



Arts & Media School  
ISLINGTON

# Options

2020/2021





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**Key Stage 4 Curriculum  
(Options) Booklet 2021**

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## Arts & Media School ISLINGTON

### FOREWORD

This booklet is intended to help parents and students, together with members of staff, plan the next two years of schooling. There are exciting choices to be made so that students optimise their chances of success in subjects they enjoy and in which they have ability and interest. We also want them to have a challenging, broad and balanced education that stimulates their desire to learn and is relevant to their future lives. When making choices, the following questions might help:

1. Would my choice make for a well-balanced timetable?
2. What am I really interested in?
3. What am I good at?
4. What do I enjoy doing?
5. What is relevant to my future studies or possible career choice?

Please note that your child will be guided and mentored by a senior member of staff throughout the process and with their assistance will complete a green options form that they will bring home; this form is the final form that must be completed and submitted no later than 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

GCSE English, Mathematics and Science, are taken by all students. Additionally, they will select further GCSE subjects of their choice from a long list. The package is sufficiently flexible to allow for students who wish to take specialised combinations including the Arts, Humanities and Technologies. A support pathway is also available which is one less GCSE and three lessons of additional support for the subjects they are learning; in guidance meetings parents and students will be advised if the school feels that their child should follow the support pathway.

The school's level of funding will necessitate all teaching groups being of an economically viable size. This may result in some subjects or combinations of subjects not being timetabled once pupils have made their choices, though experience suggests that these will be very few in number.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to remind you that we are holding a **Year 9 Virtual Parents' Evening on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**. I wish you every success in making these important decisions.

Mrs Julia Stubbs

Deputy Headteacher - Curriculum and Teacher Standards

# The Support Pathway

**Subject Leader:** Ms Harris

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

This pathway replaces one of the GCSE options and is for selected students. During the lessons there are opportunities to work on their other two options. Other activities during these lessons include college applications, writing personal statements, mentoring as well as revision techniques. AIM sessions are personalised to the students' individual needs. Within the Support Pathway we also offer Entry Level qualifications in English and Maths. Entry Level Certificate and Functional Skills English and Maths are delivered as a precursor to GCSE Maths and English. It helps to bridge the gap for learners enabling them to secure an English and Maths qualification. Students will be assessed on their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students will give a presentation on a topic of interest to them and answer questions related to the topic. This accounts for 12% of the overall mark. The course is assessed through internally teacher marked exams and external modification.

## What skills will I develop?

- expressive and receptive language skills
  - build confidence and provide access to the new GCSEs
  - reading and understanding texts
  - explaining and commenting on effective written language
  - comparing writers' ideas and perspectives
  - evaluating texts and supporting this with references
  - communicating and organising clearly
  - using vocabulary and sentences for clarity, purpose and effect
  - presentation skills
  - listening and responding appropriately to spoken language
  - using spoken English effectively
  - become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics
  - develop an argument or justification making use of mathematical language
- 
- solve problems by applying mathematics to a variety of routine problems with increasing sophistication, including breaking down problems into a series of simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions

## What qualifications will I gain?

You can achieve a Pass at the Silver or Gold Award, Pass at Entry Level Maths.

## What additional support is available?

Morning revision sessions are available in Pupil Support (CG01) on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

## Pupil Support Faculty

Support sessions are available for Year 10 and Year 11 students either during lunchtime or after school throughout the week where students can get advice and guidance on coursework and revision.

Selected students may be invited to attend support sessions as part of the curriculum time. During these sessions students may be offered the opportunity to take alternative qualifications such as Entry Levels.

For more information about the support sessions please speak to Angella Harris, Head of the Pupil Support faculty.

# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

## GCSE English Language & English Literature

**Subject Leader:** Ms Ackerley

**Exam Board:** Language - AQA & Literature - Edexcel

**Number of lessons per week:** 5 lessons (5 hours)

### What can I expect to study within these courses?

GCSE English Language and English Literature are compulsory subjects studied by all students.

#### English Language

Students will be assessed on their reading and writing skills, each of which will form 50% of the final grade. Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed within the writing assessments and will form 20% of the final grade. All of the texts within the English Language exam will be unseen texts (and so will not have been studied during the course). They will include texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries and texts of literature as well as non-fiction writing.

#### Spoken Language Endorsement

Students will give a prepared spoken presentation on a specified topic. This is expected to last around 10 minutes. They will be awarded a separate grade for this presentation (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Not Classified). This will not contribute to the result of the English Language GCSE.

#### English Literature

Students will study at least one play by Shakespeare, at least one 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, a selection of poetry, and fiction or drama from the British Isles from 1914 onwards. These texts will then be assessed across two exams at the end of the course. The assessment will include two unseen texts and comparison skills, and spelling, punctuation and grammar will count for 5% of the grade.

### How is the course assessed?

The content of both courses is assessed entirely through examination. Each student will sit four externally marked written exams. There are no tiered papers so all students will sit the same papers.

