



GCSE OPTIONS 2024



Central Region
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Waseley Hills High School

Aspire, Invest, Respect

GCSE Option

Art, Craft and Design AQA

Subject Leader: Ms. K. Kearns



Why should I study Art?

Students choose to study Art, Craft and Design for a variety of reasons. If you're creative, imaginative and you are keen to express your ideas using a variety of materials, then an Art, Craft and Design GCSE is an excellent choice, especially if you enjoy practical activities.

Arts students are highly sought-after as more companies than ever before are looking for innovation and a fresh way of thinking. A key benefit of this course is developing skills sought by employers such as learning to effectively communicate, teamwork, problem-solving, critical thinking and independent working skills.

What will I learn?

This is a broad course exploring a range of 2D and 3D processes and new media techniques. Students must work in a range of different media using art, craft and design materials. Work will be produced from two or more of the following endorsements: Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textile Design, Three-Dimensional Design, Photography. The course is very structured in Year 10, with students developing more independence into Year 11.

How will I be assessed?

All work created throughout the course counts towards the final GCSE mark. Students produce one main and one mini project/other work for a coursework portfolio which contributes 60% of the final mark. An externally-set assignment project makes up the remaining 40% - this starts in January of Year 11 and ends with a 10 hour exam over two days.

Where can it take me?

An Art, Craft and Design course is a great way to open the door to many careers in the creative industries and to give you a set of transferable skills that you will take with you for the rest of your life!

This course will give you a broad foundation to enter further education including Art, Design and Media courses at either AS/A level or diploma/HND at colleges and universities. It could also lead to apprenticeships in engineering or draughtsmanship, for example. Ultimately, this course could lead to a career in Architecture, Film, Television, Theatre, Fashion, Animation, Computer Game Design, Advertising and many more creative roles within the wider arts industry.

GCSE Option

3D Design

AQA



Why should I study 3D Design?

By studying 3D Design you will explore a variety of experiences that include a range of three-dimensional media, processes and techniques both traditional and new. You will also be able to **build up your creativity, problem solving, planning and evaluation skills.**

What will I learn?

You will learn about:

- relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources
- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts created in the context of their chosen area(s) of three-dimensional design
- historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created
- continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to three-dimensional design, a working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to their chosen area(s) of three-dimensional design

How will I be assessed?

In Component 1, students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, designers, photographers or craftspeople.

In Component 2, students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Where can it take me?

The 3D Design GCSE will provide you with many transferrable skills that will be highly regarded by colleges, Sixth Forms and ultimately Universities. Skills in creativity, problem solving and practical skills are all sought after by both employers and educational institutions. This course will support you in progressing into career pathways such as ceramics, sculpture, exhibition design, design for theatre, television and film, interior design, product design, environmental and architectural design, jewellery design and 3D digital design such as gaming and web-based media.

GCSE Option

Business Studies

Eduqas

Subject Leader: Mrs. E. Sellers



Why should I study Business Studies?

Every organisation of every size has to consider costs and revenues, customers and competitors. Charities, hospitals, schools and large global brands such as Starbucks, Coca Cola, Nike and Apple all employ people with business skills, experience and qualifications. Business Studies provides a universal skill set that can be used wherever you are in the world and whatever organisation you may work for.

The course will focus on developing clear and well justified recommendations using current and modern contexts from the world you live in and will be employed in. You will identify and understand the factors that businesses consider every day in every decision they make.

What will I learn?

You will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about business ownership, finance, marketing and economics and discover some of the methods and techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is 100% exam-based. There are 2 papers, the first exploring the theory covered in lessons and how it can be applied in different business contexts. The second paper will assess students' ability to understand data and how a business uses this information in effective decision-making.

Where can it take me?

A GCSE in Business Studies can lead to a range of exciting opportunities to study business-related subjects at a higher level. Business can be the gateway into a number of great career choices: as well as being a relevant and interesting subject in its own right, it is a useful supplement subject alongside almost any degree course at university. Some common courses to combine with Business are Law, Accounting, Economics, Journalism, English, ICT and Engineering.

We live in a global world and technology has enabled even the smallest business to access international markets. Business Studies is a universal subject. There are few, if any, careers for which an understanding of business would not be of benefit. Business Studies can also be key to attaining highly paid and challenging roles in all levels of management in all industries.

GCSE Option

Children's Learning and Development OCR

Subject Leader: Mrs. J. Williams



Why should I study Children's Learning and Development?

