

Hardwork - Integrity - Excellence

Year 10 Options



Paddington Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



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Principals' welcome

Welcome to Key Stage 4 at Paddington Academy from our Principals

At Paddington Academy our aim is to ensure that every student is well-educated, has the opportunity to attend university, and is able to lead a happy and fulfilled life. Our aims are underpinned by our core values of hard work, integrity, and excellence.

As our Year 9 students begin to make important decisions that will affect their future, we aim to ensure that each child has the right guidance to put them on a path to reach their potential.

We know what a truly amazing experience it is to be part of the Paddington Academy community, how highly our students can achieve and how successful they can be in the classroom and beyond. For seven consecutive years we have been in the top 10 schools in the country for the progress our students make, and we believe that all students are capable of making outstanding progress and attaining at the highest level, whatever their starting point. This is the case for every year group, and we are aware that this success is, in part, based on making the right curriculum decisions in these early stages of Key Stage 4. We have incredibly supportive pastoral and academic teams who are looking forward to working with our Year 9 students in making these important choices.

The support and encouragement parents can provide at this important stage of a child's education is also critical. We are looking forward to working directly with the parents of every child in the year, and working together to ensure all our students at Paddington Academy are successful.

We hope that you find what you are looking for in this booklet. If not, please do contact us for further information.

With very best wishes,

Katie Gillam and Peter Jones
Principals



What do I need to know before I start?

At Paddington Academy, we want you to be in the best possible position to prepare you for your future. You may have a very clear idea of what you want that future to look like, but most students in Year 9 aren't completely sure what direction they want to take yet. This is usual at this stage, so it's important to keep your options open to give you the widest range of opportunities later on.

You will know which subjects you achieve well in, and those you enjoy – these should be the main factors when choosing your options.

You should also be aware that most universities require three or more good A-Level grades. In order to get onto most A-Level courses (or equivalent), you will need five or more good GCSE grades (which means grade 9-5 under the new grading system), including English, Maths and Science.

You should also take into account that studying a language is highly valued, as are History, Geography and RE. These subjects demonstrate that you are a student with broad interests, and the skills you develop are considered to help your overall learning. They are well-respected qualifications which can open doors and opportunities in the future. These subjects appeal to universities and colleges, and many more students are taking them now.

It is also important to remember that both universities and employers value a range of subjects and that you should seek to balance the courses you study. Practical and arts subjects can help you develop in a wide range of valuable areas and skills.

All the information you need is in this booklet, and staff are available to discuss your decisions and options with you.

- Head of Year 9 / Director of KS3 – Ms Bolayon
- Assistant Principal for KS3 – Mr Daniel Riley
- Assistant Principal for Character Education – Ms Polly Enevoldson

If you have any questions about options or the process, please email your question to the following email address: options@paddington-academy.org.

Key dates

Year 9 Options Assembly Tuesday 8th February 17:30-18:30

Parents are invited to ask any questions and drop in to speak to staff about their child's choices and pathway.

This booklet contains:

- **Pathway information:** what the different pathways are at Paddington
- **Overview of key information:** qualifications, process and timeline
- **Q&A** with the Year 9 Options team







What is the process?

To help you be well-informed, you will receive:

- information and guidance from the options team
- regular information in assemblies and emails
- the opportunity to learn more about courses on the PA website

You must:

- speak to teachers/course leaders and ask questions to help you choose your options
- attend the Year 9 options assembly on Tuesday 8th February
- have your options choices agreed by your parents and the school

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
			
Options and pathway information	Course research	Course selection	Review of selection
January 2022	February 2022	February Half Term	WB: 21 st Feb – 1 st March
Year 9 students and parents will be provided with information on the options process and the various pathways.	<p>Year 9 students and parents will use this time to review the courses that are available on their pathway.</p> <p>Students and parents will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding various courses.</p>	At this stage, students will make their final selection via an electronic form. The deadline for this is Sunday 20 th February	<p>Each student's selection will be reviewed by the Year 9 options team.</p> <p>Students and parents will be contacted if the selected options need to be reviewed.</p>



What do the pathways mean?

The Academy has designed pathways for its students at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11). The pathways are decided based on students' prior attainment in their subjects from when they started at the school. We were the 69th best school in the UK for student progress last year out of over 6,000 schools, so we have a lot of experience and success with getting students to pick the right pathways. We ensure students take courses that are suitable for them and give them the best possible chance of success.