### What skills will I develop?

- The ability to express ideas clearly in speech, and to listen thoughtfully to others, responding appropriately;
- The ability to read and enjoy increasingly complex literature from the English literary heritage and texts from other cultures and traditions; through this, to develop analytical and evaluative skills;
- Compositional skills and the construction of meaning in writing, matching style to audience and purpose;
- Awareness of social, historical and cultural contexts and their influence in the study of literature.

### What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

A grade 4 or grade 5 in GCSE English Literature or Language is an entry requirement for many courses in Further or Higher Education. A good qualification in GCSE English is well-respected and is often used as a benchmark by prospective employers and educational institutions. The skills developed through the study of English, such as communication, evaluation and analysis, are valuable in many fields of employment. The study of English opens a wide variety of career paths including the following: Medicine; Law; Business; Education and Journalism.

# GCSE AQA Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Taqvi

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 5 lessons (5 hours)

## What topics will I study?

Through years 10 and 11 students will be studying a range of topics in Biology from Cell Biology to inheritance, variation and Ecology, Chemistry includes the periodic table, chemical analysis and using our resources and Physics includes learning about Energy and Space. Students are expected to have their own copy of the course textbooks and bring these to each lesson to support their learning in school, as well as their independent study at home. For triple science, you need to know all about twenty eight different practical investigations and these will be taught in your practical lessons.

## How will I be taught?

GCSE Triple Science involves a large amount of theory and practical knowledge. Students will have separate lessons for each science with a specialist teacher. Only students who excel at Science will be able to successfully complete the Triple Science course.

## How will I be assessed?

You will take six exams at the end of Y11, two for each science. These exams are 1 hour 45 minutes long and 15% of every science exam will be related to the twenty eight required practicals. Students will be regularly assessed throughout the two years.

Throughout the two years, internal assessments will include:

- Exam questions given as homework weekly.
- End of unit assessments.
- Mock exams

## What qualifications will I gain?

You will achieve three GCSEs at grades between 1-9 for each science. The three grades are independent of each other, so it is possible, for example, to achieve a 7, 7 and 6 grades for each of the respective Sciences.

## Why Science? What are the skills I will gain and how will they help in other subjects?

You will gain excellent skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and data analysis. These skills are helpful for subjects like History, Psychology and Maths and can help you in careers such as events management, administration or financial management.

## If I study this course what learning Pathways are open to me in the Sixth Form?

A level-Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics A level. Entry requirements – minimum grade 6.  
Practical subjects-Electrical Engineering, Carpentry, Hair and Beauty, Health and Social care

## If I study this course which university and career pathways are open to me?

Triple Science GCSEs are a necessity for all pupils wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry, Dietetics, Microbiology, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Veterinary Surgery, Psychology, Radiography, Surgery and many more. A Triple Science qualification is also very highly regarded in the general world of work.

# GCSE AQA Combined Science (Trilogy)

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Taqvi

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 5 lessons (5 hours)

## What topics will I study?

Combined Science (Double Award) is a two year study programme in which students attain two separate GCSE Science qualifications. The two GCSE's are made up of a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics covering topics like; cell biology, inheritance, variation and ecology, the periodic table, chemical analysis and using our resources, energy and magnetism. Students are expected to have their own copy of the course textbooks and bring these to each lesson to support their learning in school, as well as their independent study at home. For combined science, you need to know all about twenty one different practical investigations and these will be taught in your lessons.

## How will I be taught?

GCSE Trilogy Science involves a large amount of theory and practical knowledge. Students will have separate lessons for each science with a specialist teacher.

## How will I be assessed?

You will take six exams at the end of Y11, two for each science. These exams are 1 hour 15 minutes long and 15% of every science exam will be related to the twenty one required practicals. Each exam paper counts for 16.7%. Students will be regularly assessed throughout the two years; this information will be used to inform progress and tier entry.

Throughout the two years, internal assessments will include:

- Exam questions given as homework weekly
- End of unit assessments.
- Mock exams

## What qualifications will I gain?

You will achieve two GCSEs at grades between 1-9 for each science.

## Why Science? What are the skills I will gain and how will they help in other subjects?

You will gain excellent skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and data analysis. These skills are helpful for subjects like History, Psychology and Maths and can help you in careers such as events management, administration or financial management.

## If I study this course what learning Pathways are open to me in the Sixth Form?

A levels-Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. Entry requirements – minimum grade 6.

Practical subjects-Electrical Engineering, Carpentry, Hair and Beauty, Health and Social care

## If I study this course which university and career pathways are open to me?

Combined Science GCSEs are a necessity for all pupils wishing to study Medicine, Dentistry, Dietetics, Microbiology, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Veterinary Surgery, Psychology, Radiography, Surgery and many more. Students who achieve Grade 5 will be offered the opportunity to study BTEC (Level 3) Applied Science – Medical Science. Examples of careers that Combined Science GCSE may lead to are Medicine, Pharmaceutical Science, Pathology, Forensic Science, Engineering, Environmental Science and Research Science.

