



Newlands Girls' School 2024

Options Booklet for Year 9 Students

Subject Guide



Newlands Girls' School

Options Booklet

2024

Subjects at a Glance

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All students will follow English Language and English Literature courses.

Aims of the Course

How many things are you asked to read or write in a single day? Your reading and writing skills affect how well you do in almost every area of your school life and they continue to be important as you progress through higher education and onto your chosen career.

Nature of the Course

English Language at GCSE helps you practise, improve and develop your reading and writing skills, as well as improving your ability to converse within a variety of different contexts. The course has been designed to teach skills that you can apply in wider studies and real life situations.

Homework

To succeed in this course, homework is essential as it provides a key element of preparation for examinations. You will be asked to undertake a wide variety of tasks including research, reading, writing and preparing for spoken assessments.

Assessment

GCSE English Language is assessed by examination with two equally balanced papers, each assessing reading and writing. There will be a focus on non-fiction texts and pre-19th Century prose.

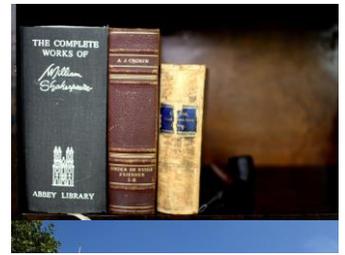
Deadlines

It is important that students complete all tasks set. Students who are absent will have to complete work at the first opportunity on their return to school. Catch-up sessions will take place in the late afternoon, immediately after school.

The future

Students who are successful at GCSE will be accepted on to the A-Level course in English Language or English Literature. If you are interested in English A-Level, you may also want to consider A-Level Media Studies.

GCSE English Literature
Head of Department – Mr A. Kerrigan



All students will follow English Literature and English Language courses.

Aims of the course

The aim of the course is to develop flexible, competent users of English, who are capable of understanding and creating texts from a variety of media. You will learn how to make a reasoned and informed response to works from the English literary heritage as well as texts from other cultures.

Nature of the course

It will provide you with the ability to think for yourself and show that you have the skills to understand a wide range of writing. Many employers and higher education establishments see English Literature as an important subject.

Homework

Homework is essential to succeed in this course as it provides excellent preparation for examinations. It will include research, reading and writing.

Assessment

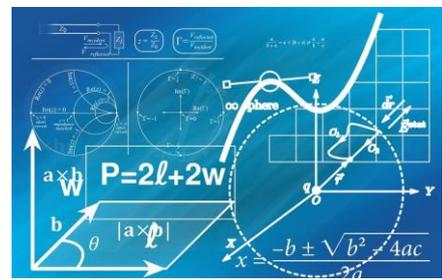
There will be two exams, which test students' ability to analyse literary texts. There will also be an examination on a Shakespeare play, an unseen poetry assessment and the study of a whole prose text.

Deadlines

If you are absent then you will have to complete tasks at the first opportunity on your return to school. Catch-up sessions will take place in the late afternoon, immediately after school.

The future

Students who are successful at GCSE will be accepted on to the A-Level course in English Literature or English Language. If you are interested in English A-Level, you may also want to consider A-Level Media Studies.



GCSE Mathematics
Head of Department – Mr D. Willmott

Aims of the course

We use mathematics all the time in everyday life and this course aims to make you more able to apply your knowledge in real-life contexts. GCSE Mathematics is essential for many careers.

Nature of the course

Students will work through a range of topics, building on the foundations of Number & Algebra, Geometry & Measure and Statistics & Probability studied at Key Stage 3. You will follow either the Foundation Course (Grades 1-5) or the Higher Course (grades 4-9).

Homework

You will be required to complete two pieces of homework each week. Support is available from staff at lunchtimes and after school to complete work. You will sometimes be asked to carry out a piece of research or investigation and laptops can be used in school to access online homework where necessary. Memorising facts and techniques is important throughout the course.

Assessment

The course is assessed 100% through final examinations at the end of Year 11. There are three papers: two 'calculator' and one 'non-calculator'.

Deadlines

Pupils will be expected to complete and hand in all homework tasks on time. Before the final examination, the department will provide further support through revision lessons and booklets of past papers. Additional support will be arranged on an individual basis.

The future

GCSE Mathematics is essential for most careers and for progression to A-Level courses and higher education. If you are interested in Mathematics, Sciences or Engineering you may want to consider Mathematics and Further Mathematics at A-Level.



