirmation of your Choices to the email address you enter:

Email address:

6) You will be offered the facility to receive email confirmation of your subject choices, but you will need to supply a valid email address for this.