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# CORE SUBJECTS

## ENGLISH

English Language, English Literature

English is brilliant because by the time you finish your courses in Year 11 you end up with two GCSEs: one in English Language and one in English Literature. Although the two subjects have a lot in common, English Literature tends to focus on fictional texts compared to English Language which combines fiction, non-fiction and creative writing skills.

### **What qualifications are available within this subject?**

Year 9 is preparation for the **GCSE English Language** and the **GCSE English Literature** courses that you will undertake in Years 10 and 11. At the end of the two year course, you will be awarded two GCSE qualifications graded from 9 to 1.

### **What will I study?**

In English Language you will be able to write creatively, understand how to analyse how texts influence readers and develop your presentation skills through speaking and listening. You will read a wide range of texts, develop a wider vocabulary and strengthen your grammar, punctuation and spelling skills.

In English Literature you will be able to enjoy the pleasure of reading and studying a variety of texts ranging from novels, poetry, modern drama and Shakespeare which will develop your understanding of how different writers convey a wide range of thoughts and ideas to us.

### **How will I be assessed?**

During Year 9 you will be assessed through a range of assessment tests covering the different skills (including your spelling, punctuation and grammar) being developed in English Language and English Literature.

In Years 10 and 11 your teacher will carefully prepare you for the demands of the final examination papers, so you will be assessed on a range of papers done in class and in "mock" exam conditions.

Both GCSE courses lead to terminal examinations at the end of the courses (note – there is no longer any Controlled Assessment or Coursework element in the assessment scheme).

### **Where could this subject lead me to in the future?**

GCSE English Language and English Literature are an entrance requirement for all courses and careers. The English Language and English Literature courses are designed also to be ideal "taster" courses for those students considering pursuing the subjects at A level.

## **MATHS**

- All Year 9 students will study Key Stage 4 Maths building on the skills developed in lower years to prepare them for their GCSE. It is to allow extra time for the volume of subject content and the demand of that content for all students.

- During Year 9 all students will take internal examinations, which will determine the Tier of entry for the GCSE course. There will be two tiers of entry - Foundation and Higher.
- Students will be advised by their teacher which tier of entry is best suited for them.
- Students will be assessed on problem solving and mathematical reasoning.
- Students at both tiers can access a grade 4 or 5 at GCSE.

### **What qualifications are available within this subject?**

GCSE - Foundation and Higher

AQA Further Mathematics Level 2 (for those who have the potential for a grade 9)

### **What will I study?**

#### **In Year 9**

Depending on their ability a student will follow one of the two paths:

1. Those who are expected to gain between a grade 1 and 8 will study Key Stage 4 Maths over three years, building on the skills developed in lower years to prepare them for their GCSE.
2. Those who are expected to gain a grade 9 will be placed in the Express Set or Top Set and will do a linear Edexcel GCSE course over three years alongside studying AQA level 2 Further Mathematics. This will give the students a flavour of AS/A2 Further Mathematics.

The department will decide which path a student will follow. The decision is based on ability in mathematics which is assessed by the examination at the end of Year 8, and the attitudes to learning demonstrated in class and at home.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Linear GCSE is assessed via end of course examination (3 papers 1 non-calculator and 2 calculator papers).

There is **no** controlled assessment.

# SCIENCE

## Personalised Approach

The Science Department has revised its approach to GCSE Science in line with the specification changes made by all exam boards. We feel that students most benefit from a personalised approach to their science learning experience; the courses we offer are designed to enable us to prepare children via an exciting and demanding science curriculum. Both of the available routes prepare students fully for post 16 study.

Initially all students will study KS3 science in Year 9. This will be followed by a move to one of the following in Year 9 once the KS3 curriculum is completed.

### Either

#### Combined Science (2 GCSE's)

### Or

#### Triple Science - by invitation only - (3 GCSE's)

Staff will discuss with students their suitability for the course prior to options.

***Students completing Triple Science will also need to opt for Triple Science in the option blocks.***

## COMBINED SCIENCE

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

For Combined Science students, this course leads to **two** GCSE's (1-9) grade. We will be studying the AQA Trilogy course. It provides a solid grounding to go on to study each discipline at 'A' level and also Applied Science courses.

### What will I study?

Students will study a broad range of topics from each of the three disciplines Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Students will gain a good understanding across a broad range of relevant topics.

#### In Biology:

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and Evolution
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

#### In Physics:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Waves
- Forces
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle matter of model
- Atomic structure

#### In Chemistry:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change

### How will I be assessed?

The assessment will consist of terminal examinations in the summer of Year 11. There will be 6 papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. There is **no** controlled assessment. Practical understanding will be assessed through the terminal exams and will consist of 15% of the marks available.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

Science GCSEs are an essential requirement for virtually all careers and further study. You could go on to study science 'A' levels or other level 3 qualifications or even an apprenticeship.

## TRIPLE SCIENCE (CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY & PHYSICS) – if chosen as an option

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

This course leads to **three** separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, grades (1-9). The exam board is AQA. This will be completed as combined science plus one option.

### What will I study?

**GCSE Chemistry, Biology and Physics offer students a firm foundation to go on and study each discipline at A-level, as well as providing a good background to specialise in other sciences.**

Students will gain a good understanding across a broad range of relevant topics.

#### ***GCSE Chemistry***

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

#### ***GCSE Biology***

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and Evolution

#### ***GCSE Physics***

- Energy
- Electricity
- Waves
- Forces
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle matter of model
- Atomic structure

### How will I be assessed?

The assessment will consist of terminal examinations at the end of year 11. Each of the disciplines will be assessed individually. There will be 6 papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. There is **no** controlled assessment. Practical understanding will be assessed through the terminal exams and will consist of 15% of the marks available.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

Science GCSEs are an essential requirement for virtually all careers and further study. You could go on to study one or more science 'A' levels.