Our new Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Children's Learning and Development (course code J809) has been designed to fit into the curriculum and form a key part of a student's Progress 8 and Attainment 8 approved subjects.

What will I learn?

The course content will cover development of the child from pre-conception to the age of 5.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 RO57 - 40% Exam

Underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. All students will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.

Unit 2 RO58 - 30% Internally assessed work

Knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. Students will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices.

Unit 3 RO59- 30% Internally assessed work

Knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. This unit will include researching, planning, carrying out activities with children and observing the developmental milestones.

Where can it take me?

Working in Education: teaching, pre-school.

Working in Care Industry: social work, childcare.

Working in the Health Industry: nursing, speech therapy, midwifery, medical courses.

Children's Learning and Development links well with: Psychology, Science, Food and Nutrition.

BTEC Technical Award Level 2 Option

Dance

Pearson

Subject Leader: Mrs. E. Meredith



Why should I study Dance?

There is a freedom and confidence in movement, from improvisation to polished group performances. Dance is an art form that finds originality through mistakes. You are encouraged to be creative, physical, expressive and a thinking dancer.

Dance allows you to be free and disciplined at the same time. It is unique and offers the opportunity to grow holistically as a person.

What will I learn?

The course focuses on developing key dance skills: choreography, performance and appreciation which involves reviewing and interpreting professional dance pieces as well as exploring and developing your own creativity through choreography. It promotes self discipline and understanding to continually evaluate and refine your own work. There is a huge sense of achievement, belonging and pride in performing a piece you have created, rehearsed and brought to life with your fellow company members.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 : Exploring the Industry, internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated.

In this unit you will look at professional dance in a variety of styles, looking at how all the features of a piece work together to create something special. You will explore the styles, influences, and people involved in the creative process

Unit 2 : Developing skills and techniques, internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated.

You will work as a member of The Waseley Dance Company, participating in workshops to develop your dance skills as well as learning and performing a professional group dance piece.

Unit 3 : Responding to a Brief, externally assessed by an examiner via video.

You will have 12 weeks to create and perform the piece. There are also 3 written logs to complete.

There will also be a live theatre evaluation and pupils will watch a live performance of their choice.

Where can it take me?

Like Drama, universities and employers are often interested in people who have studied Dance as the subject encourages broader thinking and the development of communication, presentation and teamwork skills which are desired attributes in many sectors.

A *Level 2* qualification in Dance can lead to higher education courses and pathways into performance, choreography, fitness, movement therapy, film work, teaching, arts administration, community arts work, events ... the list goes on!



BTEC Technical Award Level 1/2 Option

Digital Information Technology

Pearson

Subject Leader: Mrs. N. Joshi



Why should I study Digital Information Technology?

The BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 Technical Award in Digital Information Technology is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts. You will be developing skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection.

The Award gives you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills that prove your aptitude for project planning.

What will I learn?

This qualification has three components that focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis of progression.

There are 3 compulsory components, the third assessed externally and providing 40% of the marks.

1. Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
2. Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
3. Effective Digital Working Practices

Where can it take me?

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with over 2 million people working in digital companies and more than 50,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.

Learners who achieve Level 1 in the BTEC Award might consider progression to Level 2 Post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work. They could also study the Technical Certificate in IT support or Digital Technology Post-16.

Learners who achieve Level 2 might consider progression to A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects or study a vocational qualification at Level 3, which can prepare learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.



GCSE Option

Drama OCR

Subject Leader: Miss Loveridge



Why should I study Drama?

Drama GCSE strikes the perfect balance between being a creative, engaging and practical subject as well as being rigorously academic. The course is designed to equip students with not only performance skills but also to teach the value of in depth text analysis and understanding. Drama GCSE explicitly teaches widely transferable skills such as: collaboration, experimentation, negotiation and team work; resilience; creativity; evaluation and analysis, problem solving and initiative; self-confidence; and emotional intelligence.

What will I learn?

You will learn about creating, performing and responding to performance based material, developing knowledge and skills in characterisation, directing, practitioners, genres and styles, performance and evaluating and analysing live performance as well as dramatic literature.

You will also learn many transferable skills, such as being able to speak in front of others, working as a team, self confidence and awareness and develop your cultural awareness.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 : Devising - 30% of the G.C.S.E. Pupils will create and develop an original devised performance from a choice of stimuli. Pupils will be assessed on their performance and their analysis and evaluation of the devising process (coursework portfolio).

Unit 2 : Presenting and Performing Texts - 30 % of the G.C.S.E. Pupils perform two key extracts from a play to an external examiner. Pupils will choose between monologues, duologues or a group performance.