Aims of the Course

This course offers separate qualifications in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It will give you an excellent grounding in all aspects of Science. During the teaching of the course we frequently emphasise the relevance of science to our daily lives.

Nature of the Course

The AQA GCSE course in Separate Sciences requires five hours of lessons per week in Years 10 and 11. You will sit examinations at the end of Year 11, which will make up 100% of your final grade. The topics will sound familiar, for example, Human Biology, Products from Rocks, Radiation and the Universe. However, the content is new - you will not have done it before.

Homework

You will have two pieces of homework per week in order to extend and consolidate what you have learned in lessons. This will include skills practice, problem solving, discussions and research on the internet and in the library. You will analyse scientific information from the media to draw your own conclusions about topics such as cloning, conserving energy resources and space travel.

Assessment

All the examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11. Scientific method and skills are taught through practical work. The examinations will contain questions that draw specifically on the experience you have gained from doing this practical work in class.

Deadlines

Homework deadlines are set by your teachers and must be met.

The future

Science qualifications lead to a huge range of future careers. Science is a requirement for further study in medicine, veterinary science and engineering, but the skills you will learn and the problem-solving aspects of the subject will also help you later on in life. At the moment there is a shortage of people with Science qualifications, so it is a great prospect for future employment. In the immediate future, good GCSE grades can lead to A-Levels in each of the Separate Sciences. We also currently offer BTEC Level 3 courses in Applied Science and Forensic and Criminal Investigation in the Sixth Form.

GCSE Science – Combined Science: Trilogy
Head of Department – Mr R Clark



Aims of the Course

The Combined Science: Trilogy course is a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, which will give you an excellent grounding in all aspects of science. During the teaching of the course, we frequently emphasise the relevance of science to our daily lives.

Nature of the Course

The GCSE course is AQA Combined Science: Trilogy and requires five hours per week of lessons in Years 10 and 11. You will sit all examinations at the end Year 11. The topics you will be covering involve all areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, with a little Earth Science too. The topics will sound familiar: Human Biology, Products from Rocks, Radiation and the Universe. However, the content is new - you will not have done it before.

Homework

You will have two pieces of homework each week to extend and consolidate what you have learned in lessons. This will include skills practice, problem solving, discussions, and research on the internet and in the library. You will analyse scientific information from the media to draw your own conclusions about topics such as cloning, conserving energy resources and space travel.

Assessment

All the examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11. Scientific method and skills are taught through required practical work. The examinations will include questions that draw specifically on the experience you have gained from doing this practical work in class.

Deadlines

Homework deadlines are set by your teachers and must be met.

The future

Science qualifications lead to a wide range of future careers and are a requirement for further study in medicine, veterinary science and engineering. However, the skills you will learn and the problem-solving aspects of the subject will also help you later on in life. There is currently a shortage of people with science qualifications, so it is a great prospect for future employment. In the immediate future, good GCSE grades can lead to A-Levels in each of the separate Sciences. We also currently offer BTEC Level 3 courses in Applied Science and Forensic and Criminal Investigation in the Sixth Form.



Aims of the course

Business is relevant and topical in today's world as it shapes our daily life. The aim of the GCSE course is to develop your knowledge and understanding of how businesses operate, the decisions they make and how these can affect us.

Nature of the course

Throughout the course you will learn about different contexts ranging from small business enterprises to large companies and those operating in local, national and global contexts.

The course will develop your problem-solving and decision-making skills as you investigate, analyse and evaluate business opportunities and issues.

You will study six units:

1. Business in the real world
2. Influences on business
3. Company operations
4. Human resources
5. Marketing
6. Finance

Homework

Homework will be set to support, consolidate, and enhance your learning from lessons. Tasks will vary including carrying out research, learning key terms, online quizzes and planning and practising exam questions.

Assessment

There are two written exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes, worth 90 marks and accounts for 50% of your GCSE grade.

Paper 1: Influences of operations and Human Resources Management on business activity

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

Both papers follow the same question format

- Section A has multiple choice questions and short answer questions (20 marks)
- Section B has one case study/ data response stimuli with a mixture of short and longer questions (34 marks)
- Section C has one case study/ data response stimuli with a mixture of short and longer questions (36 marks)

Deadlines

Homework deadlines are set by your teachers and must be met.

