



**HNS**  
**Year 9 Courses Handbook**  
**February/March 2021**



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# Key Stage 4 Options Courses at HNS

## Compulsory and Optional Subjects

In the academic year of 2021/2022, students in Year 10 will formally start their KS4 courses.

All of our students will study GCSE English Language, GCSE English Literature, GCSE RE and GCSE Mathematics. Additionally, all of our students will be doing GCSEs in either single or combined Sciences. They will also all study a non GCSE course in PE.

Students must also choose up to three more courses, which they study up to GCSE or an equivalent level.

At this stage not all students know what they want to do in their future careers and their ideas about this can change over time. Therefore, it is important that students choose a broad range of subjects which they enjoy and at which they can succeed.

We will direct students to follow one of the four routes; A, B, C, or D (below) which are designed to provide the appropriate levels of support and challenge.

Please take the time to discuss the options process fully with your child and with teaching staff to enable an informed decision to be made.

We will be able to confirm which subjects your child will be studying by the end of May. Any concerns can then be addressed before the start of KS4. **Please be aware that once the courses start, no further changes can be made.**

In some subjects students will be guided towards BTEC courses which will give them a greater chance of success in vocational areas. These courses are equal to GCSE grades 9-1 and can provide routes to vocational courses at college and university.

### Route A and Route B (The EBacc Route)

Students who are considering an academic route to University in the future should consider taking either Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language. This will then meet the standards required for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) in the future. In route A, students will most likely be studying the single sciences instead of combined science but this depends on their performance in the subject.

### Route C (Progress 8 route)

Students on this route will be studying at least 8 GCSEs from a range of subjects across the Ebacc and Open subject lists. The variety of subject choices will allow students to go on the Ebacc route or on a vocational route.

### Route D

Students will choose one option. They will be given additional time to improve their literacy and/or numeracy skills as well as life skills through foundation learning. This will help them to access the full curriculum to prepare them for life once they leave school.

# The English Baccalaureate

Students are eligible for the EBacc if they achieve GCSE passes with grades 5 or above in the following subjects:

- English Language or Literature
- Mathematics
- Any two Sciences (chosen Combined Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Computer Science)
- A Modern Foreign Language
- Either Geography or History

It is important to remember that the EBacc is not a qualification in its own right but simply a measure of whether students have successfully achieved a broad academic education. We recommend that all students considering studying academic subjects at university should choose the EBacc route. Further information about the English Baccalaureate is available on [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk).

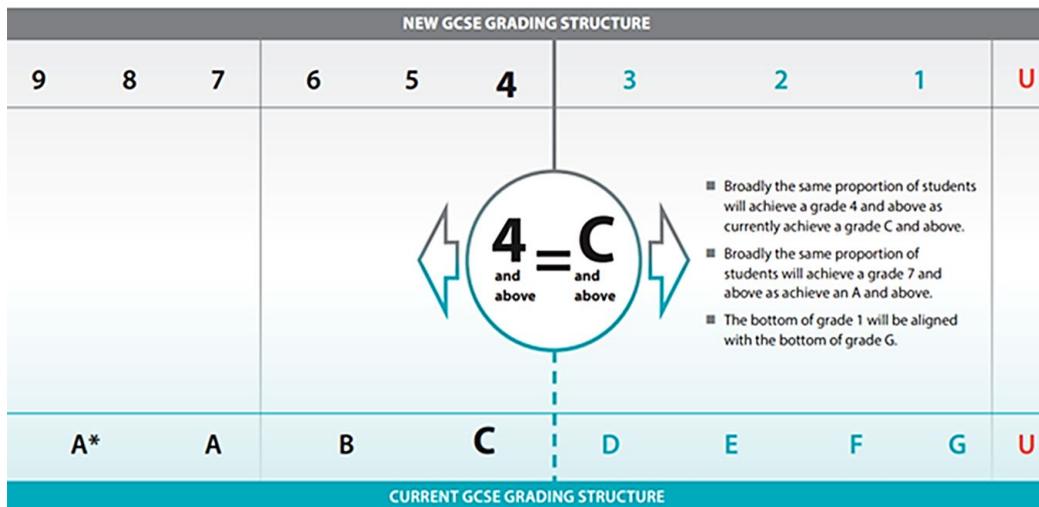
## Qualifications and Grades

A helpful qualification table is shown below to help you understand what each qualification means:

Qualification type	Level	Grades and Equivalences
GCSE	1 and 2	9-1
BTEC	1 and 2	Pass, Merit Distinction & Distinction *
Lang support	Not equivalent to GCSE	None
EAL support	Not equivalent to GCSE	None

## The New GCSE Grading System

Grades 9-1 have replaced the old grading system A\*-U. The diagram below aims to help you to understand how grades will be distributed in the future.