Unit 3 : Performance and Response- 40% of the G.C.S.E. Written examination. Pupils will explore the set text Blood Brothers from the perspective of various theatre makers, they will answer exam questions on their understanding of the playwright's intention and how this is realised on stage. Pupils will also review a live piece of theatre within this written exam.

There will also be a live theatre evaluation and pupils will watch a live performance of their choice.

Where can it take me?

Universities and employers are often interested in people who have studied GCSE Drama as the subject encourages broader thinking and the development of communication, presentation and teamwork skills which are desired attributes in many sectors.

A GCSE in Drama can lead to higher education courses and careers in acting, performing arts, theatre studies, technical theatre, television, film and radio, English, history, cultural, media and social studies.

GCSE Option

Food Preparation and Nutrition AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs J. Williams



Why should I study Food and Nutrition?

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition and current food-related issues.

What will I learn?

1. Food Safety
2. Nutritional Value of Foods.
3. Food Choice
4. Food Science
5. Food Provenance

Some Food and Nutrition lessons are double lessons in order to complete a range of practical skills.

How will I be assessed?

50% Exam and 50% Non-exam assessment (15% for Food Investigation and 35% for Food Preparation Assessment)

Where can it take me?

Working in the Food Industry: recipe development, analysis and testing.

Working in the Health industry: dietician, nutritionist.

Working in the Hospitality and Catering industry: event planning, chef, food outlets.

Food and Nutrition links well with Business Studies, Sciences and Physical Education.



GCSE Option

Geography

AQA

Subject Leader: Mr. J. Burton



Why should I study Geography?

Want to know how today's world was shaped? Want to know the challenges we face in the future? Want to get out into the field and see what you are studying? **Choose GCSE Geography.**

Improve your skills:

Literacy - extended answers like you practise in KS3.

Numeracy - interpreting and constructing graphs, using simple statistics in fieldwork.

Team work - collecting data, analysing what you find out and evaluating your independent work.

What will I learn?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: natural hazards, weather hazards, climate change, tropical storms, ecosystems, rivers and coasts. Examination: 90 minutes (35%)

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment: urbanisation, sustainability, economic and social development, migration and resource management. Examination: 90 minutes (35%)

Paper 3: Issue evaluation and fieldwork: One day of physical fieldwork, one day of human fieldwork and use of a resource booklet to evaluate an issue (decided by the AQA examination board). Examination: 90 minutes (30%)

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed through three exams (explained above), with questions ranging from multiple choice 1-markers to 9-mark short essay questions.

There will be two days out of school completing field studies which will then be written about in the exam.

Where can it take me?

Anywhere you want. According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography graduates have some of the highest rates of graduate employment.

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning or collecting and interpreting data. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning and tourism.

GCSE Option

History

Edexcel

Subject Leader: Mrs. S. Dumycz



Why should I study History?

History is one of the most valued subjects at GCSE as it opens the doors to many pathways for the future. If you've ever asked the question, "Why?", then History will provide many of the answers as to why our world operates the way it does - Brexit, Donald Trump, Palestine, immigration, pandemics and many more.

At GCSE you will learn how to analyse speeches and paintings and how to construct a forceful and balanced argument.

What will I learn?

From Elizabeth I to Exodusters; Vesalius to the Weimar Republic; Hippocrates to Hitler - there's a bit of everything in GCSE History. We follow the Edexcel specification with four units of study and three examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment - Medicine in Britain, c1250-present

Paper 2: British depth studies - Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 and Period studies - The American West, c1835-c1895

Paper 3: Modern depth study - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

How will I be assessed?

GCSE History is 100% examination based; Paper 1 is 30% of your final grade; Paper 2 is 40% of your final grade and Paper 3 is 30% of your final grade. You will be assessed on your knowledge and understanding of the past, on sources and interpretations of the past.

During the GCSE, you will be taught the skills needed to answer the different types of questions that you will come across in the exams.

Where can it take me?

History is seen as a facilitating subject by the prestigious Russell Group of top universities and is ideal preparation for future studies in any essay-based subject.

Any career involving analysing or writing reports will utilise skills developed in History, whilst people as varied as comedian Al Murray, President Joe Biden, broadcaster Louis Theroux, the CEO of YouTube Susan Wojcicki and King Charles III all studied History at university.



GCSE Option

Music OCR

Subject Leader: Mr. K. White



Why should I study Music?