All students in KS4 study a core of required subjects. These include:

- **English Language GCSE**
- **English Literature GCSE**
- **Maths GCSE**
- **Religious Education GCSE**
- **Science GCSE**

All KS4 students have Core PE lessons as part of their timetable.

Pathways

A is the EBacc GCSE pathway for students with the highest prior attainment. These students will pick either Geography or History, then French or Spanish, and finally a further GCSE or BTEC course of their choice.

B is the EBacc Vocational pathway. These students will pick either Geography or History, then French or Spanish and finally one BTEC qualification of their choice or Art GCSE.

C is the Vocational pathway. These students will pick two BTEC courses or one BTEC and Art GCSE, and then pick one further GCSE subject.

D is the Vocational Support pathway. This is for students that need extra support in English and Maths. These students will pick two BTEC courses or one BTEC and Art GCSE. They will not choose another subject as instead they will get more support in English and Maths to help their grades in these subjects.

Mother Tongue Languages

Students who have a high level of competency in another language may also be able to take this as an additional GCSE. They will need to have a high level in all four skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening). However, this will be extra to their option choices and students will still have to take French or Spanish. Please speak to Ms Bolayon to find out more.

What is the EBacc?

The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself; it is a group of qualifications in 'facilitating' subjects – these are subjects which develop good learning skills, and which universities consider to be useful for higher education.

Taking the EBacc is about having a wide range of these subjects and keeping your options open for studies at Key Stage 5. Although it is important to be aware that the EBacc is not needed to go to university, there are some universities that require a GCSE in a language.

What is the EBacc?

In order to achieve the English Baccalaureate, you will need a good GCSE grade (9-5) in English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, and History or Geography.