# GCSE Mathematics

**Subject Leader:** Ms Dattani

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of lessons per week:** 5 lessons (5 hours)

## What can I expect to study within this course?

Pupils will cover a range of mathematical areas throughout the GCSE syllabus. The five main areas of study are:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change
4. Geometry and Measures
5. Statistics and Probability.

This will provide pupils with an ability to use mathematics across the curriculum and the higher GCSE course; in particular, it provides a firm foundation for further study at Advanced Level.

Higher Tier: Grade 4-9

Foundation Tier: Grade 1-5

## How is the course assessed?

There are three written examination papers, one non-calculator and two calculator papers. Each paper will be 1 hour and 30 minutes and are equally weighted.

## What skills are necessary for this course?

- Commitment to work.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Being able to solve problems.

## What skills will I develop?

During this course, the aim is to enable pupils to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

## What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

- A grade 4 in GCSE Mathematics is a minimum requirement for many college courses, other further education and employment.
- In addition many courses require a GCSE mathematics grade 5 or better; this is especially true for many Science courses.
- For students who are considering A level Mathematics their aim should be to achieve 8 or 9.
- Mathematics is used in most jobs, and can be specialised within Banking, Accounting, Actuary and Finance.

# *Options* 2021

## **OPTION SUBJECTS**

# GCSE Art & Design

**Subject Leader:** Mr Brotherhood

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## What can I expect to study within this course?

GCSE Art & Design is a practical course where you will develop your drawing, painting and 3D modelling skills. You will learn how to use a wide variety of new art media & techniques including print-making, using clay & photography. You will also learn other essential skills in Art & Design including, how to analyse and write about artists and designers work and how to develop ideas in response to your own 'Picture Research'. You will start the project from a common theme and are expected, with support, to develop your own ideas and responses to the themes. Last year's themes included Surfaces, Machines, Inspired by Language, Portraiture.

## How is the course assessed?

The GCSE is assessed by whole projects. There are two projects of coursework and one project that becomes part of the exam. Students are marked between Grade 9 – 1, for coursework & exam. Students will start their coursework immediately on starting the course, which includes all homework. The projects are assessed against 4 main objectives:

1. Recording (drawing and painting).
2. Artists Link (using the work of artists and designers to help you develop ideas).
3. Experimenting with media (being inventive with 2D & 3D media).
4. Final piece (creating a personal response to a theme).

## What coursework do I have to do?

Students will produce a portfolio of work consisting of 3 projects. The projects will include;

- Written research about art, artists & designers.
- Researching, collecting and annotating pictures
- Drawing from observation
- Experimenting with different art media
- Creating artwork in 2D, low relief & 3D
- Final piece

## What skills are necessary for this course?

- Skill in drawing and painting
- Good observational skills
- An interest in how to communicate in Art & Design

## What skills will I develop?

- Skill in drawing and painting
- Skill in visual literacy – How to read pictures.
- Skills in using art & design techniques like; composition and mark-making to communicate your own ideas.

## What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

- A-levels in Art & Design
- BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma in Art & Design
- Apprenticeship programmes in Design

**What possible careers may this qualification help me become? London is the capital of the creative industries.**

**Top 14 employment opportunities;** Graphic Design, Web Designer, Product design, Photography, Fashion design, Architecture, Animator, Ceramicist, Illustrator, Picture researcher, Prop maker, set builder and

researcher in Films.

# GCSE Computer Science

**Subject Leader:** Mr A Naidoo

**Exam Board:** OCR

**Number of lessons per week : 3 lessons (3 hours)**

## Why Computer Science?

Take a look at the world around you. How close to a computer are you? When was the last time you used one? Life without computers is almost unimaginable. The power of computers is utilised in all areas of life, from medicine to space exploration. Computer Science goes way beyond just writing code. Steve Jobs (Apple Co-Founder) once remarked:

***“Everybody in this country should learn how to program a computer... because it teaches you how to think”.***  
**Steve Jobs (Apple Co-founder)**

By studying this highly valued subject you will develop the skills and knowledge to give you that competitive advantage in any future career. You will develop computational thinking skills such as analysis, decomposition, logic and algorithmic thinking.

## What will you learn?

Computer Science is an intellectually challenging yet very practical and rewarding subject. It is an intensely creative subject where you can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in exciting and inventive ways.

### You will learn to:

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Apply the principles of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic and data representation.
- Analyse problems in computational terms and solve them by designing, writing and debugging programs.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to computation.

### How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed by two written exams.

1. Computer Systems (50%)
2. Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%)

## Is this GCSE for you?

Computer Science is at the centre of a STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) education. Studying this subject will give you a real advantage in today's technology driven world. You will make the leap from using other people's software to being able to design and create your own. Maybe you could invent the next Facebook or Snapchat? GCSE Computer Science will give you the skills to become a Technology Entrepreneur...but even more than this, it will give you the skills you need for any career because Computer Science teaches you how to think.