# Options Checklist

Please remember that the options submissions must be made by **Monday 1st March 2021**.

Use this checklist before you make your submissions:

Checklist	Tick
1. Make a first choice and a reserve choice from each of the option blocks your child is eligible to choose from.	
2. Ensure that your child has not selected the same subjects twice.	
3. If your child is choosing a language, ensure you have chosen only one language subject, such as French <b>or</b> Spanish.	
4. If your child wishes to study a language, please ensure that it's the same language they have been studying at Hackney New School.	
5. Discuss the route with your child and check their option choices.	
6. Complete the options form online.	

For more information, please ask either Ms Betty Barnes (Head of Learning), Mr J Uddin (Assistant Headteacher) or Mr S Hussain (Deputy Headteacher).

## The Four Routes

### Route A

Block A	Block B	Block C
GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE French GCSE Spanish	GCSE Art & Design GCSE Computer Science GCSE Drama GCSE Music BTEC Music BTEC Sport

### Route B

Block A	Block B	Block C
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Computer Science GCSE Drama GCSE Music BTEC Music BTEC Sport	GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE French GCSE Spanish

### Route C

Block A	Block B	Block C
GCSE Art & Design GCSE Computer Science GCSE Drama GCSE Music BTEC Music BTEC Sport	GCSE French GCSE Spanish GCSE Geography GCSE History	GCSE Art & Design GCSE Computer Science GCSE Drama GCSE Music BTEC Music BTEC Sport

### Route D

Block A	Block B	Block C
GCSE Drama GCSE Art & Design BTEC Music BTEC Sport	Additional English/ Language support	Additional Maths/ Life Skills

# GCSE English Language

**Course title:** AQA English Language

**Course number:** 8700

**Final exam percentage:** 100

**Number of final exams:** 2

**Any other examinations/ assessment requirements:** The study of English Language will remain a compulsory part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum

All English GCSEs will have a terminal assessment with no controlled assessment

## Grades Available

- 9-1

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Study a range of unseen texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Study critical reading and comprehension, summarise and synthesise ideas and themes, evaluate writers' choices in vocabulary, form, grammatical and structural features and compare texts.
- Study how to produce clear and coherent texts and writing for impact.
- Complete set assessments throughout the course to track progress.
- Explore different forms of writing for impact.
- Complete set assessments throughout the course to track progress.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Consolidate the skills above, exploring a greater range of genres and extracts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.
- Develop confidence with the following: critical reading and comprehension, summarising and synthesising ideas and themes, greater understanding and evaluations of writers' choices in vocabulary and precisely selected methods and comparing texts critically.
- Complete preparations for terminal exams and develop exam skills looking at a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Complete set assessments throughout the course to track progress.
- Take their final exam.

## Specialist Equipment Required

- Required resources will be provided by the teacher and department.

## Additional Information

- English Language GCSE has a greater focus on making sure that students are able to write clearly and accurately, in standard English. There will be an increased emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar, including the use of ambitious vocabulary.
- Students should practise extended writing to build up their stamina for writing.
- Set assessments will track progress; these will consist of mid-term and main assessments throughout the year.
- Spoken Language: there will be a strong emphasis on teaching students to become more confident in formal spoken language, presenting information and ideas when responding to spoken language.

## Progression

- Students require a GCSE in English Language to progress on to studying level 3 courses at college and for entry onto an undergraduate qualification. Some forms of training or apprenticeships will expect students to have a GCSE in English.
- A good qualification in English Language is needed for A Level studies in English Language and English Literature. It would be useful for the study of Law, History, Politics and other subjects where reading and communication skills are important.