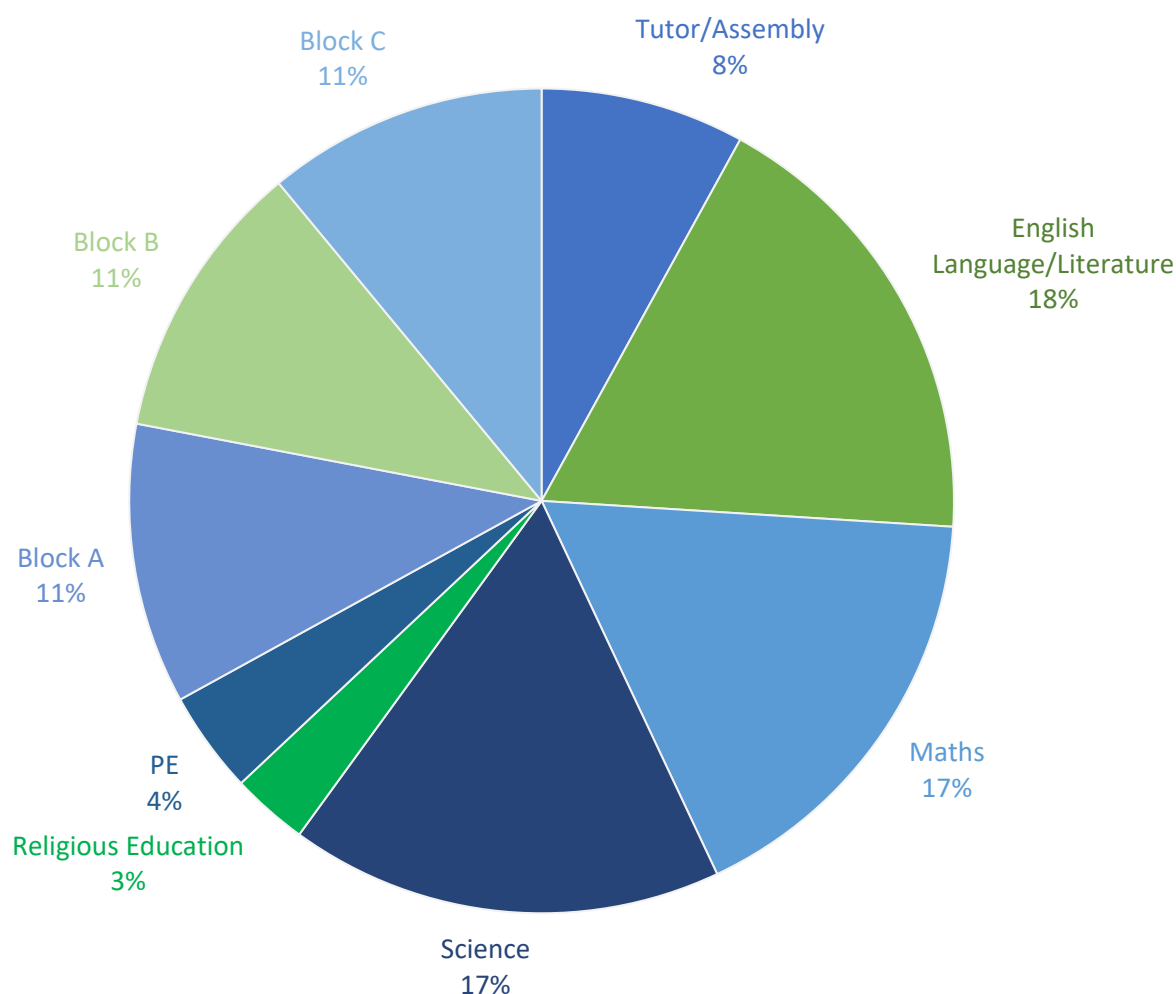


What will my timetable look like?

At Paddington Academy we have a two-week timetable. Over the fortnight, students attend three 100-minute lessons daily. In addition to this, on Monday to Thursday, students have a 35-minute pastoral tutor session or assembly.

Students have 30 lessons a fortnight. For all KS4 students, 17 of these lessons are dedicated to English, Maths and Science. Core time is also dedicated to RE and PE. Options subjects have either three or four lessons a fortnight.

Students in Year 11 receive the additional provision of an extra lesson or supervised independent study Tuesday to Thursday, and targeted support sessions.



What are the different course types on offer?

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

With a GCSE you gain a grade from 9-1 (with 9 being the highest grade). The course consists of mostly examinations taken at the end of Year 11, but there are some elements of coursework or controlled assessment in some subjects. Some GCSE courses are very practical, such as GCSE Art or Drama.

BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council award)

With a BTEC you learn about a subject in a more practical, work-related manner. Assessment is spread out across Years 10 and 11. These courses are for those who prefer to do more coursework, and who enjoy independent learning and practical activity. There will also be an examination and you must pass this in order to pass the course. You can achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction. These Level 2 courses are the equivalent to one GCSE.

You can find out more about a particular course by reading the relevant page in this booklet or speaking to the teacher leading the course.

How do I make my options choices?

What should you consider when choosing options subjects?

- Which subjects are you successful in?
- Which subjects do you enjoy (as you'll be studying them for the next two years)?
- What skills do you want to learn?
- What might you want to study afterwards? Do you need a GCSE in a subject if you want to take it at A-Level?
- What do you study in the subject, and is it right for you? Can you find out more from the teacher(s)?
- Are there any entry requirements for the subjects you want to study?

What are common mistakes made when choosing options subjects?

- Choosing an option because all your friends are doing it
- Choosing based on the teacher(s)
- Choosing because you've never done the subject before, so it must be good
- Deciding without reading this booklet, asking questions, and speaking to teachers
- Deciding without discussing it with your family
- Deciding against a subject because you don't want a career in it

What courses are on offer?

Core subjects

Core GCSE

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Religious Education GCSE
- Science GCSE (Combined)

Ebacc subjects

EBacc

- History GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- French GCSE
- Spanish GCSE

Options subjects

GCSE or BTEC

- Art and Design GCSE
- Business Studies GCSE
- Creative Media Production BTEC
- Drama GCSE
- Enterprise BTEC
- Health and Social Care BTEC
- Music GCSE
- Physical Education (Sports Science) GCSE
- Science GCSE (Triple)
- Sport BTEC
- Three-Dimensional Design (Product Design) GCSE
- Travel and Tourism BTEC



Four pathways

A

EBacc GCSE
(EBacc +1 GCSE or BTEC)

B

EBacc Vocational
(EBacc +1 BTEC/Art GCSE)

C

Vocational
(2 BTECs/ Art + one GCSE)

D

Vocational Support
(2 BTECs
+
extra English and Maths)