The future

GCSE Business Studies provides a stepping-stone onto A-Level Business, A-level Economics, BTEC Level 3 Business and complements all other A-Level and Sixth Form options. It provides progression to further study, apprenticeships and careers in Business, Economics, Accounting & Finance, Marketing, Human Resources and Business Management.



Aims of the course

The GCSE course in Computer Science is designed to develop your knowledge and understanding of current and emerging technology functions. You will learn skills in computer programming (both graphical and text based), mobile app development, project management, collaborative development and how to operate in a web-enabled environment.

Nature of the course

During this course, students will develop skills and understanding of computer software through the theoretical and practical development of computer programs. As the course progresses, students will learn to create and write mobile apps, games and computer programs to solve problems. As they develop these practical skills, they will also explore the developments of technology in society, examining its impact on research concepts relating to software development.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course and will be used to develop your coding, planning and problem solving skills. The tasks set will be varied and will help to expand your subject knowledge. The majority of the homework tasks will be set on “Teams” which means they will have a submission date. Past exam questions develop exam skills and the ability to communicate complex concepts with clarity.

Assessment

Computer Systems: 50% of total marks.

A written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes. A variety of question styles are used: multiple-choice, short answer, extended writing and open response. The paper starts with a brief scenario so that students can engage with the questions.

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: 50% of total marks.

A written examination of 1 hour 30 minutes. A variety of question styles are used: multiple-choice, short answer, extended writing and open response. The paper starts with a brief scenario so that students can engage with the questions.

Deadlines

Students will be advised on deadlines for each element in advance, with a timetable for the course activities so that they can prepare and organise their time effectively.

The future

The skills developed in Computer Science will provide you with a solid basis for progression to A-Level Computer Science and beyond. Students may progress to a career in the Engineering and Science industries such as software programming, cyber security, app developing, web design, systems analyst or game programmer.



Aims of the course

The course aims to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of Design and Technology. It also encourages new thinking in design, creativity and innovation through the design and manufacture of quality products.

Nature of the course

The course will involve practical work and problem solving using a range of materials, components, processes and systems. Students will develop skills in designing and making as well as investigating the core technical principles required in the selection and use of materials. In Year 10 you will learn new skills and techniques and manufacture a range of products. In Year 11, in order to complete the non-examined assessment, you will have the opportunity to work in a material of your choice for the “design and make” task.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course and will be used to develop your research, design and investigative skills. It will also give you opportunities to work with focus groups and your peers. It will be important always to complete it to a high standard and hand it in on time as some lessons will start with a homework critique. Tasks will include past exam questions. Through homework you will develop exam skills and the ability to critically analyse products and processes in a clear and concise way.

Assessment

Final Examination: 50% of total marks.

You will be entered for one 2 hour written paper. The examination will test students’ knowledge and understanding, using design-based questions as well as multiple choice, short and long answer style questions.

Non-Examined Assessment: 50% of total marks

The non-examined assessment will consist of one single “design and make” task that you will be able to select from a range of given contexts set by the exam board. The task will enable the students to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address client needs and wants. They then generate and develop a range of ideas which will be manufactured, tested and evaluated by the client as well as third parties.

Deadlines

The non-examined assessment will be undertaken at the beginning of the summer term in Year 10.

The future

The skills acquired on the Design and Technology GCSE course will provide students with a firm foundation for A-Level Product Design. It will also prepare students for work in the fields of product development, product design, architecture, furniture design, construction, engineering, graphic design, web design, fashion, theatre, interior design, design management, retail or marketing.



Aims of the course

The course aims to develop your ability to perform scripted and non-scripted Drama to an audience. You will support your non-scripted performance with a substantial notebook, analysing and evaluating both the performance and the rehearsal process. This will be shown through a Devising Log and Live Performance Evaluation.

Nature of the course

You should enjoy acting and working collaboratively with others in practical work. You will need to work in groups for devising pieces, but may choose to complete a series of monologues, duologues or group extracts for scripted work. In Year 10, you will learn how to use a variety of performance and rehearsal techniques in order to inform your devised and scripted drama. You will then be able to recall, select and communicate your knowledge and understanding of Drama to generate, explore and develop ideas. You will learn to apply practical skills to communicate through performance and you will learn to analyse and evaluate your own work, the work of others and that of a live theatre performance you will have seen. You will study the script of a set play in depth and answer questions on a text in an examination. Throughout the course, you will continue to build on your skills, producing a final devised piece, and a scripted piece. These will be examined by an AQA examiner from outside the school. A number of theatre visits will also be arranged. Attendance at these will be compulsory.