## What skills are necessary for this course?

- Master threshold in Maths and English by the end of Year 9.
- Commitment to hard work.
- Ability to work independently.
- Being able to solve problems.
- Be able to work under pressure.

# GCSE Dance

**Subject Leader:** Ms Stephanou

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## **What can I expect to study within this course?**

The GCSE Dance course focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through performance, choreography and critical appreciation. The study of eight selected professional dance works provides the context for learning through performance, choreography and critical appreciation and enables students to experience different cultural influences and styles of dance. This also enables students to develop a broad vocabulary and enrich their own artistic creativity. The course is split into 60% practical and 40% theory with the two components.

## **How is the course assessed?**

All components of the course will be internally assessed by the class teacher through controlled assessments and will be externally assessed on the day of their exam by an external examiner.

**Component 1 – Performance 30%:** Students will be assessed on their performance and your interpretation of the set phrases. Students are assessed on their physical competence and effectiveness as performers and their knowledge of safe working practice. This controlled assessment will be filmed and assessed by an external examiner.

**Component 1 –Choreography 30%:** Group composition-Students are assessed on their ability to choreograph a group dance through the use of action, space, dynamics and relationships in response to a selected stimulus. This exam will be filmed and assessed by an external examiner. Students will have to complete a choreographic log throughout the two year duration of the course for this unit and a programme note.

**Component 2 - Critical Appreciation of Dance 40%:** Students will have an in depth study of six different professional Dance works from pioneering choreographers. Students will learn to appreciate dance in a range of different styles ranging from; street dance, ballet, contemporary, inclusive dance and cultural dance.

## **What coursework do I have to do?**

Choreography component is the only coursework that students have to complete as they are expected to work on this outside of their directed learning hours.

## **What skills are necessary for this course?**

- The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Dance at Key Stage 3.
- It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of dance performances as well as working with external choreographers.
- You should have an interest in and a strong appreciation for dance as well as enjoying being active.

## **What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?**

- As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Dance course, GCSE Dance allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Dance and diplomas in the Performing Arts sector.
- Dance provides you with the skills that will benefit all areas of your life and your future. It builds confidence, creativity, social, physical and organisational skills, as well as providing you with the foundations to enter a career in the Performing Arts.
- Progression in Dance Science and Sports Science.

# GCSE Design Technology

**Subject Leader:** Mr Bethell

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## **What can I expect to study within this course?**

GCSE in Design Technology is a practical, work-related course. Students learn by completing a project based on a realistic, viable product. The course introduces and prepares students to “good design” and designers as well as links to further study and employment and provides a good basis to go on to more advanced work-related qualifications. This qualification is widely recognised by employers and colleges.

## **How is the course assessed?**

50% coursework (35 hours controlled assessment)

50% exam (2 hours written paper)

The units are assessed internally by the classroom teacher. Set tasks are given and based on practical and written tasks taught in the context of commercial products. Learning will also be continually assessed throughout the course.

## **What coursework do I have to do?**

Students will produce a portfolio of work leading to the design and manufacture of a final product. This will represent 50% of their final grade level. Areas of focus are:

- Investigating the design context: Design context, existing products, analysis ,Design criteria, target market.
- Development of design proposals: Design ideas, development, modelling, materials, manufacturing specification.
- Making/Manufacture: Making skills, selection of tools and technologies, level of demand, quality control.
- Commercial viability.
- Testing and evaluating: Design criteria, modifications.
- Communication: Clarity, spelling and grammar.

## **What skills are necessary for this course?**

- Commitment to work.
- Good communication.
- Ability to work independently.
- Being able to solve problems.
- Independent enquiry and investigation.

## **What skills will I develop?**

- Creativity and innovation.
- Designing products to meet the needs of clients, users and consumers.
- Analysis and evaluation of product designs.
- Drawing and presentation of ideas.

## **What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?**

Product Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Architecture, Engineering.

# GCSE Drama

**Subject Leader:** Mrs Harris

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## What can I expect from this course?

Drama is a practical course where you will learn how to: warm up correctly; create interesting and original characters; devise your own plays and look at different ways of performing scripts through the study of different theatre practitioners. Throughout the course we aim to develop your vocal and physical skills as a performer as well as develop your confidence. You will also develop your writing skills; learning how to effectively evaluate and analyse your work and the work of others in lessons, as well as evaluating the technical elements that are used in live theatre performance.

## How is the course assessed?

GCSE Drama is divided into 3 Components

**Component 1: Written Exam** - Pupils will be studying a play text throughout Years 10 and 11. This will be practical lessons as well as theory lessons. This unit will be assessed as a written exam. The purpose is to develop the pupils' understanding of how to take a play in its written form to its practical realisation on the stage. **40%**

**Component 2: Devising** - Pupils will be devising an original piece of Drama from a range of stimulus. They will also be asked to produce a written portfolio of their rehearsal process. The devising process is supported by a performance of their play, marked internally. The purpose of this unit is to develop the pupils' creative, devising and directorial skills and also the pupils' ability to produce original Drama. **40%**

**Component 3: Script** - Pupils will be given a play text to study. Pupils will choose two extracts from the play and the performance of these extracts will be performed to a visiting examiner. The purpose of this unit is to develop the pupils' acting skills. **20%**

## What skills are necessary for this course?

- Commitment to work.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work independently as well as part of a team.
- Ability to think creatively.

