THE COOPERS' COMPANY AND COBORN SCHOOL

Love as Brethren

Year 9 GCSE Options Booklet

Academic Years 2021-2023

Subject Guide
For Parents and Students



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Important Dates

Monday January 18th 2021
Year 9 Virtual Options Information Event

Thursday February 4th 2021
Year 9 Virtual Parent Consultation evening

Friday February 26th 2021
Deadline for online options form to be completed online and digitally signed by both student and a parent

June 2021
Student choices confirmed and new timetable completed.

Options Information

Core subjects – You must take the following GCSE subjects:

- English language
- English literature
- mathematics
- science –most students will study Combined Science GCSE (worth two GCSEs) as part of their core provision.
- modern foreign language – at least one modern foreign language. This will normally be the one you started in Year 7. You may choose to continue with both languages by choosing two language options.
- religious education

In addition to these core GCSEs, all students will have core P.E. lessons (two hours per week) to promote a balanced, active and healthy lifestyle.

Options Advice and Instructions

- You must choose **four** subjects from the 1 listed on the contents page (2)
- At least **one** must be a **modern foreign language.**
- Students who wish opt for **three separate science GCSEs** need to select this as one of their four options choices. Students will study 3 GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. This will occupy their core science teaching time and **one option** slot.
- The study of three separate science GCSEs is recommended only for those with a strong interest and aptitude for the sciences. As choosing this option narrows the scope for other choices, students and parents should think carefully before opting for this route. Combined Science GCSE is sufficient to progress to A level sciences at CCCS and very few universities specify separate science GCSEs in the requirements for science courses (even medicine).
- Those students who wish to study a GCSE in **physical education** will need to pick P.E. as one of their options. This will be in addition to core P.E. which, as stated above, all students will still participate in.
- Where you have a choice, do what you enjoy; if you like a subject, you will make more progress.
- A subject should not be chosen based on your favourite teachers – you may not be in their class and they may leave.
- Choose what <u>you</u> want to do rather than to be with a friend – you may not be in the same sets and you may have different skills, abilities and interests from him/her.

- All the advice you have been given aims to encourage you to make a **balanced** selection that is a mix of academic, creative and practical subjects. Consider carefully whether your final choices give you a broad and balanced curriculum, opening up as many career choices as you would wish.
- It may not prove possible to timetable all combinations of subjects, so some of you may be asked to change a subject (not normally more than one).

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a government performance measure for schools based on students achieving a grade 5 or above in English, mathematics, the sciences, history or geography and a language. The government's ambition is to see 90% of GCSE pupils choosing the EBacc subject combination by 2025. Since the subjects involved are well-respected by sixth forms, universities and employers an EBacc subject combination is suitable for most of our students.

Careers, Education and Guidance

It is important when choosing options to find out whether a certain job or university course requires a pass in a specific GCSE subject and the subject requirements for our sixth form. This may seem a long way off but decisions now may inhibit later choices. For example, some courses for architecture at higher education establishments require an A level in art, therefore art would need to be studied at GCSE too.

The GCSEs that are compulsory at Coopers' Coborn are those that employers and universities will be looking for.

Throughout key stage 4, students will have the opportunity to meet with our Prospects Personal Adviser. We will organise a meeting with them for the student and parents/carer as appropriate. They are able to give independent advice on careers and post-16 progression. For additional advice and guidance, Mrs King and Mrs Kite are also available.

James Dudley-Hart
Assistant Headteacher i/c Years 7, 8 & 9

The view from the Sixth Form

Mr Rob Bell
Deputy Head: Director of Sixth Form

As Director of Sixth Form, I am often asked by students and their parents in Year 9, what GCSEs they should select in order to study various A Levels. Additionally, many students wish to know what universities and employers are looking for in GCSE choices. As such, we felt it was important to provide some guidance in terms of how GCSE selection can affect choices post-16. There is a wealth of information available on the school website to support this decision-making process. In particular, please look at the careers section of the school website. Some of the issues to consider are:

Entry into post-16 provision

What do you want to do in 2 years' time when you leave? This is an important driver in terms of the GCSEs that you select. Most post-16 provision at Level 2 and higher, will require you to achieve at least 5 good passes at GCSE in order to progress to further study. If you are considering A Levels at Coopers' Coborn, then you will need at least 8 GCSE passes at grade 5 - 9 under the new grading system as well as meet specific requirements in those subjects that you wish to study at A Level. For many A Level courses you will also need to study certain subjects at GCSE. In order for you to make an informed decision about this, we have included the A Level subject entry criteria for entry into the 6th form for September 2020, as an example, so that you can see the subjects you need to study at GCSE in order to be admitted onto A Level courses at Coopers' Coborn.



In reality, in order to ensure that you are in the best position possible for A Level study, you need retain breadth in the curriculum choices that you make. For example, the school suggests that you continue to study a humanities-based subject, such as history or geography at GCSE. The reason for this is clear; six of our A Levels, require a GCSE grade of 5 and above or above in a humanities subject in order to study them. The government is keen to promote this breadth and has developed the English Baccalaureate combination of subjects which it thinks is important for young people to study. These include history and geography alongside the sciences, a language, maths and English. Whilst most of the EBACC subjects form part of the core KS4 offer at Coopers', history and geography are within the option block and some students will have valid reasons for opting for other subjects.