## **ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION IN SOCIETY**

The Religious Studies GCSE looks at both Christianity and Islam before moving on to an issue-based study of different themes in which you are taught how to think but not what to think.

### **What qualifications are available within this subject?**

Most students will study the Full Course worth a full GCSE.

### **What will I study?**

During this course you will have the opportunity to:

- Make sense of the world around them and your own place in it.
- Recognise that there is a religious response to life's events in all societies.
- Investigate religious history, writings, practices and beliefs.
- Analyse and evaluate different religious and non-religious responses to ethical questions.
- Apply the insights gained to their own concerns as individuals, as members of society and as part of the world-wide community.

Students will be examined at the end of Year 10.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Most students will sit two papers and achieve a full GCSE.  
Each paper is an hour and forty-five minutes.

### **Where could this subject lead me to in the future?**

Much of the course can be directly linked with other subjects and everyday life, leading to the subject being highly desired in numerous occupations and career choices. These include jobs such as: doctors, journalists, lawyers, teachers, analysts, social workers, the list is endless. Companies and especially Universities recognise the unique skills that religious studies develop, and therefore the subject is looked on very favourably.

It should also be noted that RE is fast becoming a key subject for Universities and society because of the diversity of society in general and how important it is to have knowledge of other people's beliefs.

# OPTIONS

## ART GCSE

Art is a creative and exciting GCSE course in which you will be taught a broad range of techniques, skills and ideas. You will explore the work of modern and traditional artists and have the opportunity to learn about and then use lots of different materials and media. The course allows us to teach you about new and exciting ways of drawing, painting, printmaking and photography. We will also use Photoshop and digital media with you alongside drawing and painting to help you produce personal, original and imaginative artwork.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

We follow the AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design course that is made up of two different components; Component 1: Portfolio and Component 2: Externally Set Assignment.

### What will I study?

#### Component 1: Portfolio –

*Year 9 – Foundation year.* You will explore a wide range of new techniques and processes exploring painting and drawing. You will learn how to create your own personal artwork inspired by the work of other artists and photographers.

*Year 10 – Extended Projects / Development year.* We build upon the skills learnt in Year 9 in greater depth and you have the opportunity to produce extended theme based projects. You are expected to experiment with lots of different techniques and ideas within your project.

*Year 11 Winter Term – Consolidation / Refinement.* From September to December in Year 11 you have the opportunity to produce a final personal project and to refine your portfolio. All of your Component 1 portfolio will be submitted at the end of December.

#### Component 2: Externally Set Assignment –

From a choice of starting points on the AQA paper you select one and produce a new art project over a number of weeks. At the end of this period you will have 10 hours of supervised time to make your final outcome(s) based on all your development work.

### What skills do I need?

We would like students to have an interest and enthusiasm for the subject. It is important that students appreciate the need to reflect upon their own creative ideas and enjoy trying out new techniques. We want you to enjoy experimenting with ideas and materials.

### How will I be assessed?

Both components are marked out of a total of 96 marks. The 96 marks in each component can be achieved by addressing the 4 AQA assessment objectives. Component 1 is 60% and Component 2 40% of the final GCSE.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

The Art GCSE course gives you lots of transferable work skills that will help you in the future - in the creative and other industries. We teach you to think, reflect and to make decisions about your own work and the work of others - all of which are valuable skills to learn for future courses at college, university and employment.

## Business Studies

Business Studies is a subject that can help you acquire a good understanding of how businesses are organised and operate. Be prepared before you enter the world of work!

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

Towards the end of year 9 you will be guided onto one of the following courses:

**BTEC Business Level 2 First Award (broadly equivalent to 1 GCSE)**

**GCSE Business Studies**

### What will I study?

You will follow a general introduction to Business Studies in the first two terms of Year 9.

Some of the topics we will look at are:

- **Recruitment** e.g. how can a business decide on who to employ?
- **Business Ownership** e.g. what advantages would being in a partnership bring?
- **Communication** e.g. how best can employees communicate with each other?

**BTEC Business First Award (equivalent to 1 GCSE A\* - C)**

You will complete 4 units covering topics such as business enterprise, customer service, promoting a brand and finance.

**GCSE Business Studies**

You will cover all aspects of business life e.g. finance, production, marketing, the economic environment and business ownership.

### What skills do I need?

**BTEC Business First Award**

You'll need to be good at meeting short deadlines, organising your work and working independently. Research skills are also essential to help you gather information for your assignments.

**GCSE Business Studies**

You'll need to be able to memorise and apply your knowledge of key terms for the exams at the end of the course. You will also need to be confident in maths as you will be expected to perform lots of calculations and construct graphs.

### How will I be assessed?

**BTEC Business First Certificate (equivalent to 1 GCSEs A\* - C)**

75% coursework - You will complete 3 units of work.

25% exam – You will take an online test on Business Finance

**GCSE Business Studies**

100% Exam (2 exams, each 90 minutes long)

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

You may decide to study a Business Studies course at A Level (such as Applied Business or Economics & Business Studies), or go straight into employment. The skills developed on the courses (giving presentations, gathering research, producing balanced written arguments and financial calculations) will help you in any future job or even to set up your own business. Past students have gone on to study many Business related degrees such as Management, Marketing, Human Resources and Accounting.

## **CHILD DEVELOPMENT (Cambridge National – Level 1/2)**

**Cambridge National Certificate in Child Development level 1/2** is an exciting and interesting new programme of study where you will be able to develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of topics about the development of a child. This qualification offers the same rigour and performance points as a GCSE. The qualification is recognised by Ofqual, and offers progression to A level; further education or on to an apprenticeship. It is a key part of the students' Progress 8 and Attainment 8 approved subjects.