Chosen by us, personalised for you





Exam board: Edexcel 1AD0

The GCSE Art and Design course is designed not only for anyone who intends to pursue a career in the art world, but for those pupils who wish to broaden their field of knowledge and extend their creative skills through an exploration into visual communication. The course requires that you learn skills relating to:

- Analysis and understanding of art
- Collection and presentation of resources, observations and ideas
- The ability to use various materials, development and presentation of your ideas

Main topics covered include:

- Foundation skills through portraiture
- Growth and evolution
- Contextualising the notion of conflict

You'll enjoy this course if you have a passion for being creative and exploring ideas through experimentation with different techniques. If you are open minded and keen to challenge yourself, analysing how artists communicate their ideas and developing your own visual language, then this course is for you.

Assessment: 60% Coursework (portfolio-based work), exam worth 40% - project title given by the exam board and developed over a couple of months, which culminates in an exam over two days. Marks are awarded for the research as well as the final piece.

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Mr Elias

Exam board: AQA 8132

This course encourages students to:

- Know and understand business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, the integrated nature of business activity and the impact of business on individuals and wider society
- Apply knowledge and understanding to contemporary business issues and to different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts
- Develop as enterprising individuals with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen, and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

You'll enjoy this course if you would like to learn how to open, run and manage a successful business. This course will prepare any budding entrepreneur well and provide them with all the necessary skills and knowledge to run a successful business. You will enjoy it if you are a creative thinker and are comfortable using maths to work out costs, revenues and profits.

Areas covered include:

1. Business Basics - Y10
2. Influences - Y10
3. Operations - Y10
4. Human Resources - Y10
5. Marketing - Y11
6. Finance - Y11

Assessment: Two exam papers taken in summer 2024

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Mr Rexhepi

Exam board: Edexcel 603/1238/5

Component 1

Exploring media products:

- Examine how media products are created for specific audiences and purposes
- Explore the relationship between genre, narrative and representation within media products and develop your understanding of how they are interpreted by audiences
- Extend your knowledge and understanding by deconstructing existing products in one of the three sectors: audio/moving image, publishing and interactive media

Component 2

Developing digital media production skills:

- Develop practical media production skills and techniques
- Specialise in one or more of the following media sectors: audio/moving image, publishing and/or interactive media

Component 3

Create a media product in response to a brief:

- Respond to a client brief and create a product in one of the following media sectors: audio/moving image, publishing or interactive
- Engage in the process of ideas generation, selecting and refining your ideas until you are satisfied that you have an idea that meets the requirements of the brief
- Produce a digital media product in response to the brief showing your skills of pre-production, production and post-production

Students learn practical skills that they can use in any work environment, gaining experience in working to deadlines and producing real-world skills. This is suitable for students who love a challenge, but prefer to do coursework over examinations. Also, for students who would prefer to follow the vocational pathway leading to level 3 vocational or academic qualifications.

Assessment: 60%: Two internally marked coursework units (Components 1 and 2), 40%: One synoptic externally marked coursework (Component 3)

Grading: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Teacher: Ms Gaisford

Exam board: AQA 8261

This academic course blends practical drama with the social, cultural and historical context of the texts and ideas being explored.

1. Text Performance

The world of theatre is opened up in this unit that involves performing two extracts from one play. Choices of text are flexible and can range from classical texts (Euripides, Shakespeare and Lope De Vega) through to 20th Century and contemporary (Soyinka, Tucker Green and Walsh).

2. Devising Drama

Students begin by developing knowledge and skills in a variety of performance styles from Steven Berkoff to Kneehigh Theatre. Groups will then create their own original play. The creative process is analysed and evaluated in coursework.

3. Understanding Drama (written exam)

Develop knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre by exploring a play in performance and evaluating a professional theatre production. Students will have the chance to see the very best in London theatre.

This course prepares students to be culturally rich citizens, through the creation and critical appreciation of live theatre performance. If you enjoy acting, directing or designing (set, lighting or sound) this is a course that will challenge and inspire you.

There will also be another practical drama course running for those who wish to perform, but with less academic written style work, more information will be given once options confirmed.