A Level Entry Requirements for Coopers' Coborn 6th Form September 2020

Please note – the above requirements are updated on a yearly basis and the inclusion of this table should be seen as a guide only. It is likely that there will changes for entry to the 6th Form for September 2021 and beyond. The most up to date information can be found here https://www.cooperscoborn.org.uk/cccs-sixth-form-open-evening/

All students are required to gain AT LEAST eight, 9 - 5 grades at GCSE including a minimum of a Grade 5 (good pass) in English Language and Mathematics.

	GCSE Maths	GCSE English Language	GCSE English Literature	Other requirements
Art: Fine Art				Grade 6 in GCSE Art
Biology	Grade 6			Grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6/6 in two of the three separate GCSE Science qualifications – including Biology.
Business				Grade 5 in GCSE Business/Economics. If not studied, a Grade 5 in either History, Geography or RE.
Chemistry	Grade 6			Grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6/6 in two of the three separate GCSE Science qualifications – including Chemistry
Computer Science	Grade 6			Grade 5 in Computer Science, if studied
Design & Technology: Product Design				Grade 5 in GCSE Design and Technology
Drama & Theatre Studies		Grade 5 (in either) (if Drama not studied)		Grade 5 in GCSE Drama. If not studied, Grade 5 in English Literature or Language.
Economics	Grade 6			Grade 6 in GCSE Business/Economics. If not studied, Grade 6 in either History, Geography or RE. Additionally a Grade 6 in Maths is required.
English Literature		Grade 6	Grade 6	
Geography				Grade 6 in GCSE Geography
Government & Politics		Grade 6 (in either) (if History not studied)		Grade 6 in GCSE History. If not studied Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature.
History			Grade 6 (if History not studied)	Grade 6 in GCSE History. If not studied Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.
Mathematics	Grade 7			Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics
Further Mathematics	Grade 7			Minimum of a Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics, 8 preferred.
Media		Grade 6 (in either)		Grade 5 in Media Studies at GCSE and Grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature. If Media was not studied, a Grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature.
Modern Languages: French				Grade 6 in that subject at GCSE
Modern Languages: German				Grade 6 in that subject at GCSE
Modern Languages: Spanish				Grade 6 in that subject at GCSE
Music				Grade 6 in GCSE Music and minimum Grade 6 (practical exam). If not studied at GCSE, Grade 7 in practical exams and Grade 5 in theory.
Physical Education (PE)				Grade 6 in GCSE P.E. or Dance and Grade 5/5 in GCSE Combined Science, or Grade 5/5 in two of the three separate Science qualifications.
Physics	Grade 7			Grade 6/6 in GCSE Combined Science or Grade 6/6 in two of the three separate GCSE Science qualifications – including Physics.
Psychology	Grade 6 (or Science)	Grade 6 (in either)		Grade 6 in GCSE English Language or English Literature and a Grade 6 in at least one GCSE Science subject or Maths
Religious Studies (RS)		Grade 6 (in either)		Grade 6 in GCSE R.S. Short or Long Course. If not studied, Grade 6 in either English Language or English Literature.
Sociology		Grade 6 (in either)		Grade 5 in GCSE History, Geography or RE. Additionally a Grade 6 is required in either English Language or English Literature.

The Russell Group 'Informed Choices' publication

The Russell Group of leading UK universities have developed a website to assist students with their decision making at A Level; this advice is also pertinent when considering GCSE options.

https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/

For each undergraduate course, you can 'search' to check what sorts of subjects are required to be studied at A Level; this may act as useful guide for then considering GCSE options. Some of the key issues to be aware of:

- To study maths at university - you MUST be studying further maths
- To study economics at university – many need A Level Mathematics, particularly for a Bsc course
- To study architecture at university – there are usually no essential subjects, but an art/science mix is preferred. A portfolio is essential
- To study engineering at university – maths, physics, (Grade 6 GCSE Mathematics)
- To study law at university – history or English preferred
- To study medicine, dentistry or veterinary science at university – both biology and chemistry
- To study physiotherapy at university – 1 or 2 science subjects (inc biology)

Applying to the top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge

If you think you will be in a position to apply to the top universities such as Oxford and Cambridge then it is going to be important that you achieve a range of 8 and 9 grades at GCSE. In order to put yourself in the strongest possible position to apply for these institutions we know that these universities often like to see students with a grade profile of mainly 8s and 9s.

The importance of GCSE English, Maths and Science

For a number of jobs in the future, you will find that it is going to be critical that you achieve **at least** a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics. Moreover, in some sectors of employment, employers will be looking for at least a grade 6 in these subjects. Some universities will also expect students to achieve a 6, 7 or 8 grade in GCSE Maths – for example to study some elements of engineering at university, admissions officers will want to see a grade 6 at GCSE.

The issue regarding science based subjects is a little more complex. Please note that universities (in most cases) do not specify that they require students to have studied three separate science GCSEs if they wish to pursue a scientific course at undergraduate level. In almost all cases Combined Science GCSE is sufficient to create a pathway to study (even for medicine) at undergraduate level. Clearly however, if a student is clear in Year 9 that they intend to study a scientific subject at university or have a strong interest and aptitude in science, then separate sciences may be of benefit.