### **What will I study?**

The course is based on one exam and two internally assessed and externally moderated controlled assessment pieces (coursework). The course will cover a range of topics and will be taught in the classroom through a variety of different tasks and activities such as DVD, possible work with virtual babies, research activities and looking at real life situations and possible talks from existing mothers, health visitors or midwives. The topics you will study include:

- **Parenthood, family planning and preparing for a baby**
- **Pregnancy, labour and birth and the new-born baby**
- **Diet, health and care of the child including food, nutrition and child health**
- **Development of the child including physical, intellectual and social and emotional development**
- **Support for the parent and child**

### **What skills do I need?**

**You will be taught all skills necessary for the course** but if you are good at problem solving, planning, researching and analysing information this would be an advantage.

### **How will I be assessed?**

The course consists of three units:

**UNIT 1: Written Paper Exam**

**UNIT 2: Research Task**

**UNIT 3: Child Study**

### **Where could this subject lead me to in the future?**

This course provides ideal progression into the Cambridge Technical Award in Health and Social Care taught at Alsager School and can lead into careers in the caring profession such as nursery nurse or working with children in other settings, midwifery, social worker, play group leaders and many others including teaching. It is also a valuable life skill.

## Computer Science

- All Year 9 students will study a range of technical topics
- Data Representation
- Using HTML
- Introduction to Programming with Python
- Input, Output and Storage
- Algorithms, Flowcharts and Pseudocode
- Practice Programming Project

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

GCSE Computer Science.

### What will I study?

#### Computer Systems:

- Systems architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- Systems software
- Moral, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

#### Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming:

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

#### Programming techniques:

- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing and evaluation and conclusions

### How will I be assessed?

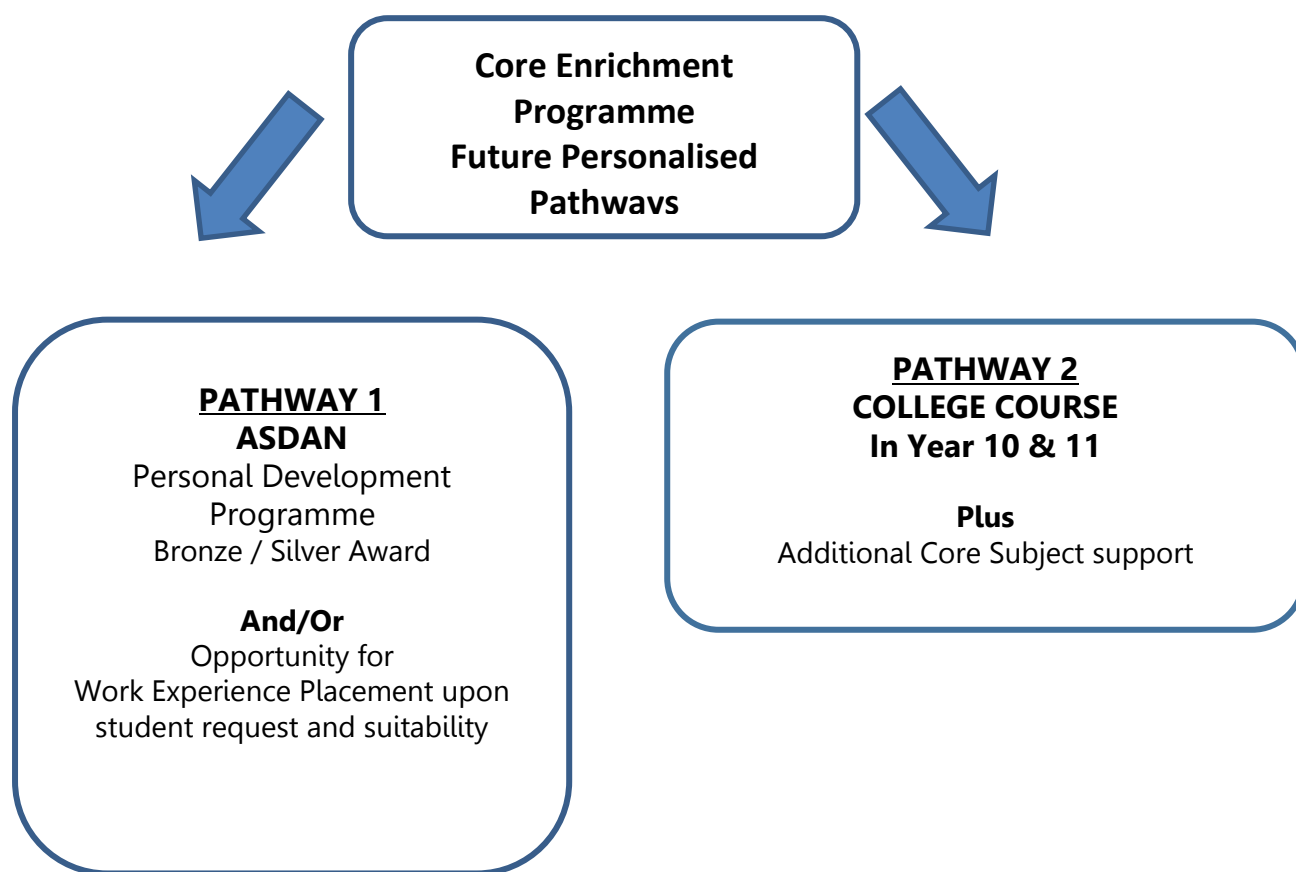
The assessment consists of two written examinations (worth 80%) and an externally moderated non-exam assessment (worth 20%).