Assessment: One written exam, two performances and one coursework submission

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Dale

Exam board: AQA 8700

This course prepares students for using their skills in English in the wider-world. The reading portion explores a wide range of unseen texts of both fiction and non-fiction. Students develop a wide understanding of how writers convey their viewpoints, ideas and perspectives on human nature through their writing, and an appreciation for how these are constructed. In particular, the skill of being able to analyse and approach unseen texts unaided prepares students for the workplace. The writing section of the course aims to develop and strengthen students' ability to employ their own writing to convey ideas with a particular purpose for the writing and allows them to creatively express their ideas.

The course will cover a range of fiction and non-fiction texts to include both 19th century and modern work.

This course is truly preparation for the future. No matter what job you want to go on to do, GCSE English Language is really about giving you the ability to read, understand and form an opinion on something as well as express your ideas in writing. You'll enjoy the course if you are interested in the world around us and how different people share their views on it.

Assessment: Two exams, taken in summer 2024

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Philp

Exam board: AQA 8702

This is a skills-based approach to exploring a range of texts, including poetry, drama and prose from different social, political and historical contexts. The course aims to develop an understanding and appreciation of British literature and develop personal responses to texts.

Students will be challenged to become critical readers, exploring the methods that writers use to engage, intrigue, and convey messages to their readers.

The course will cover:

- William Shakespeare's Macbeth
- JB Priestley's An Inspector Calls
- Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol
- Power and Conflict poetry

You'll enjoy this course if you like reading, but also if you enjoy learning about great characters and plots. You'll also enjoy it if you like working out the meaning behind language and how writers get across their ideas to have an impact on you- the reader- or an audience.

Assessment: Two exams, taken in summer 2024

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Philp

Exam board: Pearson 603/1916/1

This course has been designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of business. The qualification builds on learning from Key Stage 3 for those who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4.

It provides a starting point of a route into employment in many of the diverse areas of business, including roles such as marketing, finance, customer service or human resources in large businesses, or in a small, local business.

In the two core units, students will have the opportunity to develop enterprise and financial skills and knowledge necessary to enable them to understand how businesses recognise opportunities and build on these to succeed. Learners will understand how a business makes and manages its money and plans for the future. This will include elements such as exploring enterprises, planning for and pitching an enterprise activity, and promotion and finance for enterprise.

If you enjoy working independently as well as in a classroom environment, this course is perfect for you. One unit is a finance exam, and the other two units are coursework units. This course will provide any budding young entrepreneurs with the necessary information to open and manage a successful business and teach them the necessary numeracy and problem-solving skills.

Assessment: Promotion and finance for Enterprise exam taken in summer 2023, one internally assessed unit in 2023, one internally assessed unit in 2024

Grading: Pass, Merit and Distinction

Teacher: Mr Rexhepi



Exam board: AQA 8658

This course has a skills-based approach to French language learning. The course aims to strengthen student communication in all four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), with an additional focus on accuracy of translation. Students will have opportunities to explore the culture of France and the French-speaking world.

Students will be challenged to develop their communication skills in a variety of contexts, enabling them to become French speakers who can communicate with confidence and spontaneity.

The course covers a wide range of contexts that are within the overall themes of:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

At the end of the two-year course, you should be able to communicate information in a variety of contexts, spontaneously, and without the need for a dictionary or other resources. This course equips students to communicate confidently in French.

All four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) are equally weighted. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade, and is assessed via four exams taken in the summer of 2024.

Assessment: Four exams taken in the summer of 2024.

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Hansen

Exam board: Edexcel A-1GA0

Physical Geography

Looking at how land, rivers and coasts are formed, the impact of climate change, drought and hurricanes, as well as how we protect the environment of our planet.

Human Geography

Looking at how cities have changed and developed over time, how countries manage their precious resources, as well as looking at varying development levels around the world and how this affects people's lives.

Fieldwork and the UK

Fieldwork is an important part of being a geographer and this course involves two day trips; one to an urban area and one to a river, to look at how the things we've studied in class look in real life.

Geography is recognised as being an academic subject which is well-respected by both universities and employers. It is a fantastic subject to bridge between the humanities and science subjects. Geographers develop a range of skills, including data analysis, and understanding of processes. They get involved in politics, humanitarian work, health and medicine, engineering and much more.