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Students will receive two qualifications at the end of the course: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. The exam board is AQA.

What you will study

GCSE English Language is designed to inspire and motivate students. It enables students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly**.**

For GCSE English Literature, students must study a range of literature, including poetry, drama and fiction. Students will study Shakespeare's Macbeth, R. L. Stevenson's The Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Blood Brothers by Willy Russell and the Love & Relationships Anthology produced by AQA.

Assessment Methods

Exams only at the end of the two-year course.

Students will study the texts in a variety of ways: they will read them on their own, in pairs, in groups and as a whole class.

Career ideas/Progression Route

Coopers' Coborn Sixth Form currently requires a grade 5 or above in English Language GCSE for all students. Students wishing to study English literature at A Level require at least grade 6 in both GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language.

English language and English literature are academic subjects, which all universities and professions regard highly. Many English graduates go into law, teaching, journalism, and graduate management posts.

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Mathematics provides a natural progression from the mathematics covered in the first two years of secondary schooling. Students have already started the GCSE course in year 9.

AQA

GCSE
MATHEMATICS
(8300)

What you will study

The GCSE Mathematics course covers number, algebra, ratio, proportion, rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and finally, statistics. Reasoning and problem solving skills are integrated into the course and students are expected to apply their skills to complex, multi-step problems.

Assessment Methods

The GCSE Mathematics course is a linear course with three exams being sat at the end of year 11. This will include one non-calculator paper. All exams will last 1½ hours. There are two tiers of entry, higher and foundation. At foundation tier students can be awarded grades 1 to 5, while students sitting the higher tier can be awarded grades 4 to 9.

Career Ideas/Progression Route

Most careers, as well as institutions of higher education, require a minimum of a grade 4 or 5 in GCSE Mathematics, although some careers and courses will require a higher grade than this.

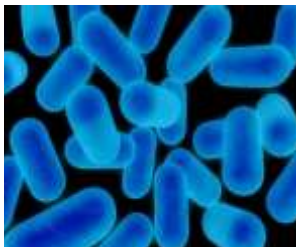
For A level Mathematics we expect you to have at least a grade 7. For Further Maths A level you will need a grade 7, although a grade 8 or 9 is preferred.

Mathematics is a highly regarded subject and provides the basis for many other disciplines, especially in science, business and finance.

GCSE Combined Science

Edexcel GCSE Combined Science is a **double award GCSE**. The programmes of study aim to enable pupils to:

- develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science, through different types of scientific enquiries that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them.



What you will study

Some of the topics to be studied are:
Biology: cells and control, genetics, natural selection, ecosystems, plant structures and their functions, animal coordination, health, disease and the development of medicines.
Chemistry: formulae and equations, atomic structure, the periodic table and bonding, states of matter, methods of separating substances, acids, obtaining and using metals.
Physics: forces and motion, waves, light and the electromagnetic spectrum, particle model, energy, electricity, electricity and magnetism, radioactivity.
Practical work is intrinsic to the course. Pupils will carry out practical work in order to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of working scientifically.

Assessment Methods

Pupils will sit six externally examined papers consisting of two biology, two chemistry and two physics papers. These are available at foundation tier and higher tier. All assessments must be completed in the same tier. Each assessment will be a mixture of different question styles, including multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, calculations and extended open response questions. Working scientifically will be assessed through examination and the completion of the seventeen core practicals.

Career ideas/Progression Route

GCSE Combined Science is a prerequisite for the study of biology, chemistry or physics at A level (currently grades 6/6). Science is so highly regarded that it is also needed to gain access to other A level courses such as P.E. and psychology.
Studying science related subjects post-16 provides the opportunity to follow a range of careers/professions in fields such as science, engineering, journalism, law, architecture, business and finance and medicine.

GCSE Religious Studies

AQA GCSE Religious Studies promotes a thorough understanding of religion through an in-depth and rigorous examination of the beliefs, teachings and practices within Christianity and Islam. In Year 11 you will learn how to apply religious thought to themes such as peace and conflict, crime and punishment etc.

What you will study

Paper 1

Christianity and Islam: Beliefs, teachings and practices

Paper 2

Religion and life: compatibility between science and religion, origins of the universe, environmental issues and animal rights, value of human life including issues of euthanasia and abortion etc.
The existence of God and revelation: the nature of God, arguments for and against the existence of God, experience of God and an evaluation on if experiences of God can be trusted etc.
Religion, peace and conflict: causes of war, just war theory, holy war, nuclear weapons etc.
Religion, crime and punishment: law and order, why people commit crimes, concept of evil people and actions, aims of punishment, death penalty etc.

Assessment Methods

You will be formally assessed in two exams (see how the content in each paper is divided above). Both exams will be at the end of the two year course and each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes.

Career ideas/Progression route

GCSE Religious Studies provides a good foundation for any career which involves working with people. A good grade is proof of ability to understand a variety of beliefs and viewpoints, and to explain them coherently.
Specific use of the content is useful in public education and understanding of matters related to religion in schools, universities, museums, radio, press, film, television, and newer communications media.