## CORE ENRICHMENT - ( BY INVITATION ONLY)

Our Core Enrichment programme is by invitation only and offers a more personalised pathway for students, providing vocational opportunities whilst supporting students in core subjects such as English and maths.

Reducing the number of GCSE subjects studied and completing additional lessons in the Core Subjects of Maths and English, often in small classes, means that some students are better placed to be successful in their remaining courses. The Core Enrichment programme is specifically designed to support this.

In addition, in Year 10 and 11, the Core Enrichment Pathway offers the opportunity to follow a more vocational pathway by undertaking a College Course; or completing the ASDAN personal development programme within school. Some students may also have the opportunity to attend a Work Experience Placement.



## DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The Education Reforms announced by the government will represent a significant change to Design and Technology subjects. Under the title of Design and Technology each subject will form a component part of the new qualification with all pupils sitting the same exam. To ensure all the component parts of the qualification work well together the government have decided that more time is needed to give students the best experience possible. First teaching of the new Design and Technology GCSE starting in September 2016 with the first examinations taking place in 2019.

**Pupils can only opt for one subject from Resistant Materials, Graphic Products and Fashion/Textiles.** As well as those subjects your child can opt for one of the other subjects that are in the Design and Technology Faculty here at Alsager - **Food and Nutrition, Engineering** and **Child Development.**



## DESIGN : GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Our Graphic Products course is designed to provide opportunities in designing, making and evaluating and focuses on visual impact and communication skills utilising a wide range of media. The skills developed can lead to a wide range of jobs in graphic design (for both print and web), the computer game industry, architecture, motion graphics and animation to name a few. However, in our modern media rich environment, it is important that everyone develops a graphical awareness which will help you respond to the visual world we live in and can be applied in a wide range of business situations.

### What qualifications are available within this subject

The Edexcel Graphic Products course will form a component part of the full Design and Technology GCSE for first teaching from September 2017.

### What will I study?

When studying Design and Technology at school, you will be expected to act as a responsible designer whilst generating designs to solve problems or satisfy needs within a named context. The Graphic Products course is concerned with the activity of designing and making using graphic materials and ICT (including DTP, Adobe Photoshop, Laser Cutters and 3D Printers). During the course you will work on a range of projects that will continue to develop your graphic skills for success at GCSE.

Year 9 will focus on the core components of the course including the design and manufacture of a cam toy. Further projects could include Cubee characters, point-of-sale displays, packaging, architectural models etc.

### What skills do I need?

You need to be interested and have an aptitude for graphic design drawing and modelling demonstrating precision and accuracy as well as a particular aptitude for ICT. You will also be expected to apply relevant areas of Maths and Science to the projects. You will need to be innovative and imaginative and demonstrate ingenuity when thinking of ways to solve problems for the real world and improve the environment that we live in.

### How will I be assessed?

In Graphic Products the Creative **Design and Make project** (Component 2) is based on a choice of design contexts set by the exam board and completed within lessons starting in the summer term of Year 10. This **accounts for 50% of your final mark**. The **written examination** (Component 2) consists of one examination paper which is based on you applying your knowledge and understanding and is also set by the examination board. This also **accounts for 50% of your final mark**.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

This course will give you the skills to follow Graphic Design and Product Design courses at A-level here at Alsager. These A-levels can lead on to degree courses/careers in, for example, Graphic Design, Product Design, Architecture, Interior Design, Marketing, Advertising, Animation and Web Design among others.

## DESIGN: RESISTANT MATERIALS

Our Resistant Materials course is designed to provide opportunities in designing, making and evaluating, especially focusing on conceptual designing. The contextual challenges provided in the GCSE, such as extending human capacity, will give students the freedom to take design risks and to innovate in a situation where it is safe to test and refine ideas through utilising a wide range of design and make resources available within the department. The skills developed can lead to a wide range of jobs in both Product Design and Engineering.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

The Edexcel Resistant Materials course will form a component part of the full Design and Technology GCSE for first teaching from September 2017.

### What will I study?

When studying Design and Technology at school, you will be expected to act as a responsible designer whilst generating designs to solve problems or satisfy needs within a named context. The Resistant Materials course is concerned with the activity of designing and making using traditional and CAD related drawings methods, construction methods and ICT (including Google Sketchup, Laser Cutters and 3D Printers) with problem solving and teamwork being essential skills. During the course you will work on a range of projects that will continue to develop your materials and construction knowledge for success at GCSE. Year 9 will focus on core drawing skills, wood construction and core theory. Year 10 focuses on subject specific theory and the design and manufacture of a cam toy. Further projects could include the design and make of products that are linked with contexts such as living spaces which could lead to projects including; lamps, clocks, storage and phone/tablet holders.

### What skills do I need?

You need to be interested and have an aptitude for design drawings and modelling demonstrating precision and accuracy as well as a particular aptitude for making. You will also be expected to apply relevant areas of Maths and Science to the projects. You will need to be innovative and imaginative and demonstrate ingenuity when thinking of ways to solve problems for the real world and improve the environment that we live in.

### How will I be assessed?

In the Resistant Materials course the Creative **Design and Make project** (Component 2) is based on a choice of design contexts set by the exam board and completed within lessons starting in the summer term of Year 10. **This accounts for 50% of your final mark.** The **written examination** (Component 1) consists of one examination paper which is based on you applying your knowledge and understanding and is also set by the examination board. This also **accounts for 50% of your final mark.**

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

This course will give you the skills to follow Graphic Design and Product Design courses at A-level here at Alsager. These A-levels can lead on to degree courses/careers in, for example, Product Design and Engineering, and are highly valued when applying for apprenticeships at businesses such as KMF, Bentley and BEA systems.