Music GCSE promotes creativity, through performance and composition, and more academic understanding, through listening, analysis and appreciation. The course is designed to develop well-rounded musicians. It also develops transferable skills, for example, confidence, resilience, communication skills, emotional intelligence and reflection.

What will I learn?

A GCSE in Music provides an accessible and creative musical education, integrating the three main components: performing, composing and appraising. Students broaden their musical horizons within five areas of study as they explore musical context, language, performance and composition.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework: There are four pieces of coursework -1 solo performance, 1 ensemble performance, 1 free choice composition and 1 composition set by the exam board. Pupils will practise and record a solo piece, along with a composition in a style of their choosing. Pupils will also need to produce an ensemble performance, along with a composition in a style that will be set by the exam board. They will have a number of stimuli to choose from.

Total Weighting of Coursework – 60 % of the GCSE (performance 30%, composition 30%)

Listening Exam: The areas of study include - The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop. These areas of study will be used in the listening exam to evaluate pupils' wider understanding and appreciation of the subject. The exam is 90 minutes. You will need to annotate scores as well as answer questions based on extracts of music that you hear.

Total Weighting of Listening Exam – 40% of the GCSE

Where can it take me?

GCSE Music can create a vast number of career pathways including the options of becoming a Session Musician/ Performer, Composer, Music Technician, Studio Engineer, Music Therapist and many more!

Music complements other curriculum areas perfectly and is recognised as an important subject for personal development. Currently, employers and universities are keen to recognise creativity as an essential attribute for successful learners. Music encourages independent learning and demonstrates skills no other subject can.



GCSE Option

Physical Education

AQA

Subject Leader: Miss Z. Harley



Why should I study Physical Education?

If you study Physical Education, you will remain healthy, develop your fitness and improve on your ability to work within a team and communicate with others. You will learn the responsibility of being a good sportsperson, alongside the ability to reflect on yourself in order to learn from your mistakes.

What will I learn?

You will be assessed in a variety of different practical sports and ongoing theoretical-based assessment. The assessment will be split across taught practical lessons and classroom-based theory. Topic areas covered are Anatomy and Applied Physiology, Sport Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences, Health, Fitness and Wellbeing as well as Physical Training.

How will I be assessed?

AQA GCSE Physical Education

Practical assessment – 3 sports marked out of 25, 1 team sport, 1 individual sport, another sport of your choice (30%)

Written Exam 1 x 1 hour 15mins– Physical, Mental and Social benefits of taking part in Physical Activity, how your body works and how exercise affects it (30%)

Written Exam 2 x 1 hour 15mins– Psychological and Social issues around sport (30%)

Written coursework –approximately 3-6,000word analysis and evaluation of your own performance in Sport (10%)

Where can it take me?

If you study Physical Education it can lead to other sixth form or college courses in Sport, and then a range of university courses. These can then lead on to jobs such as PE teacher, sports coach, sports analyst, sports scientist, personal trainer, sports psychologist, physiotherapist or into sports event management.

GCSE Option

Religious Studies EDUQAS (9-1) Route A

Subject Leader: Miss K. Billingham



Why should I study Religious Studies?

Critical thinking skills are encouraged and tolerance for different points of view.

Religious Studies GCSE is a very popular and successful course. Our results are some of the best in the school, including a significant percentage of high level grades.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exam papers taken at the end of Year 11: two one-hour exams, for Christianity and Islam, and one two-hour exam, for Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

Throughout the year each module will be assessed through exam questions with feedback and a mark scheme given to all students.

What will I learn?

The course covers two main areas:

1. The Study of Religions:

CHRISTIANITY: beliefs, teachings and practices.

ISLAM: beliefs, teachings and practices.

2. Philosophy and Ethics: Students will investigate religious and personal responses to moral controversies such as **Issues of relationships**, marriage, divorce, roles, equality, **Issues of life and death**, heaven, hell, abortion, euthanasia, **Issues of good and evil**, moral evil, natural evil, crime, punishment, and **Issues of human rights**, extremism, prejudice, discrimination and racism.

Where can it take me?

Philosophy and Ethics is about understanding people's cultural background and beliefs and about looking at morals and values. It provides a good background for courses and careers in the arts and social sciences, as well as social and caring work, health work and jobs in the community, such as the police. It is an ideal foundation for employment or a place in further education.

Universities value students with Philosophy and Ethics qualifications as these students are able to analyse and evaluate a range of opinions.

Further information: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_overview



GCSE Option

Spanish AQA

Subject Leader: Ms. C. Gibson



Why should I study Spanish?