## What skills will I develop?

- Performance skills through the development of both your voice and body.
- Being creative and innovative when developing characters.
- How to devise your own plays from various stimuli.
- How to evaluate and analyse performance work.

## What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

As well as acting there are hundreds of offstage jobs in theatre, T.V. and film such as marketing, wardrobe manager and machine operators. In fact there is a shortage of people to work offstage and backstage. The skills developed through studying Drama, such as verbal communication, discipline and attention to detail support pupils in a wide range of career paths including Barrister, Wedding planner and Broadcast journalist.

# GCSE Geography

**Subject Leader:** Mr Hogarth

**Exam Board:** AQA 8035 (9-1)

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## What can I expect to study within this course?

Geography is a rigorous academic subject which requires you to have the desire to study. You will learn about real world issues including about how our planet affects the way we live and how the way we live affects our planet.

You will study the following Units:

### **Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment (35% of GCSE – 90 minute exam)**

- Topic 1: The Challenge of Natural hazards (Plate Tectonics / Extreme Weather / Climate Change)
- Topic 2: The Living World (Ecosystems / Rainforests / Deserts)
- Topic 3: Physical Landscapes in the UK (Coasts / Rivers / Glaciers)

### **Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (35% of GCSE – 90 minute exam)**

- Topic 4: Urban Issues and Challenges (Mega cities / Sociology / Sustainability)
- Topic 5: The Changing Economic World (Population / Development / Economics / Globalisation)
- Topic 6: The Challenge of Resource Management (Food / Water / Energy)

### **Unit 3: Geographical Applications (30% of GCSE – 75 minute exam)**

- Topic 7: Issue Evaluation (Booklet sent 12 weeks before exam)
- Topic 8: Fieldwork (Based on 2 fieldtrips - 1 Physical & 1 Human)
- Topic 9: Geographical Skills (Cartographic, Graphical, Numerical and Statistical Skills)

□

## How is the course assessed?

There will be 1 exam for each unit. The exam includes multiple-choice questions / short and long open response questions / calculation-type questions/ 9 mark extended questions.

## What fieldwork opportunities are there?

Unit 3 requires students to undertake 2 main field trips, one based on a human geographical enquiry and the other into a physical geographical enquiry.

## What skills will I develop?

Geographical skills are in demand by employers. Through this course you will develop your ability to:

- Work with data and statistics, to see patterns in it and make decisions.
- Investigate and present your findings through research.
- Choose, interpret, analyse and evaluate key data and information.
- Provide clear balanced arguments explaining contrasting viewpoints.
- Make decisions based on factual and inferred evidence.

## What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

Geography is one of the facilitating subjects for entry to university. This means that studying geography will give you the best possible choice of courses at the best universities. As a result it will open an incredible number of doors to future employment. It is also a helpful GCSE for those who wish to pursue alternative careers.

Geography graduates go into banking, economic analysis, engineering, architecture, international aid, the energy sector,, town planning, surveying, policing, politics, construction, film and television, media, journalism and estate agency amongst many other careers.

# GCSE History

**Subject leader:** Mr A King

**Exam board:** AQA (9-1)

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

**What can I expect to study within this course?**

**How is the course assessed?**

Paper 1: (Examination 50%)

**Germany 1890-1945:** Democracy and dictatorship & **The Cold War:** Conflict and tension, 1945-1972

Paper 2: (Examination 50%)

**Britain:** Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day & **Elizabethan England**, c1568–1603

**What skills will I develop?**

To be successful on the GCSE History course you should have a desire to study and most importantly, question the past and the way it has been interpreted.

By studying History you will develop important skills such as:-

- The ability to clearly express arguments both through debates and written essays.
- The ability to investigate and present your findings through research.
- The skills to question sources of information and be able to use evidence to support arguments for why the past is interpreted in different ways.
- You will develop your ability to explain, evaluate and analyse concepts such as causes & consequences.
- You will develop your ability to explain, evaluate and analyse continuity and change over time.

**What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?**

History qualifications will not just help you become a teacher or an archaeologist. History is one of the most respected GCSE, A Level options- as indicated by the Russell Group (the top 24 universities in the UK)

Historians develop skills of enquiry, debate and analysis. If you study the subject you can go into jobs that need these, such as:

- Law
- Journalism
- Politics
- Policing
- Teaching
- Professional research
- The Media
- Intelligence

# GCSE Media Studies

**Subject Leader:** Ms S. Narayanan

**Exam Board:** Eduqas (WJEC) (9-1)

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## What can I expect to study within this course?