GCSE Art and Design (Fine Art)

GCSE Art covers a range of activities and in-depth assignments. You will have the opportunity to experiment with different media in order to explore your strengths and preferences. The main aim of the course is to develop your visual language skills and for you to build a comprehensive portfolio of work.



What you will study

We will be studying a variety of artists and art movements, looking at the way these have influenced the progression of art and the expression of ideas. We work in a wide variety of media including painting, drawing, sculpture and printing, The course promotes independent learning and proactive study.

Assessment Methods

Component 1 Personal Portfolio (60% of GCSE)	Component 2 Externally Set Assignment (40% of GCSE)
Internally set and marked: assessed through controlled assessment.	Externally set theme and internally marked with Exam board moderation. Preparation time given from January until April followed by 10 hour exam
Each component is assessed separately out of 72 marks. You will be assessed using 4 assessment objectives of develop, review/experiment, record, present.	

Career ideas/Progression Route

On completion of your GCSE Art and Design course, you could progress to further education. Art courses at Level 3 include: BTEC Nationals in Art and Design, Diploma in Creative and Media and GCE A level Art and Design. You would need to attain a grade 6 or above to continue to A level Art and Design at The Coopers' Company and Coborn School.
Career prospects include: animator, architect, art gallery curator, art therapist, costume designer, fashion designer, illustrator, interior designer, landscape architect, set designer, textile designer, web designer. The common element for all the above examples and more is creativity and a willingness to experiment.

GCSE Business

This is a varied and exiting course that introduces you to business ideas in year 10 such enterprise, marketing and finance. In year 11 the course builds on the themes studied in year 10

What will you study?

In year 10 you will study business ideas such as the role of enterprise and the purpose of business activity. This will involve identifying and understanding customer needs and the purpose of market research, what business aims and objectives are and the sources of finance, business location and the marketing mix. Year 10 will also cover areas such as business plans, stakeholders, business legislation and the importance of external influences on business and economic factors in particular.
In year 11 the course develops the areas covered in year 10. This will include studying methods of growth and the impact of globalisation and the ethical and environmental questions facing businesses. It also includes marketing decisions and operational decisions plus making financial decisions and human resource decisions including organisational structure, recruitment, training and motivation.

Assessment Methods

There is no coursework and all assessment is exam based with two equally weighted 90 minute exams taken at the end of year 11.
Theme one is assessed by a 90 minute exam worth 50% of the overall mark
The paper will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.
Theme two is assessed by a 90 minute exam worth 50% of the overall marks
The paper will also consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions.

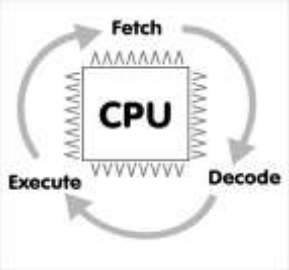
Career ideas/Progression Route

This GCSE course is an excellent preparation for a wide range of future careers such as banking, finance, management, finance, accounting, insurance, law and the civil service.

GCSE Computer Science

Edexcel's GCSE Computer Science has been recognised as a Science subject in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). This means that a student who sits any three of the four separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science) and achieves a 5 or above in two of them will fulfil the Science requirement of the EBacc.

Please note this course has a high Mathematical content and is challenging. It is suited to students who have a logical and analytical mind and who are interested to know more about programming and how computers operate.



What you will study?

During this course students will study the fundamental principles of computer science and use computational thinking skills to analyse problems and design solutions across a range of contexts. Students will gain practical experience of designing, writing, and testing computer programs (using Python) that accomplish specific goals. This will develop their ability to reason, explain and evaluate computing solutions. The course also looks at current and emerging trends in computing technologies, as well as the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Assessment Methods

100% of the marks are gained through two written exams worth 50% each.

- *One hour and thirty minutes* written paper, 'Principles of Computer Science'
- *Two hour* practical assessment, 'Application of Computational Thinking'

The practical assessment will require students to design, write and test programs using an onscreen integrated development environment (IDE). We will be using the programming language Python and Thonny as the IDE.

Career ideas/Progression Route

The course lays a foundation for further study of Computer Science or related subjects and is applicable for any career path involving programming, software development, web development and engineering. Computer Science is valued by universities and employers since it requires the development of analytical and problem-solving skills.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which aims to develop an interest in the creative aspect and enjoyment of food; to develop confidence in using high level skills in food preparation and cooking; to make connections between theory and practice so that learners are able apply understanding of food and nutrition which will increase students' knowledge and understanding of food.

What you will study

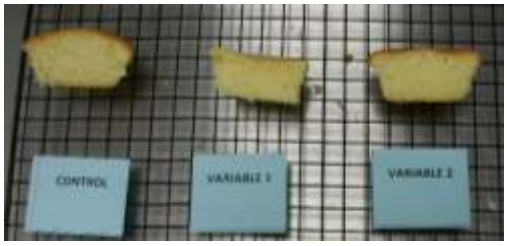
- Nutrition, including the relationship between diet and health.
- Food provenance and food choice.
- Food science and food safety.
- Practical skills and techniques used in the preparation and cooking of food.

Assessment Methods

Non Exam Assessment 1 (15%) – Food Investigation Task

10 hours, completed early in Year 11

This task assesses the scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. Students will carry out practical experiments to investigate and evaluate the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.