## For further details, please contact:

Ms Felicia Davies, Head of English

# GCSE English Literature

**Course title:** AQA English Literature

**Course number:** 8702

**Final exam percentage:** 100

**Number of final exams:** 2

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** The study of English Literature will remain a compulsory part of the Key Stage 4 curriculum

All English GCSEs will have a terminal assessment with no controlled assessment

## 9 Grades Available

- 9-1

### Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Study an anthology of non-fiction texts, a modern drama, a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel and a Shakespeare text.
- Study a selection of poems from an anthology based on the themes of power and conflict and begin to understand how to analyse unseen poems.
- Study inference skills, critical reading, evaluate writers choices of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and compare texts.
- Study how to produce clear and coherent texts, to describe, explain, summarise, argue and use accurate Standard English with accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Complete set assessments throughout the year.

### Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Consolidate and develop skills to analyse non-fiction texts, revisit the modern drama, 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, and the Shakespeare text.
- Learn additional poems from the anthology based on the themes of power and conflict and explore a range of unseen poems as well as revise poems learnt in year 10.
- Develop inference skills, critical reading, evaluate writers choices of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and compare texts.
- Consolidate the skills required for the Literature exams: inference skills, critical reading, evaluating writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and comparing texts.
- Complete set assessments throughout the course to track progress and take their final exam.

### Specialist Equipment Required

- Required resources will be provided by the teacher and department.

### Additional Information

- There is an expectation that students memorise and recall quotes as well as study independently.
- Students should practise extended writing to build up their stamina for writing.
- The new English Literature GCSE will have a greater focus on making sure that students are able to write clearly and accurately, in standard English. There will be an increased emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar, including the use of ambitious vocabulary.
- Spoken language: there will be a strong emphasis on teaching students to become more confident in formal spoken language, presenting information and ideas and responding to spoken language.

### Progression

- Students require a GCSE in English Literature to progress on to studying level 3 courses at college and for entry on an undergraduate qualification.

### For further details, please contact:

Ms Felicia Davies, Head of English

# GCSE Mathematics

**Course title:** GCSE Mathematics

**Course number:** 1MA1 (Units - 1MA1/1F or 1H, 1MA1/2F or 2H, 1MA1/3F or 3H)

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** 3 Papers – 1 Non-calculator and 2 calculator

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** N/A

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** N/A

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** N/A

## Grades Available

- 9-1
- Tiers of entry – Higher and Foundation

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Develop their understanding of core mathematical skills.
- Develop their ability to understand and interpret functional problems.
- Focus on GCSE topics ranging from grade 4 to grade 9.
- Develop statistical skills.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Undertake preliminary practice exams under exam conditions.
- Undertake revision modules in preparation for their exams.
- Study algebra.
- Study numbers.
- Study ratio.
- Study data handling.
- Study shapes and measure.

## Specialist Equipment Required

- Geometry set.
- Scientific calculator.

## Additional Information

- Good organisational skills are essential.
- Good language, reading and writing skills are desirable.
- Ability to meet deadlines is important.

## Progression

- Maths is linked post 16 courses – AS/A2 Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Statistics.
- Maths is linked to most jobs and careers such as Engineering, Architecture and Accountancy.

**For further details, please contact:**

Ms H Abdule, Head of Mathematics

## GCSE Combined Science

**Course title:** AQA Combined Science: Trilogy (Worth two GCSEs).

**Course number:** 8464

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** 6

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** N/A

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** N/A

### Grades Available

- 9-1
- Higher and Foundation tiers available for the final exams

### Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Study cells, organs, enzymes, genetics, bioenergetics, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, forces, energy, electricity and radiation.
- Carry out 8 practicals which they will be examined on in their final exams.

### Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Study human biology, variation and evolution, ecology, products from rocks and oils, the earth and atmosphere, chemical analysis, speed, waves and the universe.
- Carry out 8 practicals which they will be examined on in their final exams.
- Revisit content studied in year 10 and develop existing knowledge.
- Sit final exam.

### Specialist Equipment Required

- All standard school stationery including a calculator.

### Additional Information

**Students will require these skills:**

- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Skill in experimental work and problem solving.
- High levels of numeracy.
- Ability to write extended answers showing high levels of literacy.

