

GCSE Courses

Bramhall High School

September 2008

English is part of the core curriculum in Years 10 and 11 and is therefore a compulsory element of Key Stage 4 Assessment. Your time-tabled English lessons fall into two parts, **English** and **English Literature** and will result in two GCSE qualifications. The courses run together and will help you to develop communication skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing.

In **ENGLISH** you will be expected to read widely for pleasure and information and you will study both literary and non-literary texts in detail. Reading will be the basis of much of the language work as it has been in previous years, and will include a wide range of texts written both before and during the Twentieth Century. There is also a media component which often includes the analysis of the 'moving image' eg film.

For **ENGLISH LITERATURE** you will also study a wide range of texts written both before and during the Twentieth Century. You will be expected to show close understanding of **POETRY**, **DRAMA** (including Shakespeare's work) and **PROSE** (novels or short stories) and make comparisons between some of the texts you read.

The choice of texts to be studied will be made by the teacher and will take into account the interests and talents of the group. The course is designed to make sure you encounter many different types of writing, such as autobiographies and non-fiction texts.

You will develop your practical skills through writing, speaking and listening and you will have plenty of opportunity to express your thoughts, feelings and opinions in a wide variety of styles. You will have an opportunity to use information technology and can submit word-processed work, although at least one assignment will have to be handwritten.

GCSE Examination Board: AQA

In **ENGLISH**, coursework assessment will account for 40% of the marks and 60% will be by examination. The coursework element is divided into 20% on oral skills and 20% on reading and writing skills. **ENGLISH LITERATURE** will be assessed by 30% coursework and 70% examination. Certain pieces of coursework undertaken as part of the **LITERATURE** syllabus will also be submitted for assessment in **ENGLISH**.

Five pieces of written coursework will be submitted in total, one for each of the following categories:

- Shakespeare
- Prose Study
- Media
- Original Writing
- Modern Drama

Entries for the end-of-course examination will be divided into two tiers:-

Foundation Tier	covering Grades G - C
Higher Tier	covering Grades D - A*

Choices re tier of entry will be made after Christmas in Year 11. The choice will be based on standard of work and is not related to the group in which the student has been taught.

NB Most students will be taught in broadly mixed ability groups with extension groups as appropriate depending on the academic profile of the year group.

GCSE MEDIA STUDIES (Year 9 only)

Examination Board: AQA

Media Studies will be integrated into the study of English and English Literature during Years 9 and 10. Whilst the subject is in many ways discrete, particularly in terms of the way it is assessed, all three subjects are interrelated. Students will find develop and strengthen a wide range of analytical and creative skills over the three years.

Media Studies is closely linked with cultural studies. It encourages students to be analytical and to develop a wider understanding of the business world around them. The intention is that they will become critical learners. In addition to this it will supplement and enhance their skills for the English Paper 1 exam.

There is a strong link made between theoretical understanding and creation of media products. On every coursework assignment, students must:

- show knowledge and understanding of specialist media terminology and the impact of mass media organisations on our lives
- analyse and evaluate texts, considering the representation of individuals, groups events and issues
- demonstrate production skills, e.g. scripting, storyboarding, etc.
- communicate their work accurately and with clarity.

Final GCSE Grades will be based on the following forms of assessment:

1. Centre-assessed Coursework (worth 50% of the total marks). This comprises:

- Three assignments of 700-800 words (25%)
- The Practical Production (a fully realised media text created by the student) with a supporting account of 700-800 words (25%).

2. The externally assessed Controlled Test (worth 50% of the marks):

- Four tasks on a topic prescribed by AQA (the Popular Press for 2010) are undertaken in exam conditions. The tasks must be completed in a total of three hours.
- Candidates receive the tasks and relevant material in advance of the test (around April/May) and are given time to prepare. This preparation takes the form of individual research in the style of a case study. No teaching is allowed once the tasks have been issued.
- Students may be entered for Foundation of Higher tasks depending on their progress during Years 9 and 10.

Syllabus

The students will study for AQA Modular Maths GCSE in years 10 and 11. This will entail 3 modules which are currently planned as follows.

1. Data Handling exam – Summer of Year 10 (2009) 18%
3. Number/algebra exam - Spring of Year 10 (2009) 27%
5. Terminal exam of 2 papers in summer of year 11 (2010) 55%

Modules 2 and 4 no longer exist.