Non Exam Assessment 2 (35%) – Food Preparation Task

20 hours including 3 hour practical exam, completed during Year 11

Students will prepare, cook and present three dishes within a single period of three hours and plan, in advance, how this will be achieved. Students will submit a written portfolio to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the task.

Written Examination Paper (50%) – Food Preparation and Nutrition

90 minutes, completed at the end of Year 11

Career Ideas/Progression Route

The food and drink sector is the UK's largest manufacturing sector, employing 400,000 people directly in the UK, and as many as 1.2 million in related food services. Food professionals work in many occupations including manufacturing, retailing, marketing, food service, universities and schools, government, research and development, quality assurance and food law enforcement. Degree courses include BSc Food Technology, BSc Food Science, BSc Human Nutrition and Dietetics. Further information on careers in the food industry can be found at http://tastycareers.org.uk/

GCSE Design & Technology

The Design and Technology course enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification allows students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students the opportunity to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities.

What you will study?

Environmental, social and economic issues, materials (metals, papers and boards, polymers, textiles & timbers), material properties, their sources and stock forms, smart & modern materials, sustainable design issues, systems and mechanical devices.

Assessment Methods

The two year course is split up into the following two assessed units:

Component 1: Written exam: 1 hour & 45 minutes 50% of the GCSE 100 marks (Calculators may be used in the exam).	The paper consists of <u>two</u> sections as follows: *Section A:* Core This section is 40 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. (There will be 10 marks of calculation questions in Section A.) *Section B:* Timbers This section is 60 marks and contains a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions. There are 5 marks of calculation questions in Section B.
Component 2: Non-examined assessment 50% of the GCSE 100 marks	Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board in the summer of year 10. The project will test students' skills in the following areas: 1. *Investigate* - This includes investigation of needs and research, and a product specification 2. *Design* - This includes producing different design ideas, review of initial ideas, development of design ideas into a chosen design, communication of design ideas and review of the chosen design 3. *Make* - This includes manufacture, and quality and accuracy 4. *Evaluate* - This includes testing and evaluation.

Career ideas/Progression route

If students are considering studying A-level Product Design, they would want to be aiming to achieve at least a level 5 at GCSE. A degree in this field can lead to a range of careers including advertising, graphic design, product design, multimedia design, web design, illustration, studio design, animation, design engineering, engineering, architecture and design teaching.

GCSE Drama

The Eduqas GCSE Drama course allows students to explore the role of an actor or designer through using different styles, devising strategies, and exploration of practical texts. They will also be expected to analyse live theatre and theoretically understand how to write from the perspective of a director and performer.



What will you study?
Whilst studying GCSE Drama students will study many different practitioners including Stanislavski and Frantic Assembly Theatre Company, whilst also exploring different styles of theatre, such as physical theatre and musical theatre. Students will have the choice to complete the course practically as either a performer or designer (or a combination of both). The different elements of design available are costume and make-up, set and props, lighting or sound. Drama consists of both practical and theoretical studies, including regular visits to the theatre, both small scale productions and the West End. They will be expected to be prepared for practical lessons by wearing a 'drama kit' consisting of plain black top and bottoms and barefoot. All theory work will be completed in their drama exercise book.

Assessment Methods

Year 10: practical examination (40%): Devise an original performance based on a stimulus set by the exam board and influenced by a theatre practitioner. Rehearsed/designed in lessons and with their group at lunchtimes and after school. *Performance will be after the May half term of year 10.*

Year 11: practical examination –performance/design from a test (20%) Present a performance from a script to a visiting examiner. The approximate date of the exam is within the first 2 weeks back from the Easter holidays

Year 11: written examination (40%)
This examination is 1 hour 30 minutes and is based on a set text and a review of a live performance. (Shakespeare's "The Tempest")

Career Ideas/Progression Route:
Drama can be an aid to subjects like English, history or media as it allows students to immerse themselves into texts in a creative and practical way. Even though it is a highly practical subject, the theoretically aspect makes up 40% of the subject and allows students to respond analytically to pieces. It explores confidence in the use of voice and promotes 'people skills' that are vital for every world of work including law, medicine, media, education and business. We have had many students go on to study A level Drama and Theatre Studies and many successful candidates have gone to acting school and university to pursue a performance career.

GCSE Geography

Our exam board "OCR B" in GCSE Geography encourages students to 'think like geographers' by developing an enquiry approach to contemporary topics of study. This qualification integrates fieldwork and geographical skills into the content and assessments giving a holistic approach to the subject. We explore many key and current questions. For example, how is our population changing? Where shall we build new homes? How are energy resources being used? How is the global workplace changing? What risk does flooding pose? What about earthquakes? How can the effects of a disaster be managed?

The world is always changing and this course will give you a chance to learn about those changes.

This is the subject for you if you enjoy:

- learning more about the world we live in in terms of the human and physical geography
- developing skills that will help you in other areas, such as IT and research
- completing some of your own practical work away from the classroom
- working in a team with other students
- learning through investigating and doing, as well as listening and reading



What you will study

The geography department's key aim is to ensure students are taught engaging geography which is relevant to them, but manageable in the time available.