Homework

Homework time is used to learn lines, rehearse, develop ideas and practise answering questions on the set play, as well as recording the process to produce your devising logbook. The department encourages all students taking GCSE Drama to make use of the Drama department during lunchtimes and after school for extra rehearsals. In Year 11, there will be some compulsory after school rehearsals to ensure work is performed to the highest standard.

Assessment

The course is made up of two practical units and one written examination.

Unit 1 is devised work with a supporting logbook. The marks for this unit are for practical and written work.

Unit 2 is a performance of a play script. The final assessment for Unit 2 usually takes place in the March of Year 11 in front of an examiner.

Unit 3 is the written paper of 1 hour 45 minutes and students are expected to:

- Answer questions on the play studied.
- Analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

Practical work – 60%, Examination – 40%

Deadlines

Each teacher will advise pupils of precise deadlines for both practical assessments and examination practice.

The future

Students who are successful will be accepted on to the Drama and Theatre Studies A-Level course. The A-Level is accepted by all universities and does not limit anyone to a Drama degree. Past students have gone on to study a range of degree courses such as Psychology, Business, Law, English and Sociology, as well as Drama.



Aims of the course

This course aims to develop your understanding of the skills and analysis needed in the visual arts. You will investigate the work of a variety of artists and cultures, which will extend your knowledge and understanding of the history of Art and its impact on contemporary practitioners. You will be expected to explore and develop your practical skills using a variety of different media in both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional forms. It is essential that you are able to evaluate your work as it progresses, in order to achieve a successful final outcome.

Nature of the course

Over the two-year course, you will produce a portfolio, which will contain a body of work addressing the four assessment criteria. You will be given starting points, briefs or scenarios to inspire your creative explorations. Visits to galleries and museums are an essential part of your learning and will enable you to further develop your skills in recording from direct observation. Working independently is important, as it will enable you to extend your ideas and research. Each unit will produce a variety of final pieces showing how your ideas come together in inventive ways.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course and will be used to support your work in class and to help you to plan your time in lessons effectively. The homework you produce is vital as part of your formally assessable work. As your work develops, homework tasks will be personalised in order to reflect your own creative journey. Targets will be set during one to one discussions with your teacher. A minimum of 1 hour 20 minutes per week should be spent on homework. The Department will be available after school for you to work on homework and independent tasks.

Assessment

The coursework portfolio is made up of at least two projects, which may include sketchbook entries, mounted pieces and three-dimensional works. All the work submitted will be personal, informed and meaningful. Component 1 'Portfolio' forms 60% of the overall GCSE mark. A third project, Component 2, is an externally set assignment in Year 11 and forms the remaining 40% of the overall GCSE grade. A period of preparation will be given during which you will address the assessment criteria. You will produce the examination piece over 10 hours of supervised time. All work is assessed and marked out of 96 maximum marks. Selected candidate work is externally moderated by AQA.

Deadlines

The department will advise students of deadlines for each coursework component in Years 10 and 11 and for formal examinations. Each teacher will punctuate the year with 'mini' deadlines to assess students' progress.

The future

Students who are successful will be accepted on to the A-Level Fine Art and/or Photography courses. This can in turn lead to application for Art Foundation courses and specified degree courses at colleges and universities locally or nationally. The department has a long history of successful applications at all levels and provides valuable advice about current courses and the required content of an interview portfolio.



Aims of the course

The course aims to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in food preparation and nutrition. It will also provide the opportunity to focus on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of diet, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. It will nurture students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Nature of the course

The course will develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. The majority of the course will be delivered through preparation and making activities, enabling students to make the connections between theory and practice.

In Year 10 you will learn food preparation skills, which are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

The range of food and ingredients studied should reflect the recommended guidelines for a healthy diet based on the main food commodity groups. This theory knowledge will be tested in the summer examination. You will also carry out practical investigations throughout the year.

In Year 11, in order to complete the non-examined assessment, you will investigate an area of food preparation from a choice of tasks set by the examination board and then complete a practical research assessment on a topic set by them.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course and will be used to develop your time planning and organisational skills, as well as to support your practical cooking lessons. Many homework tasks will include time planning, choosing and purchasing ingredients for you to cook the following lesson. You will develop exam skills and the ability to communicate detailed responses on a variety of topics.

Assessment

Final Examination: 50% of total marks.