45% of the GCSE is completed by the end of year 10.

Each module examines separate elements of the curriculum. We will let you know of specific dates in due course but holidays or breaks should be avoided during term time of the GCSE course.

After SATs have been completed in summer of year 9, we start the students on a component of their GCSE syllabus based on number after completing a short investigational task.

Level of entry

The students are entered at Foundation or Higher level and the class teacher will confirm this with them. Depending on how they do on the course, it is possible to change level up to their final exam in the summer of year 11 but most will not need to. Each module generates GCSE points at whatever level. The entry level of the final exam determines the GCSE grades available.

Higher – grades A* to D; Foundation – C to G

Equipment

We would appreciate it if students had proper equipment at all times both in lessons and for any exams. It is good practice if pupils use their own equipment in lessons and at home so that it is familiar to them in exams. This is especially true of calculators and the exam boards state that it is the responsibility of the student to provide a calculator of their own. A scientific calculator with a fraction key, Trig functions, and statistics functions is required. The school shop sells calculators. It wastes time and causes disruption when any student arrives without books or proper equipment. Every student must have pen, pencil, ruler, scientific calculator. An angle measurer and compasses are also advisable, students can buy these from the school shop.

It is essential students come properly equipped to their GCSE exams.

“DOUBLE” SCIENCE (OCR Gateway)

You will study for two GCSEs over two years in 10 lessons per fortnight. You will cover the following units of work:

GCSE	Units (66.7 %) January / June exams	Coursework (33.3%)
Core	B1 Understanding Ourselves B2 Understanding our environment C1 Carbon Chemistry C2 Rocks and Metals P1 Energy for the Home P2 Living for the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can do tasks(practical skills) • Report on Science in the News
Additional	B3 Living and Growing B4 It's a Green World C3 The Periodic Table C4 Chemical Economics P3 Forces for Transport P4 Radiation for Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Study • Data Task • Practical Skills

This will give you a good grounding for science in the workplace and further study of science at college.

SEPARATE SCIENCES (OCR Gateway)

You will study the three separate sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics and be awarded three separate GCSEs. This will be studied in four lessons per fortnight for each specialist subject (12 Science lessons per fortnight).

GCSE	Units (66.7 %) June Exams	Coursework (33.3%)
Separate Sciences	Core and additional units + B5 The Living Body B6 Beyond the Microscope C5 How Much? C6 Chemistry Out There P5 Space for Reflection P6 Electricity for Gadgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 items of coursework from the formats above (core and/or additional)

This will give you an excellent grounding for further science study at A-Level.

VOCATIONAL SCIENCE: (OCR nationals)

These qualifications specifically aim to:

- develop learner's knowledge and understanding of the science sector
- develop learner's skills, knowledge and understanding in contexts that are directly relevant to employment situations, thereby enhancing their employability within the science sector
- develop learner's ability to work autonomously and effectively in a science context
- enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of science, and demonstrate the skills needed to participate in the operation and development of real science organisations
- encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that Learners will need to access further or higher education programmes or occupational training on a full-time or part-time basis
- encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that learners will need to enter employment or enhance their current employment status
- promote interaction between employers, centres and learners by relating teaching and assessment to real organisations.

How is the course assessed?

All units are centre-assessed and externally moderated by OCR. There are no timetabled exams for this qualification; candidates may complete units at a time that suits the centre. The full award and units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. The equivalent of 4 GCSEs (up to A*) are available by the end of year 11.

MODERN LANGUAGES

Head of Department : Mr D Nuttall

A Modern Foreign Language is studied by all students who do double or separate science. You may choose either French or German, or opt for both languages if you wish, on the recommendation of your teachers.

Emphasis is placed on the use of authentic materials. You listen to tapes of native speakers and become familiar with a wide range of printed material in the foreign language. You are expected to talk freely in the language on a range of topics and to "survive" in a variety of situations. Practice written work takes a variety of forms. In listening and reading comprehension you are expected to make your responses often in the foreign language. The use of dictionaries is encouraged both for classwork and homework. You will need to equip yourself with a reasonably sized one. The 'Collins' pocket dictionary is an excellent choice.

