



Alsager School

An Achieving School - A Caring Community



Options Subject Information Booklet

2024

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Year 8 Option Information Booklet 2024

This booklet provides additional information about option subjects. These subjects complement the core curriculum, which all students study in year 9.

On March 15th, electronic forms will be sent out asking for your child’s choices. They will need to select two options, plus a “reserve” choice. In almost all cases students will get their first two choices, if I need to use the “reserve” option I will talk to you and your child about this. The form should be returned by March 20th.

Languages:

If your child currently studies two languages, they can continue with both, but will need to select one of the languages as an option. All children continue to study at least one modern foreign language.

Design and Technology:

Pupils can only opt for one subject from Resistant Materials, Graphic Products and Fashion/Textiles. This is because they all lead to the same qualification – GCSE Design and Technology. The schemes of learning and products made in each of these pathways are different, so please read the details carefully.

Food Preparation and Nutrition and Engineering lead to different qualifications and can therefore be studied in addition.

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ART

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.
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?

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

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

The Art GCSE course is a fantastic subject to take as it gives you lots of transferable work skills that will help you in the future working 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mrs L Donathy (Deputy Curriculum Leader Art, Design and Technology)

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?

GCSE Business Studies (Edexcel)

What will I study?

The course has 2 Themes. Theme 1 looks at the impacts on small businesses and start-up businesses, theme 2 looks at impacts on growing businesses and larger businesses.

Some of the topics we will look at are:

- **Recruitment** e.g. how can a business decide on who to employ?
- **Marketing** e.g. what pricing strategy should a business use?
- **Business Ownership** e.g. what advantages would being in a partnership bring?
- **Communication** e.g. how best can employees communicate with each other?
- **Managing stock** e.g. interpreting bar chart stock graphs.
- **Business calculations** e.g. break-even, interest, profit & Average Rate of Return calculations.
- **Exchange rates** e.g. how does a weak pound affect importers & exporters?
- **Interest rates** e.g. how will low interest rates affect spending in the economy?

What skills do I need?

You'll need to be able to memorise and apply your knowledge of key terms for the exams at the end of the course. Good written skills are required.

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?

100% Exam (2 exams, each 105 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 Business or Economics) or go straight into employment. The skills developed on the courses (group work, 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Miss K Potts (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Communications)

Mrs S Hollins-Wright (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Communications)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Cambridge National Certificate in Child Development Level 1/2 is an exciting and interesting 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 offers progression to A-Level, further education or on to an apprenticeship.

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 through a variety of different tasks and activities such as possible work with virtual babies, research activities and looking at real life situations and 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 exam is worth 40% of the marks and covers Unit-R057 - Health and Wellbeing for Child Development.

Coursework is worth 60% and covers two units:

Unit-R058 - Create a safe environment and understand the nutritional needs of children from birth to 5 years.

Unit-R059 - Understand the Development of a Child from 1 to 5 years.

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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mrs L Howard (Curriculum Leader)

Mrs R Leonard (Subject Teacher)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science involves learning about programming a computer system. The course requires a degree of mathematical and logical design skills that enable the breaking down of complex problems into simpler sub-problems. All the students will continue their experience of learning to program within Python and will then be expected to write their own code to resolve specific problems set by the examination board.

Students will learn how a computer works, they will study both binary and hexadecimal number systems and cover both hardware and software concepts. The lessons are either practical -predominately programming or theory learning concepts.

There is a national shortage of programmers and computer scientists and qualifications within this area are prized by employers. It is important that the country that invented the computer and that saw the world's first programmer (Ada Lovelace) continues to develop young people capable of building the software and inventing the products that so many industries and businesses rely upon.

What qualifications are available within this subject?

GCSE Computer Science

What will I study?

The course is assessed in 2 examinations (each worth 50%)

Examination 1 - 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

Examination 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic

How will I be assessed?

The assessment consists of two examinations (worth 50% each) one written and one practical. The practical paper will be sat on a computer using the python language.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mrs S Hollins-Wright (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Communications)

Mr R Steed (Subject Teacher)

Mr J Powell (Subject Teacher)

DANCE

GCSE Dance is an exciting and imaginative new course where students are able to delve into their creative natures and let their imaginations run free. Students will discover a range of dance performance skills, choreographic techniques, and professional work to inspire them to produce their own dance pieces.

What will I study?

Students will work through two course components:

Component 1 - Performance and Choreography (Practical)

Students will learn four set phrases set by the exam board, performers must demonstrate two out of the four, showcasing their performance skills. Students will perform a duet/trio dance which must be supported by a programme note.

Students will choreograph a solo or group dance, which they can choose whether to perform in themselves. A programme note must be included, and any dance style can be chosen, as long as it meets the exam board criteria.