### Progression

- A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- University courses in a range of Science Subjects.

**For further details, please contact:**

Ms Courtney Hyde, Head of Science and Lead Practitioner

## GCSE Separate Sciences

**Course title:** AQA Separate Sciences (worth three GCSEs).

**Course number:** 8461, 8462, 8463

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** 6

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** N/A

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** N/A

### Grades Available

- 9-1
- Higher and Foundation tiers available for the final exams

### Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Study cells, organs, enzymes, genetics, bioenergetics, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, forces, energy, electricity and radiation.
- Carry out 8 practicals which they will be examined on in their final exams.
- Study additional content across the three sciences not found covered in Combined Science.

### Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Study human biology, variation and evolution, ecology, products from rocks and oils, the earth and atmosphere, chemical analysis, speed, waves and the universe.
- Carry out 8 practicals which they will be examined on in their final exams.
- Revisit content studied in year 10 and develop existing knowledge.
- Sit final exam.

### Specialist Equipment Required

- All standard school stationery including a calculator.

### Additional Information

**Students will require these skills:**

- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Skill in experimental work and problem solving.
- High levels of numeracy.
- Ability to write extended answers showing high levels of literacy.

### Progression

- A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- University courses in a range of Science Subjects.

**For further details, please contact:**

Ms Courtney Hyde, Head of Science and Lead Practitioner

# GCSE Religious Studies

**Course title:** GCSE Eduqas Religious Studies (full course GCSE)

**Course number:** 601/8879/0

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** Three examinations

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** N/A

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** N/A

**Component 1:** Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world - 2hr paper

**Component 2:** Study of Christianity - 1hr paper

**Component 3:** Study of a world faith: Islam - 1hr paper

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** All students to complete full course.

## Grades Available

- 9-1

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Learn about and discuss issues of relationships, life and death, good and evil, and human rights.
- Study Christianity.
- Study Islam - Sunni and Shi'ism.
- Study humanism.
- Exam style and expectations

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Study Issues of relationships, life and death, good and evil, and human rights.
- Explore Christian, Muslim and humanist views.
- Learn about issues concerning the sanctity of life such as, abortion, same sex relationships and euthanasia.
- Study the role of personal morality and sacred texts. Study Christianity and Islam applying it to the themes.
- Revise previous topics in preparation for their final exams.

## Specialist Equipment Required

- No specialist equipment required but reference to revision material will be provided.

## Progression

- At a higher level, religious studies can be taken as an A level or degree and has links with subjects such as Philosophy, History and Sociology.

**For further details, please contact:**

Ms Kaydee Neale Kenwright, Head of RE

# GCSE Computer Science

**Course title:** GCSE Computer Science

**Course number:** OCR

**Computer Systems exam percentage:** 50%

**Computational thinking, algorithms and programming :** 50%

**Number of final exams:** 2

**Non-exam assessment:** Carries no marks but needs to be completed

## **Computer Systems:**

Students will learn about systems architecture, storage, network topologies and protocols, along with ethical legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

## **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:**

Here the students will learn about algorithms, programming techniques. The aim of this area is to test the students' ability to create a robust program using computational thinking and programming techniques.

## **Controlled Assessment requirements:**

There is a requirement to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and principles of Computer Science. Students will learn to analyse problems in computational terms, to make reasoned judgements, to design, program, evaluate and refine solutions.

### **Grades Available**

- 9-1

### **Year 10 – Brief Course Description**

#### **Students will:**

Complete their mock controlled assessment. Each student will be given a set of scenarios to choose from. Working independently, students will demonstrate their ability to code a solution to a given problem. The tasks will be set in engaging and relevant contexts, e.g. gaming, web, mobile phone applications.

Students will also continue to learn the following:

- Fundamentals of a computer systems.
- Constants, variables and data types.
- Structures, program flow control, procedures and functions and error handling.
- Database concepts and programming language.
- Networks & Computer Security.
- Legal, environmental and ethical considerations.

### **Year 11 – Brief Course Description**

#### **Students will:**

Students will be given a non-exam assessment at the beginning of the year to be completed before they sit the two written papers, they will then prepare and sit two written exams in the summer. As part of the exam students will define, discuss and explain what the major components are of a computer system. Also understand, describe and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of networking topologies. Paper 2 consists of computational thinking.