Our course will offer a contemporary issues-based approach looking at global and national conflicts and include a decision making exam based on a topical issue. Fieldwork will be assessed within the exams, weighted at 15% of the overall GCSE. There will be an emphasis on the geography of the UK, as well as skills such as how well you understand maps, graphs, applying maths and explaining numeric data. A balance of physical and human processes and people and environment interactions will be studied. Some of the topics we will learn include: coasts, resources management, global development, climate change and globalisation.

Assessment Methods

There will be a **single tier of entry**, so all students will take the same exam paper
100% exam (15% of which will be about fieldwork)

Unit 1: Our Natural World (35%) – Section A: Topic 1 (Climate Change) Topic 2 (Global Hazards) Topic 3 (Ecosystems) Topic 4 (Distinctive Landscapes) **Section B:** Physical geography Fieldwork
Unit 2: People and Society (35%) – Section A: Topic 1 (Urban Futures) Topic 2 (UK in the 21st Century) Topic 3 (Dynamic Development) Topic 4 (Resource Reliance) **Section B:** Human geography Fieldwork
Unit 3: Geographical Explorations (30%) – Unseen topic with a decision making exercise component

Career Ideas/Progression Route

Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that geography delivers. Geography fits neatly with science, arts and humanities, and geographers also tend to have very good IT skills. GCSE Geography is excellent preparation for a career in planning, resource and countryside management, tourism and recreation and, environmental management and development. Many geographers also move into general management careers.

GCSE History

The history department is currently offering the exciting and varied Edexcel GCSE History course. We have selected topics which we feel will be interesting, relevant and engaging for students and will allow us to offer an expanded range of educational visits. These will potentially include but are not limited to, a residential trip to Berlin, a Jack the Ripper walk in Whitechapel and a day trip to Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker.

What you will study

Paper 1 (20%) Crime and punishment through time 1000-present (changing attitudes and methods relating to crime, policing, trials and punishments)
Paper 1 (10%) Whitechapel: crime and policing 1870-1900 (Jack the Ripper)
Paper 2 (20%) Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91 (Cuban Missile Crisis, Berlin Wall)
Paper 2 (20%) England under Elizabeth I 1558-1588 (Tudor religion and society, plots to kill the Queen, the Spanish Armada, exploration of the Americas)
Paper 3 (30%) Germany 1918-39 (The rise of Hitler, life in Nazi Germany)

Career Ideas/Progression Route

History is seen as an academic subject, which all universities and professions regard highly. Many history graduates go into law, chartered accountancy, journalism, teaching and graduate management posts. History provides students with a wide range of transferable skills. Principally students develop the ability to understand and analyse issues and events to a high level of competence. Other marketable skills include:
- a talent for clear expression, both oral and written;
- putting forward ideas and arguments in a concise manner;
- gathering, investigating and assessing material;
- basing conclusions on research and generating ideas;
- organising material in a logical and coherent way.

Jobs directly using history: media researcher, genealogist, museum curator or researcher, teacher, archivist, archaeology, records manager, tour guide, university lecturer. Jobs strongly supported by history: journalist, accountant, barrister, insurance and risk, intelligence services, solicitor, civil service, armed forces, police officer, librarian, publishing and many more.

GCSE Media Studies

Media is a highly creative and engaging subject, one that arms students with the skills to look at the world with a critical eye.

What you will study

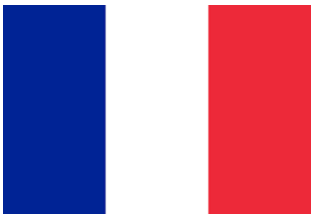
This course focuses on developing students understanding of the media and the theoretical framework relating to industries, audiences and representation across TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, music videos, video games, advertising and marketing and online/social media. As well as developing proficiency when using professional software, such as Adobe Photoshop to create practical work, students will develop their understanding of how social, historical and political factors affect meaning when analysing the products. To do this effectively students will consider different theoretical perspectives such as feminism, post-colonialism and post-modernism. All students will be given opportunities to attend the annual Disneyland Paris media conference, as well as other trips throughout the course.

Assessment Methods

There are two written exams on the Eduqas GCSE Media course, each worth 35%, and a 30% practical coursework element. Exam 1 will look closely at the relationship between industry and audience and will study set products sent from the exam board. All of the set texts will possess different cultural, social and historical significance, as well as being targeted at different audiences, to allow the students to consider the representation and media language that has been used in construction. Exam 2 will focus on in-depth studies into TV and music industry and cover industry, audience, representation and media language. The coursework will be to produce a new print product which will allow students to use Photoshop extensively.

Career Ideas/Progression Route

The media industry is worth £977 billion globally, and in 2014 one in every six jobs in the UK held by graduates was in the creative economy. These jobs can include roles in advertising, journalism, broadcasting, production, web design etc. In terms of studying further at university, top Russell Group universities now offer Media Studies, as well as Film Studies, and The University of Oxford has recently started to teach Film as a joint honours. Media studies is also viewed very favourably by employers as it equips learners with the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in the changing climate we live in. Media studies is complimented by a range of subjects, in particular, English, business and psychology. It also covers aspects of information technology, history, politics and economics.



GCSE French

Opting to study a GCSE language can make a positive impact on the choices open to you in the future. The study of a language will give you a better understanding of other cultures.