Students will be entered for one 1 hour 45 minute written paper. The examination will test students' knowledge and understanding using multiple choice, short and long answer style questions.

Non-Examined Assessment: 50% of total marks.

The non-examined assessment will consist of two tasks. Task 1, equating to 15%, is a written or electronic report (1,500 -2,000 words) of a practical investigation and is completed over 10 hours. Task 2, equating to 35%, is a practical, preparation assessment completed over 20 hours, during which time the student will be expected to prepare and cook three final dishes.

Deadlines

The non-examined assessment tasks will be undertaken in Year 11.

The future

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering industries, hospitality, food product development or a career in nutrition.



Aims of the course

Geography focuses on PLACES and PEOPLE so it is directly relevant to all students. You will learn about local, national and global issues and become aware of events around you, understand the relationships between **people** and the **environment** and appreciate that different individuals have different views. You will have opportunities through **fieldwork** for first hand investigation of places, environments and human behaviour. You will develop a range of **life skills** including ICT, problem solving, team working and communication skills.

Nature of the course

The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next fifty years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. You also have the chance to take part in fieldwork looking at both human and physical geographical issues. This will be examined in Unit 2 when you will study the UK's geographical issues.

Homework

Homework will be used to support your learning both within school and outside on fieldwork. You will be asked to do research, complete decision-making exercises, practise geographical skills such as interpreting maps, photographs and data and prepare for exams.

Assessment

The final assessment consists of three exams on the Units below:

Unit 1:

Global geographical issues

The **Hazardous earth** looking at both atmospheric and tectonic hazards.

Development dynamics looking at global inequality, with a focus on an emerging nation.

Challenges of an urbanising world

looking at problems in megacities with a specific case study.

Unit 2:

The UK's geographical issues

The UK's evolving and varied **Physical landscape**.

The UK's evolving **Human landscape** looking at change over time.

Geographical investigations to include fieldwork on one physical and one human geographical issue.

Unit 3:

Making geographical decisions

This is a written exam assessing your ability to make decisions about geographical issues.

This will be based on an issue from **People and the biosphere, Forests under threat** and **Consuming resources**, drawing on key concepts from Units 1 and 2.

Assessment All three examinations are 1 hour and 30 minutes. Paper 1 and 2 are worth 37.5% each and Paper 3 is worth 25%.

There will be regular assessments based on past examination questions to assess your progress.

The future

The **transferable skills** that Geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages **flexible thinking** and **problem-solving skills**. If you are successful you will be accepted on to the A-Level course in Geography, which can in turn lead to a degree course and employment. Geographers are very welcome in many fields of employment.



Aims of the course

Through the GCSE History course, you will gain an understanding of the modern world and its problems. The historical skills that you develop will help you analyse, interpret events, and provide you with evidence to construct reasoned arguments. These skills are transferrable and History is a useful qualification for many careers, especially those in business and management, law, medicine, journalism and the leisure industry.

Nature of the course

The History course is broad and provides students with the opportunity to study a range of different topics throughout Years 10 and 11. These include: **Medicine in Britain c1250-present day, Medicine in the trenches of WWI, The American West c1835-1895, Anglo-Saxon & Norman England c1060-88 and Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39.**

Homework

Homework is an important part of the History course and, as with other subjects, will be set frequently. Homework tasks are varied and are very useful in consolidating your learning and extending your knowledge of the topics studied. It will be important that all tasks are completed and handed in on time.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Thematic study & historical environment	Paper 2 – Period study & British depth study	Paper 3 – Modern depth study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 15 minutes • 30% of the total qualification <p>Topics examined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine in Britain, c1250-present. • The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 45 minutes • 40% of the total qualification <p>Topics examined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The American West, c1835-c1895 • Anglo-Saxon & Norman England, c1060-88 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 hour 20 minutes • 30% of the total qualification <p>Topics examined</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

All assessment is completed through external examinations, which will take place at the end of Year 11.

Deadlines

Your History teacher will inform you about the deadlines for homework. In addition, you will be advised on revision strategies for internal examinations in Years 10 and 11, as well as for the final GCSE examinations. Revision sessions will be arranged where necessary and you will be encouraged to revise topics yourself.

The future

If you are successful at GCSE you will be able to study A-Level History. This can in turn lead to study of History in Higher Education. The Department has a well-established tradition of students continuing their History studies at university.