GCSE Media Studies students can expect to cover a range of popular media. Through this, they develop an understanding of how media can influence both individual and public opinion. They will also gain knowledge and understanding in the following sectors:

- Film
- Radio
- Newspapers
- Magazines
- Advertising and marketing
- Online, social and participatory media
- Video games
- Music video
- Television

## How is the course assessed?

Students complete one piece of coursework and two exams over Years 10 and 11.

### Non-exam assessment: Creating a Media Product (Coursework) • 30% of GCSE

Students are set a brief by Eduqas and have to plan, develop and create a print media product. Students will need to submit a Statement of Intent (a 250 word outline of how they intend to meet the brief) and a print media product aimed at a specific audience.

### Written Exam: Component 1 • 40% of GCSE

### Written Exam: Component 2 • 30% of GCSE

Component 1 and 2 will look at the key media concepts and contexts and 15 Case Studies set by Eduqas, that students will study through Years 10 and 11. Students will look at the influence of the media, how people, places and events are represented through media texts, how media institutions influence the products they produce and how media texts targets and appeals to specific audiences.

## What skills are necessary for this course?

Students who are successful on this course are creative and will enjoy movies, television, music and thinking about how these forms of media influence people. They will enjoy practical work but also learning how to analyse media in great detail. As Media Studies includes a large amount of analysis, students must have a good level in English (Master threshold or above) to meet the demands of the course.

## What skills will I develop?

- Production and editing skills.
- Practical skills through researching, planning and producing a media project of your own.
- Analytical skills will be developed and monitored throughout the course.
- Communication skills through working in production teams.
- Data analysis for identifying audience trends and consumer preferences.

## What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

GCSE Media students often choose to continue their studies at A Level/BTEC where many colleges offer Media, Film Studies or Animation. There are many excellent Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degrees available as well and, as a subject that develops both strong analytical skills and creativity, the study of GCSE Media can also support applications for degrees in other areas. There are a wide range of career opportunities for students who study Media. For further information, visit the Skillset website: <http://www.creativeskillset.org>

# BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production

## Level 2

**Subject Leader:** Ms S. Narayanan

**Exam Board:** Pearson BTEC

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

### **What can I expect to study within this course?**

Over Years 10 and 11, BTEC students can expect to cover key theoretical concepts that underpin media products such as film, TV, print, video games, music videos, social media, radio, newspapers, magazines and advertising and marketing and show their understanding of how these media products are put together. They will also acquire vocational skills through practical workshops and technical masterclasses and will be expected to showcase the practical skills they have developed over the two years by creating media products as part of their final assessment.

### **How is the course assessed?**

#### **1. Exploring Media Products • 30% (Coursework)**

Students will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences and will examine existing media products and explore media production techniques. This unit is internally assessed and students will need to complete a series of written assignments, presentations and worksheets to meet the assessment criteria for this unit.

#### **2. Developing Digital Media Production Skills • 30% (Coursework)**

Students will develop practical skills and techniques in media production processes and research, develop, plan and produce a media product within the digital publishing sector. This unit is internally assessed and students will need to complete a research and pre-production portfolio, print media products linked to their research planning and review their strengths and areas of development.

#### **3. Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief • 40% (Externally Assessed)**

Students will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief. The task will be set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions. The set task will be completed in 9 hours of supervised sessions in a period timetabled by Pearson.

### **What skills are necessary for this course?**

Students who are successful on this course are creative and will enjoy movies, television, music and thinking about how these forms of media influence people. They will enjoy practical work but also learning how to analyse media in great detail. As the study of media products includes a large amount of analysis, students must have a good level in English (Secure threshold or above) to meet the demands of the course.

### **What skills will I develop?**

- Production and editing skills.
- Practical skills through researching, planning and producing media projects of your own.
- Creative skills to develop and realise ideas.
- Analytical skills will be developed and monitored throughout the course.

### **What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?**

Students might consider progression to A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects or study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Media, which prepares students to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the media sector.

# GCSE MFL French/Spanish

**Subject Leader:** Mr I. Castillo Acosta

**Exam Board:** Edexcel (9-1)

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours) +1 booster session fortnight (if required; lunch time)

## What can I expect to study within this course?

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how language works and learning about different countries and cultures, studying GCSE French or Spanish is an excellent choice for you. You will learn to understand a lot more French or Spanish when you hear it or read it and be able to speak and write with more confidence.

- You will be able to share your interests, ideas and opinions with others who speak French or Spanish.
- You will learn about the countries where French or Spanish is spoken.
- You will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly and being confident about speaking in public.

## How is the course assessed?

Pupils will be assessed in the following skill areas at the end of the two year course:

- **Listening** – to practise understanding spoken French/Spanish in a variety of different contexts.
- **Speaking** – to practise communicating with French/Spanish speakers both at home and abroad.
- **Reading** – to practise understanding a wide range of texts in French/Spanish such as magazine articles and information found on the internet.
- **Writing** – to practise producing your own texts in clear and accurate French/Spanish.