You will improve your speaking, writing, listening and reading skills, gain a better understanding of the grammar and extend your vocabulary knowledge.

What you will study

The course covers a wide range of topics such as:

- me, my family and friends
- technology in everyday life
- free-time activities
- customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities
- home, town, neighbourhood and region
- travel and tourism
- education and employment.

The specification is linear which means that you will sit your exams at the end of the course when you have had the opportunity to improve all these skills and increase your grammatical and vocabulary knowledge.

Assessment Methods:

Listening exam	Reading exam	Speaking exam	Writing exam
25% weighting Foundation 35 minutes Higher 45 minutes	25% weighting Foundation 45 minutes Higher 1 hour	25% weighting Conducted by class teacher.	25% weighting Foundation 1 hour Higher 1 hour 15 minutes

Career ideas/Progression Route:

Numerous career opportunities are closed to students without the knowledge of a foreign language in addition to other specialist skills. It can be clearly seen that languages combine well with all subject areas. It is considered that a basic knowledge of at least one foreign language is a necessary part of a well-balanced education.

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."
Professor Frank Smith

German

All pupils will follow the GCSE AQA syllabus which is accessible to learners of a range of abilities and promotes a good level of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. We aim to engage our students by offering a blend of traditional and modern methods which include a full package of tailored web-based activities.

German Exchange: Town Hall Bonn

What you will study

The course covers a wide range of topics such as lifestyle, leisure, home, environment, school and work. It offers sufficient scope to give pupils an understanding of the foundations of grammar and sentence structure. Students may, if they wish, choose to study two modern foreign languages. There will be an opportunity to take part in an exchange programme with our partner-school near Bonn / Cologne.

Assessment Methods:
The specification is linear which means that candidates will sit all their exams at the end of the course. Times given are for foundation and higher tier.

Listening exam (35 – 45 mins, 25%)
Speaking exam (7 - 9 or 10 - 12 mins, 25%)
Reading exam (45 – 60 mins, 25%)
Writing exam (60 – 75 mins, 25%)

Career ideas/Progression Route

Numerous career opportunities are closed to students without the knowledge of a foreign language in addition to other specialist skills. It can be clearly seen that languages combine well with all subject areas. It is considered that a basic knowledge of at least one foreign language is a necessary part of a well-balanced education

German Exchange: Our partner school

Spanish

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world after Mandarin. All pupils will follow the GCSE AQA syllabus which is accessible to learners of a range of abilities and promotes a good level of proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. We aim to engage our students by offering a blend of traditional and modern methods which include a full package of tailored web-based activities.

What you will study

The course covers a wide range of topics such as lifestyle, leisure, home, environment, school and work. It offers sufficient scope to give pupils an understanding of the foundations of grammar and sentence structure. Students may, if they wish, choose to study two modern foreign languages. **You can also take the opportunity to take part in our exchange with our partner school in Vigo, Northern Spain.**

Spanish Exchange: Playa de Samil

Assessment Methods:
The specification is linear which means that candidates will sit all their exams at the end of the course. Times given are for foundation and higher tier.

Exchange Partner School
Escola Rosalia de Castro, Vigo

Listening exam (35 – 45 mins, 25%)
Speaking exam (7-9 or 10 - 12 mins, 25%)
Reading exam (45 – 60 mins, 25%)
Writing exam (60 – 75 mins, 25%)

Career ideas/Progression Route

Successful completion of a GCSE in a modern foreign language is often a key requirement for further education. Students have the possibility of continuing Spanish to A-level, and could then study for a degree in languages, which could be combined with other subjects such as business, linguistics or journalism. Possible careers in languages include translation and interpreting, law, journalism, media, business and marketing as well as education.

- **Using a language at work could increase your salary by between 8-20%.**
- **Foreign language skills are a requirement for some degrees. In many fields (including science, medicine, law, politics, journalism…), a reading knowledge of a foreign language is expected.**

GCSE Music

Edexcel GCSE Music is an interesting and varied GCSE course in which you explore a wide range of musical styles. You will study eight set pieces of music and related listening, and compose and perform in a variety of genres, broadening your skills as an all-round musician.

You should be already be able to play an instrument (this includes singing!) to at least Grade 2 standard and working towards Grade 4 standard by the end of the course. You will need to continue instrumental lessons throughout the two years to ensure you have got lots of pieces prepared for the performing unit. If you do not currently take lessons, ask Mrs McArdle in the music office for a form and details of our wonderful visiting instrumental teachers. If you are not already a confident note-reader, we run theory club in school.

What you will study

You will study set pieces of music:

- Music for Stage and Screen (Star Wars and Wicked)
- Instrumental Music 1700-1820 (Beethoven and Bach)
- Vocal Music (Queen and Purcell)
- Fusions (Esperanza Spalding and Afro Celt)

You will learn how to compose in a range of styles.