In order to study this subject at A-Level, you must take it for GCSE

Assessment: Three exams taken in summer 2024 – Paper 1: Physical Geography, Paper 2: Human Geography, Paper 3: Fieldwork and the UK

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Jackson-Ball

Exam board: Pearson 600/4782/3

About three million people work in health and social care. Health care roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators. Together, they account for nearly one in ten of all paid jobs in the UK; they play a key role in UK society and the demand for people to carry out these vital roles will increase.

This course provides an opportunity for vocational study and strong opportunities for post-16 progression. At PA we have an excellent academic record in this subject and excellent record of progression to very good universities.

The main focus covers:

- Development of key skills in health and social care, e.g., interpreting data to assess an individual's health
- Understanding effective ways of working in health and social care, such as designing a plan to improve an individual's health and wellbeing
- Learning about attitudes considered most important in health and social care, and the opportunity to practice applying them
- Learning about human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing

Assessment: Two coursework units with two written assignments each, one exam (2 hours)

Grading: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Teacher: Ms Jackson-Ball

Exam board: Eduqas 601/8879/0

This course aims to encourage students' interest in and enthusiasm for history. Over the two years, students will have the opportunity to study a range of historical periods.

Through the interrogation of sources and analysis of interpretation, students will be able to reach well-substantiated judgements and draw links and comparisons with historical events and current affairs.

What will I study?

- The Elizabethan Age, 1558 – 1603
- Germany in Transition, 1919 – 1939
- The Development of the USA, 1929 – 2000
- Health and Medicine in Britain, c.500 to present day

History is a very popular GCSE subject at Paddington. Students who pick history enjoy learning about the causes and consequences of important historical events. Making sense of the past develops skills that are valuable to anyone who seeks the truth and wants to think clearly and intelligently about the world around us. This is also a subject where being able to debate and argue your points is very important – historians do not always agree on what the truth is! You will need to like reading and writing, as you will be required to do this a lot.

In order to study this subject at A-Level, you must take it for GCSE

Assessment: Two exams, taken in 2024

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Snower



Exam board: Edexcel 1MA1

This course aims to develop your fluency in mathematical techniques. In addition to this, you will develop your mathematical reasoning (explaining and proving why something is correct based on information provided) as well as your problem-solving skills.

You will be expected to apply your mathematical knowledge to unfamiliar situations and reach a conclusion independently. You should expect to get 'stuck' frequently but should have a range of techniques to use and be resilient enough to work through this with clear logical explanations and reasons.

Achieving highly in mathematics opens a whole range of opportunities at sixth form, university and work. GCSE mathematics leads onto A-Level mathematics and further mathematics, which unlock opportunities to study degree-level courses including engineering, physics, statistics, accountancy, chemistry, business and economics, and medicine. Career opportunities open to graduates of mathematics are vast, including business and finance, engineering and computing. Studying mathematics will improve all students' financial and statistical literacy, which are needed to be successful in everyday life.

High achieving students may be entered for AQA Level 2 Further Mathematics, which extends many of the higher GCSE topics, and acts as a bridge between GCSE and A-Level Maths.

Students will enjoy this course if they enjoy solving problems and applying their knowledge in different situations in a logical and systematic way.

Assessment: Three papers taken at the end of Year 11; Paper 1 – non-calculator, paper 2 and 3 – calculator

Grading: 9-1 | Foundation: 1-5 | Higher: 4-9

Teacher: Mr Park

Exam board: OCR J536

This academic course blends practical drama with the social, cultural and historical context of the texts and ideas being explored.

1. Portfolio of Work

Students develop their understanding of performance and composition through exploration of their own instrument or singing within styles and genres of their choosing.

They demonstrate their playing skills and abilities by practising and performing a piece musically, accurately and with appropriate interpretation. In the composition element of this component, they demonstrate knowledge of composition techniques, use of musical elements and resources, including specific instrumental and technology techniques.

2. Practical Performance

Students develop their skills and understanding of performance and composition. The focus of the performance aspect of this component is on the demands of performing with an ensemble. Students are also required to compose a piece of music appropriate for one of the areas of study in response to a set brief.

3. Listening and Appraising

This component studies a range of set pieces of music from different genres from across the world. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of musical elements, contexts and language through a listening exam.

This course prepares students to be culturally rich citizens, through a wide range of musical genres. If you enjoy performing, composing and listening to music this is a course that will challenge and inspire you.