## What skills are necessary for this course?

Students in the Languages department are encouraged to be independent learners. We use a range of ICT resources to ensure progress and we base our everyday practice in Project Based Learning, Comprehensible Input, Gamification and Creativity:

- Having demonstrated commitment and responsibility during the KS3 years, passing the End of KS3 test with at least a Secure+ grade; this must include the same level of proficiency in writing and speaking.
- An ability to work independently and in groups is essential.
- Responsible for delivering work and projects on time.
- Commitment and engagement are key to progress in the acquisition of a foreign language.

## What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?

- Colleges may require pupils to have a language in order to obtain a place on more popular courses.
- You will add an international dimension to your CV.
- You will create greater opportunities for yourself to work abroad or for companies in the UK with international links.

Using your languages at work doesn't mean being a teacher, translator or interpreter (although these jobs make for an extremely interesting career). It can mean working in one of many industries such as business, government, creative and media, engineering, event management, financial services, hair and beauty, health, medicine and social care, law, marketing, retail, travel and tourism and technology.

# GCSE Music

**Subject Leader:** Mr Jonathan Dow

**Exam Board:** Edexcel

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## **What can I expect to study within this course?**

GCSE music provides you with the opportunity to develop your skills as a Performer and Composer. You will also develop your knowledge and understanding of music history through the analysis and appreciation of “Set Works” covering Instrumental Music 1700-1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

## **How is the course assessed?**

### **Unit 1: Performing 30%**

- In this unit you are expected to demonstrate your skills as a performer. You are required to complete one solo and one ensemble performance.
- You can perform on any instrument and in any style.
- You will be assessed on the technical accuracy of your playing as well as the extent to which you give a musical and engaging performance.
- Both performances will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

### **Unit 2: Composing 30%**

- In this unit you will need to demonstrate your skills as a composer. You are required to complete two compositions. One of your compositions can be in a style of your own choice and the other must be completed in response to a composition brief set by Edexcel.
- You will develop your compositions using ICT (GarageBand and Ableton Live) and you will be expected to ensure that you submit high quality recordings of your finished work.
- You will be assessed on the material that you choose, how you develop your ideas, your use of structure, melody, rhythm and texture and your ICT skills.
- Both compositions will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

### **Unit 3: Listening & Appraising (40%)**

- In this Unit you will study 8 Set Works.
- You will be expected to be able to describe the Set Works in detail demonstrating musical understanding and using a wide range of subject specific vocabulary.
- You are also expected to develop your musical appreciation through wider listening around each of the set works.
- At the end of the course you will take a 1hr 30 min externally assessed listening exam that tests your knowledge and understanding of the set works.

## **What skills are necessary for this course?**

- The most important requirements for GCSE music are a love of music, the courage to experiment and be creative and the discipline and resilience to work on something until it is perfect.
- If you already play an instrument or sing regularly this can of course be an advantage but the determination and ambition to learn an instrument are every bit as valuable.

## **What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?**

- If you enjoy and are successful in the GCSE Music course then you could consider studying for an A level in Music or Music Technology.
- If you would like to work within the music industry as a performer, composer, producer, promoter or manager then GCSE music will almost certainly be your first step on this incredibly exciting, but of course, challenging journey.
- Music is a creative subject and therefore studying it at GCSE will be extremely beneficial and could even make you a stronger applicant for a huge range of careers. Remember “Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere” *Albert Einstein*

# GCSE Physical Education and BTEC Level 2 Sport

**Subject Leader:** Mr Panayiotou

**Exam Board:** OCR (GCSE PE) or BTEC (Sport)

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

If you choose PE we will decide which course to put you on so that you can get the highest grade possible. The GCSE PE is more suited to pupils who are very good practically as well as in exams. The BTEC course is more suited to pupils who perform better through completing coursework as opposed to a final examination.

## What can I expect to study within this course?

1. GCSE Physical Education	2. BTEC SPORT
<p><u>Applied anatomy and physiology Physical training: Exam (30%)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applied anatomy and physiology</li> <li>• Physical training</li> </ul>	<p><u>Unit 1 Fitness for Sport and Exercise - Exam (25%)</u></p> <p>In this unit you will:</p> <p>A know about the components of fitness and the principles of training</p> <p>B explore different fitness training methods</p> <p>C investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels</p>
<p><u>Socio-cultural influences Sports psychology Health, fitness and well-being: Exam (30%)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Socio-cultural influences</li> <li>• Sports psychology</li> <li>• Health, fitness and well-being.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Unit 02 Practical Performance in Sport - Coursework (25%)</u></p> <p>In this unit you will:</p> <p>A understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports</p> <p>B practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports</p> <p>C be able to review sports performance.</p>
<p><u>Practical activity assessment Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP): (40%)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP), task-based NEA.</li> <li>• Performance of three activities taken from the two approved lists*.</li> <li>• one from the 'individual' list</li> <li>• one from the 'team' list</li> <li>• one other from either list.</li> </ul> <p>Sports undertaken : Football, Badminton, Netball, Dance, Trampolining, Athletics, Handball, Basketball, Table Tennis and any others you may compete in.</p>	<p><u>Unit 3 Applying the Principles of Personal Training - Coursework (25%)</u></p> <p>In this unit you will:</p> <p>A design a personal fitness training programme</p> <p>B know about the musculoskeletal system and cardiorespiratory system and the effects on the body during fitness training</p> <p>C implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives</p> <p>D review a personal fitness training programme.</p>
<p><b>What coursework do I have to do?</b></p> <p>Analysing and Evaluating Performance (AEP) In addition to three practical performances, learners are required to demonstrate their ability to analyse and evaluate their own performance in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analyse aspects of personal performance in a practical activity</li> <li>• evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the performance</li> <li>• produce an action plan which aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of the performance.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Unit 5 The Sports Performer in Action -Coursework (25%)</u></p> <p>In this unit you will:</p> <p>A know about the short-term responses and long-term adaptations of the body systems to exercise</p> <p>B know about the different energy systems used during sports performance.</p> <p><b>What coursework do I have to do?</b></p> <p>75% of the course is on-going coursework. It is marked as Pass, Merit and Distinction; these are equivalent to GCSEs.</p>