Aims of the course

In a multi-cultural, fast-moving world, knowledge of a foreign language will enable you to become a confident global citizen. Within the context of practical language learning, you will learn to communicate confidently in a variety of contexts. You will also learn how to improve your performance so that you are able to hold your own in the modern workplace.

Nature of the course

This is an exciting and brand new specification based on three themes:

- People and lifestyle
- Popular culture
- Communication and the world around us

Subject content will focus on vocabulary, grammar and phonics. Students will be assessed on between 1200 and 1700 word families, according to tier of study (Foundation or Higher). Having defined lists in this way means that students who work hard to learn the specification vocabulary have every chance of being successful. The new speaking assessment will involve a reading-aloud task and a dictation exercise, as well as discussion of a photograph.

You will develop and improve your skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing and will have access both at school and at home to dedicated MFL websites. As native speakers, our Foreign Language Assistants will help you to improve your oral skills. You may also wish to participate in the competitions and other extra-curricular activities run by the MFL department.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course. It will play a vital role in securing grammar points taught in lessons as well as reinforcing new vocabulary. Homework not only enables you to become a confident independent learner but feedback received from written assignments will be crucial in preparing you for examinations.

Assessment

This course is linear. Students will be assessed at the end of the course with examination papers in the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing with each skill being worth 25% of the GCSE. There will be regular assessments based on sample questions from the new specification to assess your progress.

Deadlines

You will need to be flexible, adaptable and willing to learn on a regular basis. You must be prepared to work to deadlines, using your independent learning skills.

The future

Students who are successful will be accepted onto an A-Level language course. A qualification in MFL is always viewed favourably by universities and prospective employers. At Higher Education level, it combines extremely well with a variety of subjects to form a degree course and can open the way to a remarkably wide range of careers.



Aims of the course

This highly practical course integrates listening, composing and performing, giving you valuable insight and skills for accessing the second largest visible industry in the country. An enjoyment of music and willingness to perform are essential on this course as the emphasis is on learning through actual music making. You will develop your performing skills through regular practice and performances. You will analyse and understand how composers write music in different genres and then apply this knowledge in a practical way by composing two pieces of your own.

You must be able to either play an instrument and/or sing to a reasonable standard, but there is no specific grade standard you must have reached to complete the course. An ability to read basic music notation and an understanding of music theory would be a distinct advantage.

Nature of the course

The range of music studied on this course is wide and there are four Areas of Study: **Musical Forms & Devices**, **Music for Ensembles**, **Film Music** and **Popular Music**. As part of your learning, you will study closely two set-pieces: Badinerie by J.S.Bach for Flute and String Orchestra and Africa by Toto. Along with your study of the four topics, you will build on your knowledge of composing using practical composition tasks during the course. You will also work on your performance skills in a variety of situations including regular involvement in the department's extensive extra-curricular programme.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course and will be used to develop your listening, research and performing skills. You will be expected to rehearse performance pieces and to work on composition coursework in your own time. You will have priority over the equipment in the Music block, including Mu2 and the recording studio, and you will be encouraged to take advantage of this. You will also be expected to immerse yourself in the department's extra-curricular programme.

Assessment

Component 1 – Performing (30%)

Perform and record 2 performances – 1 solo and 1 ensemble

Component 2 – Composing (30%)

Compose two pieces of music (1 set to a given brief; 1 is a free composition)

Component 3 – Appraising Music (40%)

1 hour 45 min exam at the end of Year 11 focusing on the four Areas of Study

Deadlines

These are in place to help you, as this is a coursework led subject. You will be given a list of deadlines at the start of each year. We are here to help you succeed, so if you know you are struggling to meet a deadline you will be expected to come to us for help.

The future

A high proportion of students who are successful at GCSE go on to study Music at A-Level. Every year we also have students who go on to do a Music degree at University. Universities and employers have a high regard for Music as a rigorous academic subject. Traditional future careers involving music include teaching, performing, composing, music management, music production, music therapy and stage and theatre management.



Aims of the course

Students who wish to study PE at GCSE need to have a strong interest in sporting activities. The course covers a variety of practical activities and whilst a high level of performance is not essential, it will help your practical and coursework marks if you participate regularly in at least one sport. The overall aim of the course is to increase your understanding of both the practical and theoretical elements of a variety of activities. You will also be introduced to the physiology and anatomy of the human body as well as to the psychological and social aspects of sport.