## **DRAMA GCSE**

Drama is an imaginative and exhilarating GCSE course in which you will be taught a broad range of techniques, skills and ideas. You will discover a variety of performance skills such as examining the skills needed in devising a process and exploration of script work. The course allows us to teach you about new and exciting production elements that you may have never used before. You will learn how to: use the lighting board, design theatre costume and build a set.

### **What qualifications are available within this subject?**

We follow the AQA GCSE Drama course that is made up of three different components; component 1: Understanding Drama, component 2: Devising drama, component 3: Texts in practice.

### **What will I study?**

Throughout the three years, you will look at many different types of performance. You will explore how to devise a performance from a stimulus. You will create your own performance from scratch, looking at how to use a range of performance and production skills. You will explore a range of different scripts, exploring how you may stage the script to fulfil your artistic intentions. You will be taught the necessary skills required for reviewing live theatre, questioning the production decisions being made.

### **What skills do I need?**

Drama GCSE would be best for those who feel comfortable and excited by the prospect of performance. The course is dependent on pupils who are willing to try new things and who are prepared to apply a mature approach to their studies. Having initiative and being an effective team member are vital aspects of GCSE Drama.

However, it's not all about your acting talent. The course has many written elements too. Therefore, having a positive attitude when approaching written work is essential.

### **How will I be assessed?**

Assessment within the GCSE Drama course will take many forms. Throughout the three years you will be assessed through:

- Performance/Theatrical skills
- Written Portfolio evidence
- Written Examination

### **Where could this subject lead me to in the future?**

There is the obvious lead to a career in the creative/theatrical industry, such as an actor or director etc. However, the Drama GCSE course is a fantastic subject to take as it gives you lots of transferable skills that will help you in the future working in any industry. Teamwork and negotiation skills are key to many careers, and vital in Drama. Many employers look on Drama favourably due to the presentation skills and confidence it creates.

## ENGINEERING

Intended as an introduction to Engineering, this qualification allows students to develop skills and understanding which will be of use generally and as part of a career path leading to further technical or academic engineering qualifications. **This qualification requires students to have a sound grasp of English, Maths, Drawing skills and ICT.** The 'Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design' will provide a clear progression route to possible careers in Engineering, Mechanics, Design and Manufacturing as well as Engineering courses in Further Education and also Apprenticeships. This qualification could also provide a firm foundation for A level courses here at school in Product Design and ultimately lead to a degree in Engineering.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

OCR Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Engineering Design.

### What will I study?

During Year 9 you will learn key drawing skills such as sketching, perspective drawing, Isometric drawing, Orthographic drawing and an introduction to 'Computer Aided Design'. This then leads on to a transition project where students learn Engineering making skills combined with design skills to make an engineered product.

During Year 10 and 11 you will experience education and training to meet the needs of employers and employees in a range of Engineering disciplines. Students will learn about modern and traditional manufacturing methods, properties of materials, developing and presenting design proposals, how to research and analyse engineered products and developing and presenting design proposals including drawing with computer aided design.

### What skills do I need?

You need to be keen to problem solve and have an interest into how things work. You will also need a good grasp of Maths and Science. As this is an Engineering Design course there will be a great focus on the student's ability to use creative, engineering and computer aided design drawing skills.

### How will I be assessed?

The Cambridge National Certificate is divided into four units each worth 25% of the certificate.

Unit R105 is the exam and is one hour in duration. This exam tests the student on their knowledge of Design briefs, design specifications and user requirements. Unit R106 is a product analysis and research assignment. This assignment is about the students demonstrating their knowledge of commercial production methods, materials, how things work and their ability research through disassembly and the use of ICT. Unit R107

Developing and presenting engineering designs. This assignment is a design assignment where students present design proposals through drawing and the use of CAD. Unit R108 is a making assignment where students plan and make a product from a drawing provided by the board to set tolerances.

Each unit, except the exam, is assessed internally and forwarded to the AQA exam board for verification.

## **FASHION/TEXTILES (GCSE or Vocational Award - GCSE Equivalent)**

Fashion/Textiles is a practical-based subject which requires students to apply knowledge and understanding of how fashion garments, textile products and furnishings are developed, planned, produced and evaluated. Products that we make need to meet the demands of clients and consumers. We need to also consider moral, cultural, economic and social values and take into account environmental issues and smart/modern materials. This subject allows you to be creative, innovative and to make your own choices. It includes research and practical tasks as well as providing opportunities to show flair and creativity and gives an insight into the fashion industry.

### **What will I study?**

The course is practically based and includes theory which supports the activities done in class. You will learn new skills and it is an area that allows independent learning as well as encouraging you to work as part of a team. In Year 9 you will be developing skills which are essential for the designing and making of products and you will be able to investigate a wide range of techniques which you will be able to utilise later in the course. In Year 10 you will undergo a series of interesting, stimulating and diverse modules which will enable you to develop essential technological skills. This prepares you well for Year 11 where you will be expected to undertake an extended project with a practical element.

### **What skills do I need?**

A good eye for fashion and flair for colour, however new skills will be taught throughout the three years.

### **How will I be assessed?**

You will be assessed in units of work which are focussed on practical skills, an extended project work (internally assessed) as well as fashion related theory (externally assessed).

### **Where could this subject lead me to in the future?**

This leads well into A Level Fashion/Textiles taught at Alsager School. Students who are considering Fashion and Textiles as an option should be committed and hard working. The course provides excellent links into careers in fashion; designing for the stage; product and interior design and the Textile industry. It also links into further and higher educational courses.

## FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

GCSE Food Preparation is an exciting and fascinating subject, which allows you to develop your knowledge and understanding of food in a very practical way.