Students may have an opportunity to participate in exchange visits organised by staying with a family in France (Nozeroy) or Germany (Bad Windsheim). There may also be opportunities for exchange visits organised by the school.

GCSE Examination Board : AQA

In the final examinations you will be tested in each of the following skills, - listening, speaking, and reading and you will be entered for the Higher tier (grades A* - D), or the Foundation tier (grades C - G) in each of these skills respectively.

For the assessment of your writing skills, you will submit 3 short pieces of written work (between 50 and 250 words each, depending on your ability). The topics are chosen from a list provided by the exam board, and at least one piece must be produced in class under controlled test conditions.

Each of the 4 skills carries 25% of the total mark.

Design and Technology: **RESISTANT MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY: AQA**

This course is concerned with the activity of designing and making which will be delivered through WOOD, METAL and PLASTICS. You will use your designing and drawing skills to be able to communicate your thoughts and ideas into projects that will prepare you as a foundation for your final coursework project during year 11.

The main aim is to give you the competence and confidence to identify, examine and solve practical problems. This will be done using a variety of approaches, materials and modern and traditional methods of skilled manufacture. You will make artefacts using hand and machine skills in the resistant materials, so applying knowledge and understanding to the relevant processes. During the foundation year 10, you will investigate the real world of industry and consider mass/batch production techniques.

The coursework project worth 60% of the final examinations, is an integrated design and make activity which is individually designed by you and should result in a usable and useful product. In short, you design and make what you want!!

The written paper will test your knowledge of designing and making in wood, metal and plastics. However, a help preparation sheet will be issued to you in March during year 11 so that you are able to research the design area that is to be examined. For further information refer to: Mr Bestall.

Design and Technology: **GRAPHIC PRODUCTS: AQA**

This course is a natural follow-on if you enjoy your graphical designing work by hand or using computer that you have done at Key Stage 3. If you select this option you will work in a base that is like a Design Studio, and you will be part of a team where ideas are drawn, developed, examined and evaluated.

You communicate thoughts by experimenting with different styles of drawing and by using different techniques and materials. As part of your foundation you will be formally taught to complete certain geometrical and technical drawings. You will also be set topics that will prepare you for your coursework folder which will include:

- * specifying and analysing a design problem and brief
- * recording collected data, books, contacts, letters, graphs
- * drawing out ideas in different styles
- * evaluating and developing those ideas
- * presenting your finished solution as a model or a series of top quality drawings
- * evaluating the finished presentation by getting the opinion of others

The coursework project worth 60% of the final GCSE examination will be based on using graphical presentation and production techniques associated with the area of study. The subject will contain Sketching, Pictorial drawing, Working drawing, Information drawing, Lettering, developments in Packaging, Computer Graphics and materials. All based on the industrial applications.

The written paper will test your knowledge and graphical ability.

The use of the computer is there as a tool, just like the pencil or the photo-copier, to enlarge an image that you require to trace. The areas of study will be based on:

- Product Graphics, which involves packaging, advertising, printing and the consumer
- Computer Graphics
- Geometrical drawing skills

The course is accepted by all local Colleges of FE for their Foundation Courses in Art & Design.

Design and Technology: **ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS: AQA**

This course aims to closely simulate current industrial practice.

The GCSE electronics products course aims to give students an understanding of the most widely used electronic circuits. Both analog and digital circuits will be studied. A study of individual electronic components will be made, such as; transistors, resistors, diodes and many others including TTL and CMOS digital networks. The manufacture of an aesthetically pleasing and functional enclosure will also be a key feature.

Each student will be asked to produce a design folder along with a useful electronic product in response to a design brief.

It is required that each student will rely upon skills developed in maths, science, art, resistant materials and other subjects to ensure a functional end product of high quality.

Each student will have the opportunity to explore the environmental impact of their product and any manufacturing hazards relating to health and safety in the workplace.

There may also be an opportunity to design and manufacture printed circuit boards.

Candidates for this course should have an interest in 'Hi-tech' and be willing to understand some of the underlying theory. They should be able to work accurately and have an 'eye for detail'. Candidates should also be aware that all practical work is supported by a sound theoretical knowledge of electronics which is also studied within this option.

The assessment criteria are: 60%-coursework 40%-examination.

For further information refer to Mr Cope.