Assessment Methods

Performances of at least 4 minutes in length 30%

- solo performances 15%
- ensemble performances 15%

Two compositions of at least 3 minutes in length

- one free choice 15%
- one to a brief 15%

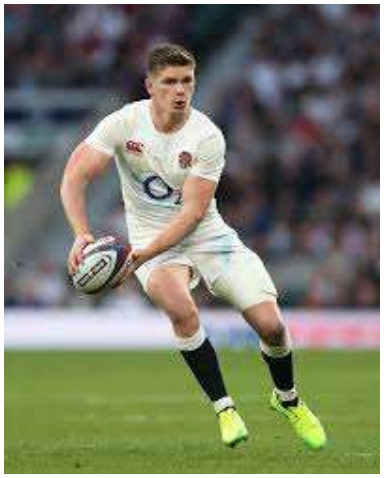
Listening exam 40%.

Career ideas/Progression Route

Music opens the doors to many careers as musicians can demonstrate a wide range of transferable skills, including analytical skills, aural awareness, mathematical skills, dexterity, teamwork and leadership. Whilst a majority of previous students have continued to study Music at one of the conservatoires, top 20 universities or performing arts colleges, others have combined music with media, joined one of the bands of the military or have gone on to study medicine, with their musicality enhancing their profile! Of course, many music graduates become professional performers, musicians, teachers, composers and arts administrators, even presenters and celebrities.

GCSE Physical Education

Edexcel GCSE Physical Education is designed to enable students to further their understanding of the subject through the engagement of physical activity and sport in both a practical and theoretical context.



What will you study?

Paper 1 - Fitness and the body systems: Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical training and use of data.
Paper 2 - Health and Performance: Health, Fitness and Well-being, Sports Psychology and Socio-cultural Influences.
Practical Performance (3 sports) - One team activity, One individual and One other from either category.
Personalised Exercise Programme (written coursework) – Analyse your strengths and weakness in one chosen sport, design and training programme to improve an area of fitness of your choice, then evaluate the impact of your improvement on your performance.

Assessment methods: 70% Theory (incl. coursework) and 30% Practical

- 2 written theory papers
- Criterion assessment in 3 sports; skills in isolation and performance in a competitive situation.
- Personal Exercise Programme

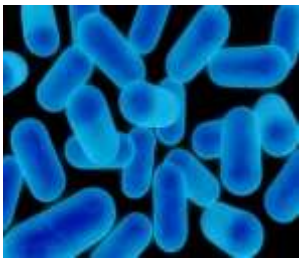
Career ideas/progression route

Students that study GCSE PE may choose to continue their interest into the future by undertaking an A Level in the subject. Within this they study a broad spectrum of modules from Sports psychology to Physiology. Many students pursue a sports related course at degree level such as Sports Science. Possible career routes include Physiotherapy, Sports Nutritionist, Sports or event management and PE teaching.

Separate Sciences (GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics)

Students who wish to opt for separate science GCSEs need to select this as one of their four options choices. Students will study 3 GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. This will occupy their core science teaching time and one option slot.

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics require students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of working scientifically through studying topics in greater depth. Working scientifically will be assessed through examination and the completion of the eight compulsory core practicals for each subject.



What you will study

Some of the topics to be studied are:
Biology: cells and control, genetics, natural selection, ecosystems, plant structures and their functions, animal coordination, health, disease and the development of medicines.
Chemistry: formulae and equations, atomic structure, the periodic table and bonding, states of matter, methods of separating substances, acids, obtaining and using metals.
Physics: forces and motion, waves, light and the electromagnetic spectrum, particle model, energy, electricity and magnetism, radioactivity, astronomy.
Practical work is intrinsic to the course. Pupils will also carry out practical work in order to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of working scientifically.

Assessment Methods

Each separate science GCSE consists of two externally examined papers. These are available at foundation tier and higher tier. Students must complete all assessments in the same tier. Students must complete all assessment in May/June in any single year. Working scientifically will be assessed through examination and the completion of a number of core practicals.

Career ideas/Progression Route

Currently, students who have studied separate sciences at GCSE and who wish to progress to A level science at Coopers' Coborn need to achieve grade 6 in at least two of the three science GCSEs, including the subject(s) they wish to pursue. The sciences are so highly regarded that they are also needed to gain access to other A level courses such as P.E. and psychology.
Studying science related subjects post-16 provides the opportunity to follow a range of careers/professions in fields such as science, engineering, journalism, law, architecture, business and finance and medicine.

Subject	Exam Board	Exam Code	Specification Details
Art	Pearson	1FA0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments
Biology	Pearson	1BI0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#tab-Biology
Business	Pearson	1BSO	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments
Chemistry	Pearson	1CH0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#tab-Chemistry
Combined Science (Double Award)	Pearson	1SC0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html
Computer Science	Pearson	1CP1	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/computer-science-2016.html
Design Technology	Pearson	1DT0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/design-and-technology-2017.html
Drama	Eduqas	C690QS	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/
English Language	AQA	8700	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700
English Literature	AQA	8702	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702
Food Preparation & Nutrition	OCR	J309	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309-from-2016/
French	AQA	8658	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658
Geography	OCR	J384	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/geography-b-geography-for-enquiring-minds-j384-from-2016/
German	AQA	8668	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668
History	Pearson	1HI0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html
Maths	AQA	8300	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300
Media	Eduqas	C680QS	https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/
Music	Pearson	1MU0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html
Physical Education	Pearson	1PE0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/physical-education-2016.html
Physics	Pearson	1PH0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html#tab-Physics
RE	AQA	8062MA	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062
Spanish	AQA	8698	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698