### What will I study?

There is a practical lesson each week which will enable you to build up skills and apply theory to food products that you make. You will learn how to make a very wide range of practical dishes from Swiss roll to shepherd's pie; Lamb tagine to profiteroles. There will also be experimental practical lessons where you can find out and test what happens if you alter the amount or type of ingredient used in a recipe. You will be required to bring ingredients for practical lessons on a weekly basis. During the course you will also find out about hygiene and nutrition. This will enable you to produce food products safely and understand how the food we eat affects our bodies and health.

### What skills do I need?

Desirable skills include: Organisation, flexibility, creativity and an interest in food. Also, the ability to think on your feet and be adaptable is helpful.

### How will I be assessed?

You can achieve a grade 9 – 1 in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.

The course assessment is as follows:-

**UNIT 1: Written Paper Exam** (50% of total GCSE) 100 marks 1 hour 45 minute exam at the end of Year 11.

**UNIT 2: Non exam assessment (NEA)** - (50% of total GCSE). This is divided into 2 tasks completed in Year 11.

Task 1 is a food investigation where you will show your understanding of a particular ingredient e.g. the best flour for making bread.

Task 2 is a Food Preparation assessment- in this task you will plan, prepare, cook and present 3 dishes.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

This subject leads well into vocational based courses related to food and catering. It may also lead to food, nutrition and catering related degree courses or into a food related apprenticeship.

Careers in the Food Industry - manufacturing, retail, product development.

Catering and the hotel industry - chef, supervisor, management.

Nutritionist or a dietician.

## FRENCH

It's a multilingual world- and contrary to popular belief - not everyone speaks English! In fact 75% of the world does not speak English. Don't get left behind. Learning French to a higher level is not only fun but will give you immense satisfaction and the opportunity to improve your understanding of another culture. A qualification in French will also open up a wide range of exciting career possibilities and give you a distinct edge in the job marketplace.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

GCSE Full Course.

Exam Board: AQA

Pupils are offered a 3 year course of study leading towards a full GCSE qualification in French

### What will I study?

- We will explore a wide range of topics such as: leisure; work experience; shopping; food and drink; tourism and environmental issues. You will learn how to react to real life situations in French, such as those which you might experience on holiday, for example seeking medical assistance, buying souvenirs, booking into accommodation, eating out etc.
- In addition to developing your basic oral skills, you will also learn to use your French more imaginatively and creatively. We will help you to improve skills which are useful in other subjects, such as presentation skills and using information technology.
- Most lessons will be interactive and a range of media will be employed. You will have the opportunity to experience a range of more intense short-term projects linked to French culture and civilisation.
- You will develop your confidence in the spoken language by means of the many facilities offered by the multi-media language lab and by working in small groups.

### What skills do I need?

Pupils will need to have enthusiasm and also the confidence to participate orally in lessons. Good memory skills are an advantage but these naturally will be developed over the three years of the course. Pupils do need to have studied French in Years 7 and 8 to be able to opt into this GCSE course.

### How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will take 3 GCSE examination papers – Reading, Writing and Listening, as well as a Speaking assessment. You will be assessed on your comprehension of dialogues as well as a variety of written materials. In the written exam, you will be tested on your ability to write spontaneously using different registers. The final grade will be made up as follows:-

**Listening - 25%    Reading – 25%    Writing – 25%    Speaking – 25%.**

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

Whichever career path you choose to pursue, the ability to speak and understand a foreign language will be viewed as a great asset by any prospective employer. You could go on to study French combined with a range of quite varied subjects such as Sciences, Law, History, Business, Art or Maths for example, at Degree Level. There is a range of career prospects in areas such as Banking, the Police, the Travel Industry, Education, Media and Communications, Retail, Sport and Leisure and Manufacturing for individuals with qualifications in French.

## GEOGRAPHY

Are you interested in the world around you? Do you want to be able to make informed decisions about where to work, live and go on holiday? Are you concerned about the environment? Do you want to develop skills you will find useful long after you have left school?

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

GCSE Geography is available for all students.

### What will I study?

This modern, up-to-date course focuses on the topics of:

**Paper 1 – Global Geographical Issues;** Tectonics, World Climate, Tropical Cyclones, Development, Urbanisation in the developing world.

**Paper 2 – UK Geographical Issues;** Coasts, Rivers, Changing Places & Changing People in the UK with 2 fieldtrips to investigate the River Goyt and a Dynamic UK City – Manchester.

**Paper 3 – Decision Making Exercise;** Focusing on Environmental Issues - People and the biosphere, Forests under threat and Consuming energy resources.

During the course you can expect to:

- Undertake 2 fieldtrips to experience first-hand research and complete fieldwork investigations of a dynamic city – Manchester and a Dynamic river, The River Goyt;
- Have the opportunity to go on an enrichment trip (previous trips include visits to Iceland and Italy);
- Head out of the classroom on a regular basis to explore the local area;
- Work creatively in groups on projects and presentations;
- Develop a variety of skills such as research, co-operation and teamwork.

### What skills do I need?

If you enjoy learning in a variety of styles and want a varied course that covers important topics that are in the news, then Geography may be for you. You need to be enthusiastic and interested in the world around you.

### How will I be assessed?

**100% exam** – broken down into end of course exams, including examinations based on two pieces of fieldwork.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

Geography is an academic subject and is highly valued by a range of employers and universities alike. You could become anything from a lawyer to a conservationist, a pilot to a sports manager. The subject's broad nature and variety mean that there are hundreds of careers that geographers move into!



## GERMAN

In Europe the first language of business is German. Think Siemens, BMW, PUMA, Mercedes-Benz, Adidas, Volkswagen, Hugo Boss, Audi. Germany has the largest economy in the European Union and the third largest in the world. It is the world's leading exporter and importer.