Design And Technology : **TEXTILES AQA**

The syllabus is designed to focus on decorative textiles furnishings which enhance indoor and outdoor spaces and environments. The scheme of assessment consists of two components :-

Designing Skills – Students will be taught:

- to develop and use design briefs, detailed specifications and criteria in relation to product development;
- to consider their own health and safety and that of makers, manufacturers, individual users and society at large;
- to consider an increasing range of users of products and different societies in relation to their differing needs and values;
- to design for manufacturing in quantity;
- to plan for quality control and quality assurance when designing products and to be aware of the difference;

- to generate design proposals against stated design criteria, and to modify their proposals in the light of on-going analysis, evaluation and product development;
- to use graphic techniques and ICT, including CAD to generate, develop, model and communicate design proposals;
- to match materials and components with tools, equipment and processes, taking account of critical dimensions and tolerances when deciding how to manufacture the product;

Making Skills – Students will be taught:

- to match materials and components with tools, equipment and processes to produce quality products;
- to use tools and equipment safely, accurately and efficiently to achieve an appropriate fit, finish and reliable functioning in products that match their specifications;
- to manufacture products singly and in quantity, including the practical application of quality control and quality assurance techniques;
- to use computer-aided manufacture (CAM) in single item production and in batch or volume production;

Design And Technology: **FOOD TECHNOLOGY AQA**

The course encourages students to demonstrate their design and technology capability. It requires candidates to combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products.

Final examination 40%	-	2 Tiers: Foundation and Higher
Coursework 60%	-	One project (40-50 hours supervised time)

- Analysing and evaluating processes and products.
- Focused tasks to develop and demonstrate techniques.
- Developing design ideas to produce a new food product.
- Industrial practices required to produce food safely, efficiently and in commercial quantities.
- Considering moral, cultural and environmental issues relevant to food technology within industry.

Students must use a wide range of communication, graphical and IT skills to convey ideas clearly and effectively.

ICT (Short Course)

Head of Department : Mr J Longworth

This course will provide an opportunity for all students to be considered for entry for ICT short course GCSE.

Bramhall High School recognises that ICT is becoming increasingly important in students and adults modern lives. It is not surprising that employers, colleges and universities expect young people to develop high levels of skill and understanding in the appropriate uses of ICT before they leave school.

The ICT GCSE short course encourages students to investigate the uses of ICT to solve a variety of problems faced by businesses and groups every day. Students will be expected to acquire competence in the use of a variety of software packages including:

- Spreadsheets
- Databases
- Desktop publishing
- Graphical manipulation

The majority of the learning is based on the practical use and application of ICT to develop solutions to a number of problems set by the examination board.

The course will:

- Develop competence in using ICT to solve problems
- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of the uses of ICT and its capability
- Provide opportunities for you to practice precise and accurate communication in a variety of media

Students of all abilities can develop their interest in ICT through this course and use it as an opportunity to create a strong foundation for further study into ICT.

GCSE Examination Board: AQA

The course assessment is weighted heavily towards practical and investigative work. In the final assessment, 50% of the marks are awarded for your coursework in which you will complete and assignment set by the exam board. In this assignment you must develop a number of solutions to problems set. The remaining 50% of the final assessment is based on a written exam taken at the end of the course. The examination is differentiated according to ability. After the mock examination in Year 11, you may be entered for the paper appropriate for either the A*-D or C-G grade ranges.

All 'Vocational' students will study for a full GCSE in ICT

Coursework is a very important part of this course

The course will comprise of three distinct parts:

1. Assignment – this section is set by the examination board and tests the students' abilities to solve problems using ICT.
2. Project – students are able to choose their own project based around a small company or club. Students will use the skills and problem solving abilities developed in Year 10 to develop ICT for their company or club.
3. Examination – this will test the students' knowledge of ICT. There is one exam which is one and a half hours in length.

National Curriculum

The information communication technology GCSE covers the National Curriculum Targets for ICT and beyond.

This course is concerned with the development of students' ability to solve problems using Information Communications Technology. The technology will be used to collect, store manipulate and transmit information.

Homework

With a large element of this course being a practical nature, the term homework may be deceiving. The students will be expected to spend time after school both developing their skills on machines and completing portfolio/project work.