# GCSE Religious Education (R.E.)

**Subject Leader:** Mr O. Wallen

**Exam Board:** Edexcel (Specification B)

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## What can I expect to study within this course?

Students will study the specification on *Faith and Practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Studies are based on two religions split 50/50. Teaching will allow students to develop an in-depth understanding of the beliefs, teachings and practices in both religions of study.

## How is the course assessed?

There are two final exams.

- Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Religion and Ethics through Christianity 1 hr 45mins
- Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam 1 hr 45 mins

## What skills will the course develop?

- Critical thinking and enquiry.
- Advocacy and representation.
- Developing independent values and attitudes on moral and spiritual issues.
- Presenting coherent, detailed arguments about beliefs and ethics in the modern world.

## Further Progression

GCSE Religious Studies requires the ability to examine important questions with an open mind, to weigh up arguments and arrive at reasoned conclusions. Such skills as these and the attitudes they promote, are relevant to the many jobs which require an understanding of others, and the ability to relate to people of different backgrounds, such as law, medicine, teaching, journalism, caring professions, social work, nursing, religious life.

# GCSE Sociology

**Subject Leader:** Mr McLoughlin

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Number of lessons per week:** 3 lessons (3 hours)

## **What can I expect to study within this course?**

Families – types of family, sociological approaches to the family, rates of birth, death, marriage, divorce (and the explanations of these trends), household, demographic changes.

Education – types of schools (and their effectiveness), sociological approaches to education, government policy on education, differential attainment in schools (in terms of social class, ethnicity and gender).

Crime and Deviance – formal and informal social control, sociological explanations of deviance, government policy on crime, differences of offending rates according to social factors.

Social Stratification – life chances, how is society divided up, how do social factors impact upon your chances of success (according to social class, ethnicity, gender).

Overarching topics, going across both units.

The sociological approach – how do different sociological schools of thought view society?

Social structures, social processes and social issues – what debates are current in society? What is the difference between a social issue and a sociological issue.

## **How is the course assessed?**

The GCSE Sociology course is split into 2 examined Units, each comprising of numerous topics. These are;

Unit 1: The Sociology of Families and Education.

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of qualification.

Unit 2: Paper 2: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification.

Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of qualification.

## **What skills are necessary for this course?**

Good skills of reading and writing under timed conditions are essential.

## **What skills will I develop?**

You will develop the ability to consider a range of different viewpoints, and to be able to argue from a point of view that you do not necessarily agree with.

## **What possible career paths may this subject be helpful with?**

Sociology students in the past have gone on to wide range of different academic areas and careers. It would be particularly suited to those considering a career in government, law, education or social work.

# How to fill out the Options form

Students need to select **three options** as well as a **reserve option**. It is vital that the options are chosen in the **order of preference**. A reserve option will be used if we are unable to offer one of your three main choices.

## Things to consider...

All subjects are taught by experienced teachers who are either good or outstanding and work hard to deliver a relevant and accessible curriculum for all students.

All subjects are as valid as the next.

Ask your teachers about your suitability for the course, how does it change from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4?

Please note that once options are allocated on 24th May 2021 there are no further changes - the options process is rigorous; it begins in January and concludes in March to allow due consideration of all factors that may influence your choices.

## Do's and Don'ts

**Do choose** a subject because you like it and it interests you.

**Do choose** a subject if you think it will help you in your future career.

Do think about how Key Stage 4 brings with it a new level of seriousness that might benefit from a change in peer group.

Do **not** choose a subject because you think it's easy.

Do **not** choose a subject because of the teacher, unless they've specifically spoken to you.

Do **not** make decisions based on what your friends are doing.



Arts & Media School  
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## Year 9 Final Options Form

- 1) This [Google Form](#) must be completed by 18th March 2021.
- 2) It must be submitted using the school email address.
- 3) If you have any questions about the form or the process please contact [j.stubbs@amsi.school](mailto:j.stubbs@amsi.school)