### **Specialist Equipment Required**

- All the software required for this course will be available in school.

### **Additional Information**

- The ability to think logically and a good understanding of mathematics are absolutely essential to this course. Also, being able to work independently and manage your time effectively will be a great asset.

### **Progression**

- Students can progress to study A-level Computer Science and other IT related subjects.

### **For further details, please contact:**

Mr Rahan Gazi, Head of Computer Science

# GCSE Art and Design

**Course title:** GCSE Art and Design – Fine Art

**Course number:** Edexcel FA01

**Final exam percentage:** 40%

**Number of final exams:** 1

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** Coursework 60%

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** To create work in response to the 4 Assessment Objectives.

**Any other examinations:** Coursework (including mock exams) 60%.

**Assessment requirements:** There are four assessment objectives to meet throughout the course; AO1=Develop (critical studies), AO2=refine (materials & techniques), AO3=record (drawings, annotations), AO4=present (final piece).

## Grades Available

- 9-1

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Undertake a structured project designed to introduce and revisit artistic skills and techniques.
- Learn to effectively record their ideas and observations, with an emphasis on drawing.
- Develop their critical analysis skills and written evaluation.
- Be given the opportunity to work more independently.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will:**

- Complete a project designed to master artistic skills and techniques.
- Create highly skilled artworks demonstrating outstanding ability to draw and record.
- Complete coursework elements.
- Complete the exam component of the course (40%) including a 10 hour timed exam.

## Specialist Equipment Required

- Students may choose to stock up on some equipment to use at home, however, the majority of materials and equipment will be provided by the school.

## Additional Information

- Students must be creative and have established practical visual communication skills. An aptitude for drawing will give students an advantage on this course.
- Students must have the ability to work independently and persistently to solve creative challenges.
- Students must be self-motivated and have a determination to improve and progress.

## Progression

- The creative industries are worth £101 billion to the UK economy - a new record, and nearly twice the rate of the economy. Fields such as engineering and IT/software are increasingly recruiting people with creative problem solving and critical thinking skills.
- Students can progress to study and have careers in architecture, photography, designing and animating as well as many other creative careers.

**For further details, please contact:**

Ms Evie Waldren, Head of Art

# GCSE Drama

**Course title:** GCSE Drama

**Course number:** Edexcel 1DR01/1DR02/1DR03

**Final exam percentage:** 40%

**Number of final exams:** 1

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** 60%

**Any other examinations:** 2 Performances. Component 1 devised (40%). Component 2 scripted (20%)

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** Portfolio of evidence of development (can be presented as a blog, written report, video diary) and evaluation of final performance.

**Assessment requirements:** To perform in groups for approximately 10 – 20 minutes depending on group size.

## Grades Available

- 9-1

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Explore a range of theatre styles and practitioners used in contemporary theatre including new technology such as interactive media performances.
- Have the choice of a performance option (acting) or a technical option (costume, set, lighting, makeup and sound). Students undertaking a technical option will have a personalised course of study.
- Be introduced to professional actor training.
- Take part in at least 3 theatre visits to full West End productions (subscription fee paid at the beginning of the course covers a minimum of 12 visits throughout the course).
- Take part in masterclass by professional actors and directors.
- Explore a range of stimulus and practise responding to stimulus.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- During the autumn term: devise a piece of theatre from a given stimulus. They will sit mock Component 1 at the end of term.
- During the spring term: prepare, rehearse and perform a scripted piece of drama. They will sit preliminary Component 2 at the end of term.
- During the summer term: revise whichever component was weakest and prepare for the preliminary component 3 exam.
- Take part in at least 3 theatre visits to full West End productions.
- Take part in masterclass workshops by professional actors and directors.
- Complete course components and undertake exams.

## Specialist Equipment Required

- No specialist equipment required.

## Additional Information

Recent research from government, educational and business and industry have highlighted the value of arts subjects in developing much needed “soft skills”. These skills in communication, confidence, and creativity are the cornerstone of all arts teaching, particularly Drama.

## Progression

- Post 16 courses- AS/A2 Drama and Theatre Studies.
- BTEC HND in Performing Arts.