In today's unstable climate, business is more important than ever. Germany's economic strength equals business opportunities and those with knowledge of German will certainly edge out the competition in the jobs market.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

GCSE Full Course.

Exam Board: AQA

Pupils are offered a 3 year course of study leading towards a full GCSE qualification.

### What will I study?

In GCSE German you will not only develop your understanding of Germany and German speaking countries, but also broaden your knowledge of grammar and how to apply it and more importantly increase your ability to communicate in writing and speech. You will cover topics such as: everyday activities; personal and social life; the world around us; the world of work; the international world.

### What skills do I need?

You will currently be studying German in Year 8 to be eligible for this course. GCSE German is made up of four elements; listening, reading, speaking and writing. You will need to practise your skills in all four areas. In addition, you will be expected to learn vocabulary on a regular basis therefore a good memory will really help!

### How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will take 3 GCSE examination papers – Reading, Writing and Listening, as well as a Speaking assessment. You will be assessed on your comprehension of dialogues as well as a variety of written materials. In the written exam, you will be tested on your ability to write spontaneously using different registers. The final grade will be made up as follows:

**Listening - 25%**      **Reading – 25%**      **Writing – 25%**      **Speaking – 25%.**

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

A language complements any combination of subjects and you will find it useful in almost any field of work. Popular pathways at university are German and Law, German and Business, yet we have had a student who has gone on to study German and Chemistry. The world is a much smaller place and learning a language will only enhance the other skills on your CV. As well as opening up careers in translation, interpreting and working within the EU, individuals who speak German are sought by employers such as Banking, the Police, the Travel Industry, Education, Media and Communications, Retail, Sport and Leisure and Manufacturing.

## HISTORY

Are you interested in people? Do you want to know what has motivated people in the past to create the world we live in? Choosing History will give you the opportunity to study the lives of people in the past and how their experiences affect our lives today and in the future. Interesting and exciting aspects of human life will be considered through a wide range of enjoyable learning experiences. Studying GCSE History will help you develop valuable life skills such as learning to argue, thinking analytically and evaluating different view points.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

Students will achieve a History GCSE.

### What will I study?

- You will have the opportunity to go on trips, for example a trip to Krakow to explore the impact of the Holocaust and meet a survivor.
- You will engage in individual and group research; studies of documents, artefacts and film; discussion and debate; writing activities and presentations.

**Crime and punishment in Britain c1000 to present:** You will explore the changing nature of crime and punishment through time. Why was there a sudden increase in witchcraft accusations in the 17th century? How did the words of one 18 year old help to end the death penalty in Britain? From the Middle Ages to modern computer crime and prison reform, this unit examines the changing definitions to crime and attitudes towards punishment.

**Whitechapel, c1870–1900: crime and policing:** Jack the Ripper terrorised Victorian London through a series of murders. Using sources from the time, you will explore the police mishandling of the case, poverty in the slums and try to piece together who Jack the Ripper really was.

**Early Elizabethan England 1558–88:** Queen Elizabeth I's reign has been called a "Golden Age" of England. You will study the developments in theatre, leisure time and explorations across the globe. You will analyse how Elizabeth dealt with different religious groups, plots against her and how she cultivated her image.

**Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39:** Germany lost WWI and it was devastated by the war. You will study how the people of Germany managed to slowly recover in the 1920s, only to be crushed again by the Great Depression in 1929. The Nazi party managed to play on the suffering of people and rise to power. You will also explore how the Nazis persecuted Jewish people and examine life in the Nazi Germany.

**The American West, c1835–c1895:** This is an exciting unit in which you will study the American West and the conflict between settlers and Native Americans. You will explore how different groups lived, the impact of the gold rush and exploration, through to the Battle of the Little Big Horn. You will gain an understanding of the way that different people used to live and early lawlessness.

### How will I be assessed?

This course is assessed at the end of Year 11 with three exam papers. Throughout the course, you will be assessed through regular GCSE style exam questions. You will practice writing answers in timed conditions to prepare you for your GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11.

### Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

History is an academic subject which focuses upon the study of people. Accordingly, History provides excellent preparation for any career which requires precision of thought and an ability to engage with people. This subject is regarded highly by employers and universities alike.

## **BTEC Technical Award in Information Technology (TBC)**

Information technology (IT) is transforming all aspects of the economy and society. Social media, games, music downloads, shopping, microblogging, news and movies are a part of all of our lives today. IT and the hardware and software associated with the IT industry are an integral part of nearly every major global industry. This Award complements the learning in other GCSE programmes such as Computer Science and Business. You will develop key skills that prove your aptitude in using IT tools and techniques such as using spreadsheets to analyse and model data, and gathering and combining digital assets to create an interactive product.

### **What qualifications are available within this subject?**

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in IT.

### **What will I study?**

Component 1: Exploring Uses of IT

- Digital technologies
- Connectivity, the Internet and the world wide web
- Operating online
- Application and System software
- Mobile applications (apps)
- Designing, developing and improving IT products
- Security of IT systems

Component 2: Developing a Spreadsheet Solution to Model Data

- Data modelling
- Features and uses of spreadsheets
- Spreadsheet skills and techniques
- Testing the spreadsheet solution

Component 3: Creating an Interactive Website, Multimedia product or a Game

- Product design
- Assess the requirements of a given brief for an interactive product
- Produce appropriate design for an interactive product
- Gather and prepare digital content
- Develop a digital product

### **How will I be assessed?**

The assessment consists of a written examination and two internally assessed components on Developing a Spreadsheet Solution to Model Data and Creating an Interactive Digital Product.

# MUSIC

If you enjoy: composing and performing music; learning an instrument or singing; creating music on computers or in a recording studio; learning about all types of music, including pop, rock, jazz, dance, world and classical music then our GCSE Music is the ideal subject for you.