Assessment: One listening exam, two performances and one coursework submission

Grading: 9-1

Teachers: Mr Balysz and Ms Davis

Exam board: Edexcel 1PE0

Fitness and Body Systems (exam)

Students will study:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Physical fitness training
- Use of data in sport science
- Movement analysis

Health and Performance (exam)

Students will study:

- Health and wellbeing
- Sport psychology
- Social and cultural influences on sport

Practical Performance (controlled assessment)

Students select three sports that they perform as part of a practical controlled assessment(*). This includes one team and one individual sport; the third is a free choice. Students will complete coursework where they design and complete a personal exercise plan. You will enjoy this course if you have an interest in science, human biology and nutrition. If you want to find out how the human body and mind works and how this can benefit health and performance in sport, then you will enjoy GCSE PE.

It is important to recognise this is a scientific course and it is very different to PE in years 7-9. A strong science, PE and English level is crucial, as is a passion for at least two sports.

*Due to the nature of the practical assessment, an option to attend a residential trip to gain experience in outdoor adventure sports, in particular rock climbing, will be available.

Assessment: Two written exams account for 60% of the course, a practical performance in three sports account for 30% of the course, one piece of written coursework accounts for 10% of the course

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Mr Posner



Religious Education

Core GCSE

Exam board: Eduqas C120QS

This course is an inquiry-based approach to the world's ultimate questions. Over the two years, students will have the opportunity to explore and critically engage with a range of religious and philosophical approaches to controversial issues such as war, abortion and evil in the world. Through an analysis of religious beliefs and philosophical concepts, students will be able to reach an evaluation of the significance of religion and belief in the modern world.

Topics studied will include religious, philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world, study of Christianity and study of Islam.

What students love most about RE is that it provides them with a platform to express and evaluate their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments. It is a subject that welcomes diverse opinions and allows students to articulate their views through healthy debate. You will need to be open to different points of view on key issues as this is central to the course.

Assessment: Three exams; 1. Philosophical and Ethical Issues, 2. Christianity, 3. Islam

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Snower

Science - Combined

Core GCSE

Exam board: AQA Combined Science Trilogy 8464

Over two years, students will cover a wide range of topics from all three disciplines in science (biology, chemistry and physics). All students will work towards two GCSEs.

Students will explore a wide range of content and develop their working scientifically skills and maths skills whilst building on their science study from years 7-9.

An understanding of science is fundamental to our increasingly fast-paced and technologically led environment. If you use a mobile phone, a microwave, or even wear clothing made from materials such as polyester, you are being surrounded by science and engineering.

We are continually being bombarded with news and information. An understanding of the scientific method will allow you to interpret and analyse data and information and enable you to challenge those concepts that you don't agree with. You will learn to understand models of processes, as well as how to evaluate scientific change and discovery in the context of ethics and morality.

Students will carry out required practicals, to test their knowledge of the scientific method and to test theory of concepts with experiments. This builds their working scientifically skills, and will be assessed on these in their assessments, which involve six papers linked to a range of topics.

Assessment: Six exams – two in biology, two in chemistry and two in physics (2 GCSEs awarded at the end of the course)

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Hill

Exam Board: AQA (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

This course is only available to students on Pathway AT

If you are thinking of a career in science, healthcare, medicine or engineering, Triple Science is an excellent pathway to choose. Triple Science will prepare you better for A-Level sciences, and you will gain a deeper understanding of the sciences to enable you to grow as a scientist.

You will receive specialist teaching in each of the disciplines; biology, chemistry and physics, as you will have one teacher for each of these sciences. This specialist teaching will give you the best Triple Science teaching and will support you on your Triple Science journey.

Science is extremely important in the modern world, helping us to understand all walks of life, from the humble fruit fly to a pathogenic bacterium which has become resistant to antibiotics. It helps us to understand why buildings don't fall, and why objects appear to us to be different colours.

Science helps us to innovate, and this includes constant research and development. Across the globe, hundreds of scientists, are always researching the new medical treatment, or the newest knowledge about our expanding universe, and Triple Science will enable you to develop your scientific thinking to become a fantastic scientist to contribute to this.

Science helps improve our quality of life. Technology that we use every day was developed due to an understanding of science and technology, what we eat every day has been produced with an understanding of science, and our surroundings have all been developed with science in mind.