Studying Spanish with your other subjects will give you the type of broad education that employers are looking for. A language qualification shows that you have good communication skills, flexibility and an ability to solve problems. By the end of the course you will be able to take part in conversations in Spanish as well as write using a range of tenses and you will be able to express and justify opinions on a wide range of issues. You will also be able to translate from English into Spanish and from Spanish into English. As part of the course you will need to learn vocabulary and practise reading and listening skills regularly.

What will I learn?

The GCSE course is split into 3 main themes:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is by examination at the end of Year 11 in four skills: - Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. Each skill is worth 25% and there is no coursework. There are 2 tiers of entry: Foundation (Grades 1-5) and Higher (Grades 4-9). The speaking exam involves a roleplay, reading aloud, a conversation and answering questions relating to a photo. This is the first year of the new specification.

Where can it take me?

Employment rates for people with languages skills are high and there are excellent opportunities for a wide variety of areas including careers in Business, Leisure and Tourism, Sport, the Armed Forces, Medicine, Airlines, Teaching, Marketing, Publishing and Translating. Many careers also become 'transferable' with language qualifications so you are more likely to travel in your job and earn a higher salary. Study of languages enables you to work abroad in many 'domestic' professions such as Building, Plumbing, Physiotherapy etc, the Hotel and Catering industry, Banking and Finance and Civil Service. Studying at foreign universities is also becoming increasingly popular.



GCSE Option

Triple Science AQA

Subject Leader: Mrs. L. Eades



Why should I study Separate Sciences?

For certain careers, studying Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs) represents the gold standard in what is expected of a GCSE student. The greater depth of study is not only fascinating, but gives a more complete understanding of the world as seen by a Scientist and allows a much more fluent transition to A-level study and beyond.

What will I learn?

Choosing Triple Science as an option works by 'topping up' the amount of time spent in Science, from two GCSEs (in Combined Science) to three GCSEs (one each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics). Students are taught in separate groups, however, with one specialist teacher for each subject. In addition to the content on the Combined Science course, additional topics are taught:

Biology: Protein Synthesis, The Eye and the Brain, Homeostasis, Biomass, Microbiology

Chemistry: Nanoparticles, Transition Metals, Chemical testing, Industrial Processes

Physics: Space and the Universe, Moments and Balance, Electromagnetic Machines, Optics and Colour

Students sit two 1-hour 45-minute papers in each of the three subjects at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework, but students must complete practical work.

How will I be assessed?

Two exams for each separate Science. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

Where can it take me?

Studying Triple Science is the preferred route for those looking to continue to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A-level and then beyond at University, and especially those who may go on to ultimately work in research. This is in addition to being essential for careers in Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. Other future careers requiring A-levels in the sciences include Geology, Environmental Science, Pharmaceutical Science, Marine Biology, Biochemistry, Chemical Engineering, Genetics, Radiology, Nuclear Physics and a host of varied Engineering disciplines.

GCSE Core Curriculum

Combined Science AQA 'Trilogy'

Subject Leader: Mrs. L. Eades



Why should I study Combined Science?

Science is not only the study of the world around us, both natural and technological, but is also the unique combination of skills by which we come to understand it. In order to invent, create and develop, we need to come up with theories, test them, share our results and agree our conclusions. We are all scientists, every time we improve a recipe, perfect a free-kick, share a new discovery or work out the best way to accomplish a task. These problem-solving, truth-seeking logic skills are essential for modern life.

What will I learn?

Unless opting for 'Separate Sciences', all students must study the 'Combined Science' GCSE course, which is unique in awarding a double grade and counting as two GCSEs. Students cover a range of topics in each discipline, sitting two 75-minute exams in each of the three subjects at the end of Year 11.

Biology: Cells, Animal and Plant Systems, Organisms, Communities, Evolution and Inheritance

Chemistry: Particles, Elements and Compounds, Chemical reactions, Predicting and Identifying

Physics: Matter, Forces, Electricity and Magnetism, Waves, Radiation and Energy

In addition, students will cover 'Global Challenges' in each discipline and also learn a wide range of essential practical skills. There is no coursework.

It should be noted that 10% of the marks available rely upon scientific literacy and 20% of the marks rely on GCSE level mathematics.

How will I be assessed?

Six 1 hour 15 min papers: 2 for Biology, 2 for Chemistry, 2 for Physics

Where can it take me?