## What will I study?

You will: develop and improve your performing skills; learn how music is constructed from initial ideas through to the finished product; learn to analyse music in a variety of styles and discover the social and historical context in which music has been composed including rock, pop, jazz, dance, world and classical music.

## What skills do I need?

You have already gained many of the basic skills needed for this course in your music lessons over the last two years.

- You have been introduced to **creating music of your own** and this is developed on the GCSE course as you choose two topics for composition. For example, this could be a popular song and a dance track, a classical piece or some world music. There is a wide choice and it can be tailored to your own musical interests and strengths.
- You have already **listened to a variety of music** in class and these skills are developed as you study some set pieces taken Instrumental, Vocal, Music for Stage and Screen as well as Fusions areas of studies.
- You enjoy **making music**, either as a soloist or in a group. The GCSE course encourages you to perform music of your own choosing and in any style, as a soloist and also in a group. To take this course, you must be able to offer at least one instrument/or voice.

## How will I be assessed?

Performing	Composing	Listening & Appraising
You will need to play one solo piece and one ensemble piece.	You will need to create two compositions.	You will sit a 90 minute written paper with questions on set works. Questions such as these are asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Name the instrument playing the solo'</li><li>• 'Give two musical reasons why you like or dislike this piece of music.'</li><li>• 'This theme is shared between two instrumental families? What are they?'</li></ul>

## Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

If you enjoyed the GCSE Music course then you can consider an:

- AS and A2 in Music
- Extended diploma in Music Technology
- AS and A2 in Performing Arts

Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience – useful if you intend to pursue, for example, drama or law.

## SPANISH

The Spanish speaking world is growing fast. In 2015, 470 million people in the world spoke Spanish. It is predicted that there will be 530 million Spanish speakers by 2050. Spanish has roughly the same number of first language speakers as English.

Although on average 16.5 million British tourists visit Spain every year, the top five Spanish-speaking nations are Mexico (120 million), Colombia (47.6 million), Spain (46.7 million), Argentina (42 million) and the USA (41.3 million). That's a lot of people speaking Spanish! Will you be one of them?

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

GCSE Full Course

Exam Board: AQA

Pupils are offered a 3 year course of study leading towards a full GCSE qualification in Spanish.

### What will I study?

In GCSE Spanish you will not only develop your understanding of el mundo hispano, but also broaden your knowledge of grammar and how to apply it and more importantly increase your ability to communicate in writing and speech. You will cover topics such as: everyday activities; personal and social life; the world around us; the world of work; the international world.

### What skills do I need?

This option is available to all pupils in Year 8 who are currently studying Spanish. You will have to practise your reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in Spanish lessons and be able to learn vocabulary regularly. You should enjoy learning Spanish in Year 8 and want to learn more.

### How will I be assessed?

At the end of Year 11 you will take 3 GCSE examination papers – Reading, Writing and Listening, as well as a Speaking assessment. You will be assessed on your comprehension of dialogues as well as a variety of written materials. In the written exam, you will be tested on your ability to write spontaneously using different registers. The final grade will be made up as follows:-

**Listening - 25%**      **Reading – 25%**      **Writing – 25%**      **Speaking – 25%.**

### Where could this subject lead me in the future?

Being skilled in the second most spoken language (after Mandarin Chinese) will enhance your opportunities of success in any number of professions from Medicine through Law and Engineering to Business. Universities all look very favourably on applicants who have studied a foreign language.

Stand out from the crowd and learn one of the most widely-used languages in the world.

## SPORTS STUDIES

From performer to pundit, the world of sport is an exciting place to be. The sports studies course is an introduction to both GCSE and BTEC PE and looks to prepare pupils for this fast-developing industry. Students will participate in a range of sports to develop their level of expertise. Students will be guided on to either the GCSE or BTEC PE course, dependent on their skills and the types of sports which they play in and out of school.

### What qualifications are available within this subject?

The two courses we are offering are:

**GCSE PE** or

**BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 First Award in Sport**

### What will I study?

**GCSE PE**

This course is a blend of both practical and theoretical PE. The practical aspect will enhance your ability in a range of activities as a performer and if you compete in a sport outside of school you may be able to use this as part of your assessed marks. There is now a stronger emphasis on the theoretical aspect of the course and in which you will cover topics such as: science and technology in sport; health and fitness; media and sponsorship.

**BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 First Award in Sport**

You will need to be prepared to take part in practical and theory lessons and assessments. This course enables students to develop skills in a more 'vocational' way to GCSE students with many of the assessments being in the form of: video performances; written assignments; presentations; information guides and posters; as well as an online examination.

### How will I be assessed?

**GCSE PE**

- **Practical 40%** - You need 3 sports, a mix of team and individual, in which you will be assessed and complete an analysis and evaluation of performance.
- **Theory 60%** - This will be examined in **two 75 minute written papers** which will include multiple choice, short and extended answer questions.

**BTEC Level 1 and Level 2 First Award in Sport**

There is a 25% external examination which is completed as an online test. The remaining 75% of the BTEC is assessed using from various forms of coursework, such as work projects, assignments and presentations.

### What skills do I need?

You need to be interested, enthusiastic and have an aptitude for the world of sport!! Do you participate in sport? Do you love watching sport? Are you keen to learn about the ins and outs of sport? If yes, yes, yes then this is the course for you. You will need to be eager to learn about different aspects and theories of sport as well as performing in a range of activities. You should ideally be participating in sport outside school.

### Where could this subject lead me in the future?

You could go on to continued education, in the form of A Levels & BTEC awards which in turn can lead to University and Higher Education. You would also be well placed to follow more 'vocational' sporting employment e.g. Coaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Development, Teaching, the Army or Sport Science.