In addition to all the Combined Science content, we cover extra units and topics in Triple Science. In biology topic 5, we learn how the brain controls complex behaviour, and understand how the various parts such as the cerebellum and medulla aid the function of the brain. We investigate how MRI scans help to enhance the study of brain disorders. We learn about the structure of the eye, and how the eye helps us focus on far or near objects, as well as how it adapts to different light levels. We learn about the structure of the kidney, and how the kidney filters our blood and removes toxic products. We learn about how dialysis of the kidney works, and how this supports many individuals with kidney disease.

In chemistry topic 10, we learn how materials are used and developing for various uses. For example, we learn about how corrosion of metals such as aluminum can be prevented, by understanding their reactivities. We also learn about how plastics and ceramics are made, and how they are part of everything we use in our day-to-day lives.

In physics topic 8, we learn about space. This unit involves understanding the solar system and how it is just a small part of the Milky Way galaxy. We learn about the life cycle of a star such as the Sun, and how fusion energy supports its life. We learn about red shift and using observations of other galaxies within space to better understand our own in terms of universe expansion.

Exam board: AQA 8698

This course has a skills-based approach to Spanish language learning. The course aims to strengthen student communication in all four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), with an additional focus on accuracy of translation. Students will have opportunities to explore the culture of Spain and the Spanish-speaking world.

Students will be challenged to develop their communication skills in a variety of contexts, enabling them to become Spanish speakers who can communicate with confidence and spontaneity.

The course covers a wide range of contexts that are within the overall themes of:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

At the end of the two-year course, you should be able to communicate information in a variety of contexts, spontaneously, and without the need for a dictionary or other resources. This course equips students to communicate confidently in Spanish.

All four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) are equally weighted. Each skill is worth 25% of the overall grade and is assessed via four exams taken in the summer of 2024.

Assessment: Four exams taken in the summer of 2024

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Ms Hansen

Exam board: Edexcel 603/7068/3

The course is a mix of practical and classroom-based lessons and covers the following units:

Component 1 - Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Students will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.

Component 2 - Taking Part and Improving Other Participants' Sporting Performance

Students will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.

Component 3 - Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

Students will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.

Skills gained in this qualification include sport analysis, leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

Assessment: Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed, which involves completing coursework produced on the computer. Component 3 is an external exam (1 hour 30 minutes), which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

Grading: Level 1 – Pass, Merit, Distinction; Level 2 – Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*

Teacher: Mr Posner

Exam board: Edexcel 1TD0

The GCSE Three-Dimensional Design course is designed not only for anyone who intends to pursue a career in the design world, but it gives students the opportunity to work with a range of materials and processes. All students have the opportunity to design and make practical solutions to real design problems. The course requires that you learn skills relating to:

- Analysis and understanding of design
- Collection and presentation of resources, observations and ideas
- The ability to use various materials, development and presentation of your design ideas

Main topics covered include:

- Developing and applying design skills
- Designing and making innovation challenge
- Making, testing and marketing products
- Designing influences

You'll enjoy this course if you want to combine designing and modelling skills with knowledge and understanding. You will also enjoy this course if you are keen to explore a range of design contexts and to come up with your own solutions to real world problems, using computer aided design and computer aided manufacture.

Assessment: 60% Coursework (portfolio-based work), exam worth 40% - project title given by the exam board and developed over a couple of months, which culminates in an exam over two days. Marks are awarded for the research as well as the final piece.

Grading: 9-1

Teacher: Mr Elias

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel 603/3038/7

This is a great course if you like learning by researching and planning great holidays! The travel and tourism industry is the third largest in the UK. It's worth £121 billion and involves bringing lots of skills together to understand how the sector works and how it should be managed to make it sustainable.

This is a great course if you enjoyed studying tourism in KS3 Geography, or if you're keen on doing a humanities subject.

Assignments 1 and 2

We will look at travel and tourism organisations, their aims and how they work together. We will also look at the types of travel and tourism and what makes holiday destinations appealing.

Assignments 3 and 4

For this assignment you will have to apply your skills to plan a holiday to meet customer needs and preferences, based on current trends in tourism and travel.

Assessment: Exam – looking at the impacts of tourism and how to control tourism to make it more sustainable (40%), assignments x 4 (60%)

Grading: Distinction, Merit, Pass

Teacher: Mr William





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