Careers in Science are not only interesting and challenging but, as good scientists are in demand, they are high-paying as well. Many employment sectors value the skills scientists develop, including Finance, Physiotherapy, Police and Legal professions, and Aerospace and Automotive Engineering industries. Those considering *specialist* Science careers need high grades and would benefit from taking Separate Sciences.

Good passes in GCSE Combined Sciences are essential for acceptance on many level 3 courses after completing Year 11, including Physical Education, Psychology, some Computer Science courses and A-levels in the Sciences themselves.

GCSE Core Curriculum

English AQA

Subject Leader: Miss M. Williams



Why should I study English?

At Key Stage 4, students embark on the AQA specifications of study for GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language. Using knowledge developed at Key Stage 3, they engage with themes that span the literary texts such as power, conflict, morality and the universal human condition. Key Stage 4 provides the opportunity for students to craft their own style of creative and non-fiction writing, with opportunities to write based on a range of stimuli and topical issues. Key Stage 4 encourages students to engage with the world around them and to begin making connections between their literary studies and wider ideas of life. The Spoken Language element of the English Language course and regular oracy tasks encourage students to become confident and expressive communicators, developing vital skills for adult life. GCSE English studies prepare students for all pathways beyond Key Stage 4, honing their extended writing and analytical skills for further academic study and equipping them with the reading, writing and communication skills for the workplace and adult life.

What will I learn?

English Literature

In Year 10, students will study 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens; 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley and the Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology, a cluster of poems dictated by AQA.

In Year 11, students will study 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry.

English Language

Students will have full exposure to both English Language papers across Year 10 and 11. Paper 1 is called Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. Students will be assessed on their ability to read, understand and analyse a fictional text, as well as create their own creative writing piece. Paper 2 is called Viewpoints and Perspectives and will assess students' ability to understand and analyse two non-fiction texts, as well as create a non-fiction text.

How will I be assessed?

English Literature:

Paper 1: Macbeth (34 marks) and A Christmas Carol (30 marks) - 40% of GCSE - 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: An Inspector Calls (34 marks), Power and Conflict Poetry (30 marks), Unseen Poetry (32 marks) - 60% of GCSE
2 hrs 15 mins

English Language:

Paper 1: Section A Reading (40 marks) and Section B Writing (40 marks) - 50% of GCSE - 1 hr 45 mins

Paper 2: Section A Reading (40 marks) and Section B Writing (40 marks) - 50% of GCSE - 1 hr 45 mins

Where can it take me?

Digital Copywriter, Editorial Assistant, English as a Foreign Language Teacher, Lexicographer, Magazine Journalist, Newspaper Journalist, Private Tutor, Publishing Copy-editor/Proofreader, Secondary School Teacher, Web Content Manager, Academic Librarian, Advertising Copywriter, Archivist, Arts Administrator, Education Consultant, Information Officer, Learning Mentor, Marketing Executive, Media Researcher, Primary School Teacher, Public Relations Officer, Records Manager, Social Media Manager and many more career options.



GCSE Core Curriculum

Mathematics

Edexcel

Subject Leader: *Dr. S. Parsons*



Why should I study Maths?

We use Mathematics every day when we shop, bake or plan a journey. Being numerate is equally as essential a skill in areas such as Finance, Business, Health and Sport as it is in Engineering, Science and Medicine. Qualifications in Mathematics will never go out of fashion.

Through studying Mathematics, students will gain such fundamental skills needed for employment as problem-solving, analysing data, communication, logical thinking and attention to detail, whilst also learning to think creatively and adapt their skills to new contexts.

What will I learn?

Course content: On the Edexcel GCSE in Mathematics there are six topic areas - Number, Algebra, Statistics and Data Handling, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, and Geometry and Measures.

Entry Tiers: The Mathematics GCSE is tiered, with grades 5-1 being awarded on the Foundation tier examinations and grades 9-4 being awarded on the Higher tier. Students will be entered for the most appropriate tier based on performance.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment: There are three examinations all taken in Year 11 and there is no coursework. One is a non-calculator paper and the other two both require the use of a calculator. Each exam is 90 minutes.

Where can it take me?

A good pass in Mathematics is required for almost all Level 3 qualifications after completing Year 11, wherever you may choose to go. Achieving grade 6 or higher in Mathematics is essential for those who wish to take A-Levels in Mathematics or Science, which can lead to careers in medicine, engineering, finance and research. Employers value applicants with a good grade in Mathematics because the skill set is vital for business.



Waseley Hills
High School

Aspire, Invest, Respect



**Central Region
Schools Trust**

Founded by the RSA

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