Component 2 - Dance Appreciation (Theory)

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performance skills. Students will critically appreciate and evaluate their own work along with professional anthology dance works.

What skills do I need?

Students should have an interest in dance, be open to explore new dance concepts and ideas. Students should be excited by performance and willing to try and share new ideas. Taking part in an extra-curricular dance club regularly outside of school will no doubt enhance your final grade. It is important to note that there will be an expectation that students commit to additional rehearsals afterschool and at lunchtime in the lead up to assessments. This course requires drive and commitment, as well as enthusiasm and passion.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed throughout the course both internally and externally.

Component 1 - 60% of course marked internally and moderated by AQA.

Component 2 - 40% of course, a written 1 hour 30 minutes exam.

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

This course is an excellent option for those wanting to pursue Dance or Performing Arts, with pathways leading to further studies at dance colleges, professional company employment, theatre work or teaching. Dance develops confidence, teamwork, and negotiation skills, which are valuable in all career industries.

Who should I contact for more details?

Miss A Taylor (Deputy Curriculum Leader, PE, and Performing Arts)

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY – 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. 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

What will I study?

The course is practically based and includes core D&T theory as well as specialist Graphic Products 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 practise NEA 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?

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?

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

50% NEA (Coursework Project)

50% Written exam at the end of year 11

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

This course will give you the skills to follow 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mr W Potts (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Art, Design and Technology)

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY – RESISTANT MATERIALS

Our Resistant Material's 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

What will I study?

The course is practically based and includes core D&T theory as well as specialist Resistant Materials 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 practise NEA 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?

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?

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

50% NEA (Coursework Project)

50% Written exam at the end of year 11

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

This course will give you the skills to follow 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mr W Potts (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Art, Design and Technology)

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY – FASHION/TEXTILES

Fashion/Textiles is a practical-based subject which requires students to apply knowledge and understanding of how fashion garments, textile products and furnishings are designed, 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 qualifications are available within this subject?

The Edexcel Fashion/Textiles course will form a component part of the full Design and Technology GCSE

What will I study?

The course is practically based and includes core D&T theory as well as specialist Textiles 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 practise NEA 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, extended project work (internally assessed) as well as fashion related theory (externally assessed).

50% NEA (Coursework Project).

50% Written exam at the end of year 11.

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

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 – including A-Level Fashion and A-Level Product Design.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mrs L Howard (Curriculum Leader, Art, Design and Technology)

Mr W Potts (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Art, Design and Technology)

DRAMA

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 a devising 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mr M Blythe (Curriculum Leader, PE, and Performing Arts)

Miss A Taylor (Deputy Curriculum Leader, PE, and Performing Arts)

ENGINEERING DESIGN

Intended as an introduction to Engineering, this qualification allows students to develop skills and knowledge which will be of use generally and as part of a career path leading to further technical or academic engineering qualifications. The 'Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design' will provide a clear progression route to possible careers in Engineering, Mechanics, Design and Manufacturing via Further Education and or Apprenticeships.

What qualifications are available within this subject?

OCR Level 1 and 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 the commencement of Unit R039 coursework **Communicating Designs in year 10.**

During year 10, students will be given a set project brief by OCR which will involve the re-design and development of a product to be completed by May.

In year 11, you will complete a second piece of coursework R040 **Design, evaluation, and modelling.** Students are given a set project by OCR where you will evaluate an existing product, develop a new design and model it. Throughout the course, 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**. A significant part of this course requires the student to demonstrate **hand drawing skills** and their ability to use their literacy skills through the use of ICT. **60% of this course is coursework and therefore requires the student to be motivated in completing coursework to demanding deadlines and the ability of students to complete work through homework and independent study.**

How will I be assessed?

The Cambridge National Certificate is divided into three units. (Two coursework units worth 30% each, and an exam unit worth 40%). The exam is one hour 15 minutes in duration. This exam tests the student on their knowledge of design briefs, design specifications and user requirements.

The two other units are internally assessed and moderated. They assess students' ability to use product analysis and research, develop and present engineering designs, plan and model a product from a drawing provided by the board to set tolerances.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mr W Potts (Deputy Curriculum Leader, Art, Design and Technology)

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition 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?

You will be required to bring ingredients for practical lessons on a fortnightly basis, this will enable you to build your preparation and cooking skills. You will learn how to make a wide range of dishes from Swiss roll to Shepherd's Pie, Chicken Kiev's to Profiteroles. There will also be experimental practical lessons where you investigate and test what happens if you alter the amount or type of ingredient or method used in a set recipe. You will be required to plan and create dishes independently demonstrating high skills. During the course you will study hygiene and nutrition and the theory element of the course will enable you to produce food products safely and understand how the food we eat affects our bodies and health for lifelong choices.

What skills do I need?