## For further details, please contact:

Mr Thomas Noble, Head of Drama

# GCSE Geography

**Course title:** GCSE (9-1) Geography (AQA)

**Course number:** 8035

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** 3

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** 0%

**Fieldwork requirements:** Two written reports following fieldwork visits.

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** Three examination papers each paper lasts for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

## Grades Available

- 9-1

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will study:**

- Physical Landscapes of the UK: Rivers and Coasts.
- The Changing Economic World: Development, Nigeria Case Study, and Economic Features of the UK
- Managing Natural Resources.
- Human Fieldwork Investigation: Regeneration in Stratford.
- Physical Fieldwork Investigation: Changes Downstream on Loughton Brook, Epping Forest.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will study:**

- The Living World: Small Scale Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests, and Hot Deserts.
- Natural Hazards: Earthquakes, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK, and climate change.
- Urban Issues and Challenges: Rio de Janeiro Case Study and Change in London.
- Pre-Release analysis.

## Specialist Equipment Required

- No specialist equipment is required; however, we will be using mobile devices during fieldwork assessments and access to smartphone technology or similar will aid progress. We encourage students to purchase revision guides to support their learning.

## Additional Information

- All students will have to undertake fieldwork as it is a compulsory element of the course.

## Progression

- Geography is an academic subject that leads to a variety of careers. Previous students have gone on to study law, journalism, planning, education and computer science. A variety of skills are taught including literacy, numeracy, ICT, debating, problem solving and decision making.
- Students will also be equipped to study A level geography.

**For further details, please contact:**

Ms Elizabeth Fraser, Head of Geography

# GCSE History

**Course title:** Edexcel GCSE History

**Course number:** 1HI0

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** 3 (Unit 1 - 1:15mins, Unit 2 - 1:45mins, Unit 3 - 1:20mins)

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** Pupils will be expected to cover 40% British History; a British and non-British depth study from different eras - Modern, Early Modern and Medieval; and a thematic study over a 1,000 year period.

## Grades Available

- 9-1

### Year 10 – Brief Course Description

Unit 1: Thematic Study on Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000 to the present day. It is worth 20% of the exam based on recall of knowledge and explanation of historical events and factors:

- 1000-1500 Crime and Punishment in Medieval England.
- 1500-1700 Crime and Punishment in early modern England.
- 1700-1900 Crime and Punishment in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Britain.
- 1900-Present: Crime and Punishment in modern Britain.

Unit 1: Historic Environment on crime in Whitechapel. The exam is worth 10% and will focus on recall of knowledge and source analysis based on Whitechapel 1870-1900: crime and policing.

Unit 2: British Depth Study – Henry VIII 1509-40. It is worth 20% of the exam based on recall of knowledge and explanation of historical events and factors:

- Henry VIII and Wolsey, 1509–29.
- Henry VIII and Cromwell, 1529–40.
- The Reformation and its impact, 1529–40.

### Year 11 – Brief Course Description

Unit 2: Period Study – Superpower Relations 1943-91. It is worth 20% of the exam based on recall of knowledge and explanation of historical events and factors:

- How the Cold War developed 1943-56.
- Three Cold War crises: Berlin, Cuba and Czechoslovakia.
- Why did the Cold War end? The invasion of Afghanistan to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Unit 3: Modern Depth Study – USA 1954-75. It is worth 30% of the exam combining recall of knowledge, explanation of historical events, source analysis and interpretations of history:

- The position of black Americans in US society.
- Political struggles in the Civil Rights Movement.
- US involvement in Vietnam 1965-75.
- Media coverage and changing attitudes to the war in Vietnam.

### Additional Information

- Good reading, writing and organisational skills are essential. An interest in and understanding of History, current affairs and the wider world is desirable. The ability to develop a high standard of thinking, clear communication skills and writing accurately under timed conditions, and to learn historical skills such as investigation, research, interpretation and evaluation is needed.

### Progression

- A Level History, A level Government and Politics.
- A university degree in History, Politics or Law.