Some of the homework will be theory based or research work. They will also be expected to use homework time for the designing of project work.

Assessment

The course assignment is weighted as follows:

Assignment	30%
Project	30%
Examination	40%
Total	100%

GCSE Examination Board : AQA

Syllabus A : General

The syllabus consists of

Coursework	60% of total marks
Final Examination	40% of total marks

Coursework Requirements:

A minimum of 2, maximum of 4 coursework assignments to be exhibited plus examination work. At Bramhall we usually achieve 4 pieces of coursework (including the mock exam work) during the course.

All assignments consists of

- Preparatory Studies/Drawings from observation
- Experimental and developmental work
- Evidence of the study of artwork from one or more historical or cultural sources
- One or more outcomes (final pieces of work)

All students are required to produce artwork from at least two of the following areas of study :-

- Painting and Drawing
- Three-dimensional work/Ceramics
- Printmaking
- Graphics
- Textiles

All students can use IT in their work at any level/stage of the designing process.

All students must experience original art work first hand - i.e. they must visit an art gallery to study works in connection with their own work. The department takes the Yr 10 group to the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester in their first term of the course and will take part in various workshops and engage with the current exhibitions.

Final Examination

- The examination is set by AQA. Students respond to ONE of a number of starting points from a selection in their chosen option.
- The exam paper will be issued to students 4 weeks before the exam sessions to allow preparation and research.
- The examination takes place during ten hours of supervised time, including a two hour starting session. The remaining 8 hours to be completed in lesson time and/or other times that the school can allocate.
- The examination sessions usually begin during March.

Each student is required to exhibit their examination work and a selection of coursework before official study leave commences - usually in early May. Once the exhibitions are on display and have been moderated the department puts on an exhibition evening so that other members of staff, parents and governors can see for themselves all the hard work the students have put in to their work.

The coursework and examination are marked internally and verified by a moderator, an employee of the examination board, who visits the school for this purpose in early June.

Objectives

There are 4 objectives and they all have equal weighting - this means to do well, students need to show that ALL FOUR have been covered in every assignment

- AO1 Record observations, experiences and ideas in forms that are appropriate to intentions;
- AO2 Analyse and evaluate images, objects and artefacts showing understanding of context;
- AO3 Develop and explore ideas using media, processes and resources, reviewing, modifying and refining work as it progresses;
- AO4 Present a personal response, realising intentions and making informed connections with the work or others.

Assignments of work will be planned to cover all these objectives and this is why your teachers will require you to study the work of other artists and to experiment with techniques and processes which may not already be familiar to you.

Key Skills

The department will endeavour wherever possible to offer each student the opportunity to demonstrate and generate evidence of attainment in aspects of the Key Skills:

- Application of number
- Communication
- Information technology

And the wider skills of:

- Improving own Learning and Performance
- Working with Others
- Problem-Solving

The acquisition and demonstration of ability in these 'wider' Key Skills is deemed highly desirable (especially for entry to Higher Education), but they do not form part of the Key Skills Qualification.

You will be discouraged from copying pictures from books and magazines because you do not get any credit for this, however much you like doing it. You will however be encouraged to work in the style of other artists or be influenced by their work and ideas.

Each assignment of work will take several weeks, possibly months to complete and will be based on a theme. If you are to succeed at a reasonable level in this examination it is important you work consistently - even at home, to develop ideas and designs. Homework therefore is constant, as you can always develop and refine sketches and ideas further.

You will need at least a constant supply of sketch books and a folder to keep your work in. The art department has a supply of these basic items available each year at cost price. Also we expect each student to bring to every lesson the 'bare essentials' for work - namely a selection of graded pencils, eraser, biro and the current sketch pad or prep work.

BUSINESS SUBJECTS Head of Department : Mr C Kendrew

We offer two different GCSE options to cater for the needs of different students

- **GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES**
- **GCSE BUSINESS & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

This is an academic GCSE course suited to the more able student. Students need to have good English skills, both reading and writing and be able to grasp new concepts and ideas. They also need to understand how businesses operate in a practical setting and be able to apply the knowledge they acquire to differing business situations.