Nature of the course

Throughout the course, you will have three theory and two practical lessons each fortnight. There is a significant amount of scientific content in the theory side of the course. Theory lessons will consider a variety of issues in sport and in how the body works. These will be examined in the written papers. In practical lessons, you will cover a range of sports including both team sports and individual activities. These will include, but not be limited to, Netball, Hockey, Badminton and Tennis, as well as Swimming, Gym, Dance and Athletics. Throughout the practical activities you will be required to analyse and evaluate your own and others' performances.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of the course and will be used to develop understanding and analyse skills. Both theory and practical homework will be set throughout the course. The department also encourages all students to get involved in extracurricular clubs as this enhances your skills and understanding of sport in general. Attending a sporting or physical activity club outside of school will also help you to enhance your grades.

Assessment

The assessment is made up of 60% theory, 30% practical and 10% coursework.

The theory side of the course is assessed in two examinations at the end of Year 11. Within the practical assessment, students will need to select three performance areas, which could include activities within school or outside such as Skiing or Rowing. (Each student will need to choose one individual activity, one team and one other). For the coursework, students will be assessed on their ability to analyse their fitness levels and skills in one of their chosen sports and to produce a "Personal Exercise Programme" (PEP).

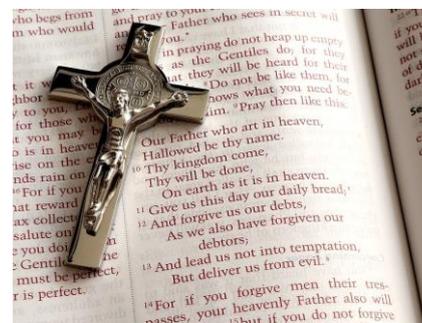
Deadlines

Students will have deadlines throughout the course. The final deadline for their PEP coursework will be in Year 11.

The future

Students who are successful will be accepted onto the A-Level course in PE, which can then provide a stepping-stone to university and/or a career in sport.

GCSE Religious Studies
Head of Department: Mr E Karley



Aims of the course

You will consider questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling you to develop your own attitudes towards religious issues. You will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics have influenced our culture. You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills and the ability to work with abstract ideas, which will help prepare you for further study and adult life.

Nature of the course

There are two compulsory components. Component 1 is the study of religious beliefs, teachings and practices with reference to Christianity and Islam. Component 2 consists of religious, philosophical and ethical studies.

Topics covered

In component 1 both Christianity and Islam will be studied and will include investigation into the following topics: The nature of God, Creation, Life after Death, Worship and Festivals.

In Component 2 you will study four of the following six themes: Relationship and Families, Religion and Life, The Existence of God, Peace and Conflict, Crime and Punishment, Human Rights and Social Justice.

Homework

Homework is set in order to enhance and complement the teaching and learning which takes place during lessons. Researching relevant topics develops knowledge and understanding of philosophical and moral issues. Completing exam style questions demonstrates the ability to communicate reasoned opinions on a variety of issues. This in turn contributes to both academic and personal development.

Assessment

There are two written exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam lasts 1 hour 45 minutes. Students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of topics and their ability to construct well-informed and balanced arguments, which include their own considered opinion.

The future

The skills students develop through the study of religion are beneficial to a variety of Careers. Communication, analysis, evaluation and the ability to write persuasively are skills which are highly valued by employers.

Students gaining the required grade at GCSE have the option to study Religious Studies at A-Level and some students choose to study Philosophy at university.

This course also helps students prepare for adult life in a diverse society that is part of a global community.



Study Plus

Heads of Department:

English – Mr A Kerrigan

Maths – Mr D Willmott

Study Plus

We will be inviting some of our students to take advantage of the Study Plus option.

Why Study Plus?

This course will accelerate your progress in English and Mathematics so that you have a better chance of achieving a higher grade.

Study Plus will also have a positive impact on attainment in your other GCSE subjects through the application of literacy, numeracy and general learning skills.

Course delivery

Two lessons per fortnight will be delivered by a Maths teacher.

Two lessons per fortnight will be delivered by an English teacher.

One lesson per fortnight will be delivered by either a Maths or an English teacher, with the aim of applying general learning skills to other subjects.

Who is this aimed at?

Students who would benefit are those for whom extra contact time could enhance their GCSE grades and long-term prospects.

Please note:

You will receive a personal invitation to join this course in advance of the options process.

NOTES