**For further details, please contact:**

Mr Francis Simon Klemencic, Head of History

# Modern Foreign Languages

**Course title:** GCSE French/GCSE Spanish (Edexcel)

**Course number:** 1FR0/1SP0

**Final exam percentage:** 100%

**Number of final exams:** 4 x 25% (Listening, reading, writing and speaking)

## Grades Available

- 9-1

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Develop their ability to communicate with French or Spanish native speakers in both speech and writing. They will study across a variety of texts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of French or Spanish-speaking communities and countries.
- Develop their understanding of standard spoken and written French or Spanish in a variety of scenarios.
- Learn new tenses (imperfect, future and conditional), develop vocabulary and grammar skills (direct object pronouns, conditional of modal verbs and impersonal verbs).
- Familiarise themselves with GCSE specifications and practise exam skills.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Develop their ability to communicate with French or Spanish native speakers in both speech and writing. They will study a variety of texts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of French or Spanish-speaking communities and countries.
- Develop their understanding of standard spoken French or Spanish in a variety of scenarios.
- Develop vocabulary and grammar skills (Present, imperfect, future, conditional, perfect and pluperfect tenses).

## Specialist Equipment Required

- Edexcel revision guide and workbook.

## Additional Information

- We will build on the language skills acquired in KS3 with further work on a full range of topics.
- We aim to develop the learners' ability to communicate and to develop their grammar skills in French or Spanish – to understand and to make themselves understood in a wide range of situations, such as home, family, personal life, and school.

## Progression

- AS and A2 French or Spanish courses.
- An additional language can be advantageous when choosing a career and can be used in many sectors including finance and education.

## For further details, please contact:

Mr Patrick Eccles-Williams, Head of Department

# GCSE Music

**Course title:** Edexcel GCSE Music

**Course number:** 1MU0

**Final exam percentage:** 40%

**Number of final exams:** 1 Listening Exam

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** 60%

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** 1 solo performance (15%), 1 ensemble performance (15%), 1 free composition (15%) and one composition for a set brief (15%)

## Grades Available:

- 9-1

## Years 10-11 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Learn how to perform challenging music with fluency and sensitivity.
- Learn how to compose using a wide range of musical elements, creating effective musical ideas and sustaining interest through their development.
- Learn how to demonstrate, through aural identification, accurate knowledge of a wide range of musical elements, contexts and language.
- Learn how to evaluate music to make convincing judgements using musical terminology.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the 4 Areas of Study:
  1. Instrumental Music 1700-1820 - You will be studying music by Bach and Beethoven
  2. Vocal Music - You will be studying vocal songs by Queen and Henry Purcell.
  3. Music for Stage and Screen - You will be studying music from Wicked and Star Wars
  4. Fusions - You will be studying music by Afro Celt Sound System and Esperanza Spaulding

## Specialist Equipment Required

It is helpful to have access to an instrument at home. Instruments are available for use at lunchtimes and after school in the Music Department if this is not possible.

It is also helpful that they have some music background and experience in playing an instrument (this includes singing).

## Additional Information

- GCSE Music is a practical course which allows the student to perform regularly and compose their own music. 60% of the course is about music that they produce. They learn how to be creative, express themselves and stand out from the crowd.
- It is an academic course. They study music and develop their listening skills and knowledge of a range of music styles.
- Music teaches so much more than just how to play or sing, fine motor skills are improved, along with coordination. They develop the ability to work with others and their self-confidence grows. They learn to analyse in a more subjective manner, justifying their discoveries and thinking 'outside the box'. A musician uses every part of their brain; not just one section. A student who studies music often does much better in their other subjects too.
- As a GCSE Music student they will have the opportunity to attend trips to see concerts and performances as well as workshops with professional musicians.

## Progression

- GCSE Music allows the student to go on to study A Level Music, A Level Music Technology, A Level Performing Arts and any other music related course also studying at university.
- For those wishing to pursue Music as a career there is a wide range of choices available including as a Music Classroom/Instrumental Teacher, Music Producer, Music Journalist, Music Therapist, Musical Director, Performer or Composer, Sound Engineer, DJ, Music Studio Personnel, Music Promoter etc.