Desirable skills include enjoyment of working in a kitchen, possess good analytical and organisation skills, flair, creativity and an interest in food preparation and nutrition. The ability to problem solve, adapt, refine, and modify your ideas is a key part of the course.

How will I be assessed?

The course is structured as follows:

Unit 1: Written Paper Exam (50% of total GCSE) 100 marks exam at the end of year 11. With 20 multiple choice questions.

Unit 2: Non exam assessment (NEA) – (50% of total GCSE). This is divided into 2 tasks which will be completed in year 11.

NEA 1 - A Food Investigation is a short project where you will research, test, and analyse an ingredient or method e.g. the best flour for making bread.

NEA 2 - In this task you will independently plan, prepare, cook, and present 3 dishes in 3 hours.

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

The subject leads well into our Health and Social care qualification as we further study Nutrition and health and safety at A-Level. It also leads well onto to food, nutrition and catering related degree courses or vocational based courses related to food or into a food related apprenticeship.

Careers in the Food Industry – Restaurant owners, manufacturing, retail, or product development.

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

Catering for events and festivals and independent street food providers.

Nutritionist or a dietician or personal trainer.

Nursing and Care profession.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mrs L Howard (Curriculum Leader, Art, Design and Technology)

Mrs C Smith (Subject Teacher)

FRENCH – Do you want to be a dual Linguist?

If you currently study 2 languages, you can continue both into year 9 by choosing one as an option now

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 build on the foundations of grammar, vocabulary and linguistic competence covered in year 7 and year 8. We will also explore a wide range of topics such as: Identity and relationships with others; Education and work; Customs, festivals, and celebrations; Celebrity culture; Travel and tourism; and Media and technology. In addition to developing your language 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.

What skills do I need?

Pupils will need to have enthusiasm and 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 year 7 and year 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 – Listening, Reading, and Writing, as well as a Speaking assessment. This is a new specification which offers you the opportunity to develop your language skills to your full potential, equipping you with knowledge and confidence to use both in and outside of the classroom. 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Miss R Howlett (Curriculum Leader, Communications)

SPANISH – Do you want to be a dual Linguist?

If you currently study 2 languages, you can continue both into year 9 by choosing one as an option now

The Spanish-speaking world is growing quickly. In 2015, 470 million people in the world spoke Spanish, but 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.

On average, 16.5 million British tourists visit Spain every year, yet 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: Edexcel

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

What will I study?

We will build on the foundations of phonics, vocabulary, grammar, and linguistic competence covered in year 7 and year 8. We will also explore a wide range of topics such as: my personal world; lifestyle and wellbeing; my neighbourhood; media and technology; studying and my future; and travel and tourism. In addition to developing your language skills, you will also develop your understanding of el mundo hispano. 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 Spanish culture.

What skills do I need?

You will currently be studying Spanish in year 8 to be eligible for this course. Pupils will need to have enthusiasm and also the confidence to participate orally in lessons. You will be expected to learn vocabulary on a regular basis therefore a good memory will really help, but this will naturally develop over the three years of the course.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of year 11 you will take 3 GCSE examination papers – Listening, Reading, and Writing, as well as a Speaking assessment. This is a new specification which offers you the opportunity to develop your language skills to your full potential, equipping you with knowledge and confidence to use both in and outside of the classroom. 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?

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 to Law, as well as from Engineering through 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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Miss R Howlett (Curriculum Leader, Communications)

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 AQA 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 at secondary school.

- You have been introduced to **creating music of your own** in class 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?

Listening & Appraising Music 40%: There is a listening examination at the end of the course based on four areas of study: Western classical tradition 1650-1910, Popular music, Traditional music, Western classical tradition since 1910.

Pupils will complete a 90-minute listening and analysis exam.

Performing 30%: Pupils produce both a solo and ensemble performance during the course. This is assessed by the teacher and moderated by the exam board. There is also the option to use the recording studio and produce a multi-track or sequenced recording instead of one instrumental performance.

Composing 30%: Pupils produce two compositions which are assessed by the teacher and moderated by the exam board. One composition is a 'free' composition. You can compose in any style or genre and for any instrument using music technology, if preferred. The other composition brief is set by the exam board and will be related to one strand of learning.

Where could this subject lead me to in the future?

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.

Who should I contact for more details?

Mr M Blythe (Curriculum Leader, PE, and Performing Arts)

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 Cambridge National 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 **Cambridge National in Sport Science**

What will I study?

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.

You will need to be prepared to take part in practical and theory lessons and assessments. You will learn about fitness, anatomy, and physiology.

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 should ideally be participating in sport outside school.

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.

Cambridge National in Sport Science

There is a 40% external examination which is completed as a written paper. The remaining 60% of the course is assessed through course of two units, internally assessed.

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, the Army, or teaching.

Who should I contact for more details?

Miss A Taylor (Deputy Curriculum Leader, PE, and Performing Arts)