## For further details, please contact:

Ms Cara Quinn Larkin, Assistant Headteacher

# BTEC Music

**Course title:** Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Music

**Course number:** 600/6818/8

**Final exam percentage:** 25%

**Number of final exams:** Music Industry Exam

**Controlled Assessment percentage:** 75%

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** Combination of written assignments, public performances and produced music

## Grades Available:

- Distinction\* - Level 1 Pass

## Years 10-11 – Brief Course Description

### Students will:

- Learn roles and responsibilities within the music industry, including details of relevant industry organisations.
- Develop skills as a performer; creating a baseline self assessment and tracking their progress over a period of time.
- Develop skills as a composer through the use of music technology and sequencing software, creating pieces of music to an industry standard set brief.
- Develop skills in promotion and production, creating marketing materials and preparing for a live performance which they will produce.
- The units covered are:
  - Unit 1: The Music Industry
  - Unit 2: Managing a Music Product
  - Unit 5: Introducing Music Performance
  - Unit 7: Introducing Music Sequencing

## Specialist Equipment Required

This is a very practical course which will require you to perform in front of a live audience on at least one occasion, so it would be beneficial if students have some experience in singing or playing an instrument. It is helpful to have access to an instrument at home. Instruments are available for use at lunchtimes and after school in the Music Department if this is not possible.

## Additional Information

- 75% of this course is coursework based and deadlines for completion will be very important.
- This is a vocational course, which means the focus is developing skills that will allow students to pursue a career in the music industry upon completion.
- The exam component of the course is focused on the music industry and requires students to have a thorough knowledge of organisations within the industry, different types of venues and considerations made when planning events.
- Music teaches so much more than just how to play or sing, fine motor skills are improved, along with coordination. They develop the ability to work with others and their self-confidence grows. A musician uses every part of their brain; not just one section. A student who studies music often does much better in their other subjects too.
- As a Btec Music student they will have the opportunity to attend trips to see concerts and performances as well as workshops with industry professionals.

## Progression

- Btec Music allows students to continue their studies at Level 3 across a range of performing arts Btec courses. Btec courses are equivalent to GCSE, so can be used as the springboard for further study.
- For those wishing to pursue Music as a career there is a wide range of choices available including as a Music Classroom/Instrumental Teacher, Music Producer, Music Journalist, Music Therapist, Musical Director, Performer or Composer, Sound Engineer, DJ, Music Studio Personnel, Music Promoter etc.

## For further details, please contact:

Ms Cara Quinn Larkin, Assistant Headteacher

# BTEC Sport

**Course title:** BTEC First Award in Sport

**Course number:** Edexcel 600/4779/3

**Final exam percentage:** 25%

**Number of final exams:** 1

**Assessment percentage:** 75%

**Controlled Assessment requirements:** 4 assignments per unit completed under controlled conditions.

**Any other examinations/assessment requirements:** Each unit will be internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated using specified outcomes and grading criteria except for unit 1 (exam component), which will be externally assessed. Students will be required to achieve a minimum of a pass grade in each unit to succeed for a qualification grade at the end of the course.

## Grades Available

- BTEC Level 1 or Level 2 First Award in Sport qualification (equivalent to 1 GCSE) - Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\* (equivalent to grade 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 respectively).

## Year 10 – Brief Course Description

**Students will learn:**

- Unit 2 – Practical Sport Performance – the technical and tactical demands of two selected sports.
- Unit 6 – Leading Sports Activities – knowledge and application of leadership skills and qualities.

## Year 11 – Brief Course Description

**Students will learn:**

- Unit 1 – Fitness for Sport and Exercise – knowledge and understanding of the theory of Physical Education.
- Unit 3 – Applying the Principles of Personal Training - a synoptic unit using all knowledge from the course

## Specialist Equipment Required

- Physical education kit (see school list)
- ICT and internet access

## Additional Information

- This course should particularly appeal to those who might be considering working in the sport or fitness industry. Students will need to be flexible in the way they work in order to complete tasks set.
- This course is about gaining evidence, in lots of different ways, about sport and fitness. Realistic situations will be created as much as possible, so that there is some vocational relevance and practical work. Some practical sport will be done but the level of performance in a particular sport will not be the main part of the assessment.

## Progression

- Students can progress to study BTEC nationals level 3 sport, A level physical education, Cambridge National level 3 sport, V CERT level 3 sport, sports coaching qualifications and personal training qualifications.

**For further details please contact:**

Ms Julia Douglas, Assistant Headteacher