Examination Board : CCEA/ICAAE

The syllabus consists of
Coursework 25% of total marks
Final Examination 75% of total marks

This specification has been developed to:

- provide a rigorous yet **flexible** programme and promote a **student-centred** and practical approach;
- enable students to understand the dynamics of business activity and the influence this has on decision-making processes within a business;
- encourage students to develop independent thinking to solve problems;
- encourage students to develop decision-making skills.

The **subject content** is divided into five units of study:

- Unit 1 - Business and its environment
- Unit 2 - Human Resources
- Unit 3 - Finance and Accounting
- Unit 4 - Marketing
- Unit 5 - Production.

This specification enables students from a wide ability range to demonstrate achievement. There are **two tiers of entry** - Foundation and Higher. Target grades for the two tiers are C - G and A* - D respectively. To obtain an award students must complete the terminal examination (75%) and submit a coursework portfolio (25%)

The **terminal examination** is two hours long and the examination paper will be based on a pre-issued externally set context. The examination will consist of either a combination of a short answer section and structured questions (Foundation) or structured questions only (Higher). The terminal examination will be externally marked.

Students completing the **coursework portfolio** will be required to submit a portfolio of work that shows evidence of individual research. The portfolio will contain one investigative assignment of approximately 2500 - 3000 words, which will focus on a particular unit of work. In practice, this has usually been based on Marketing. The portfolio will be internally marked and externally moderated.

The Business department has developed a Learning Space via the school website that is available on the Virtual Learning Environment using the classroom tab. This area contains

many of the resources used in lessons and also all the taskssheets used for the coursework. There are also revision exercises for students to use.

The exam board also have a very useful website – www.icaa.com – which contains some excellent resources for revision purposes. The qualification is G37 GCSE Business Studies.

GCSE BUSINESS & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

This is a more practical GCSE course suited to the student who prefers a more kinaesthetic and hands on approach to learning. It has a strong ICT element to it covering many of the ICT applications used in the modern office environment. It stills requires students to have good English skills but also requires a good base level of ICT skills.

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

The syllabus consists of

Coursework 25% of total marks

Final Practical Computer Examination 35% of total marks

Final Written Examination 40% of total marks

This specification has been developed to give students an understanding of:

- the systems of communication that are used within business and support business
- how information and data is processed through these systems to ensure information and data being carried is reliable and makes sense
- how people know what is going on so they know what is expected of them and what to do

The **subject content** is divided into five units of study:

Unit 1 – Communication Systems

Unit 2 - Data Gathering, Recording and Presentation Systems

Unit 3 - Money Transfer Systems

Unit 4 - Constraints and Influences on Systems

This specification enables students from a wide ability range to demonstrate achievement. There are **two tiers of entry** - Foundation and Higher. Target grades for the two tiers are C - G and A* - D respectively. To obtain an award students must complete the both the written terminal examination (40%), the practical computer examination (35%) and submit a coursework portfolio (25%).

The coursework is an investigation in to communication in an actual business environment. Students look at the existing situation, analyse its strengths and weaknesses and then suggest improvements where possible. Assessment of this piece of work requires a judgement by the teacher of whether a student has fulfilled one of 36 individual criteria in their investigation. This work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

DRAMA

Head of Department: Mr R Bailey

The core of the course is based on improvisation work during classroom drama sessions and two written portfolios. There is a presentation devised by drama students for community groups outside school during the third term, and in the fifth term, during Year 11, drama groups prepare a Final Presentation for performance before an external examiner.

GCSE Examination Board: EDEXCEL

The assessment is based upon the following mark allocation:

Paper 1 Unit 1 - Drama Exploration - (30%)

This is an exploration of a theme/issue using a variety of drama skills/elements including a portfolio of written responses and evaluations

Paper 1 Unit 2 - Drama Exploration – (30%)

This is an exploration of one main text using a variety of drama skills/elements including a portfolio of written responses and evaluations

Paper 2 Rehearsed Final Presentation – (40%)

Students must produce an original devised group performance, assessed by external examiner"

GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department: Mrs L Morris

This course explores both physical and human geography and uses geographical skills to link the two together. Pupils study three physical topics; plate tectonics, glaciation and coasts. The human geography element is covered in the study of settlement, managing resources and tourism or development, and industry.

The course is taught using a wide variety of resources, and teaching and learning techniques, to create dynamic enquiry based lessons to encourage pupils to develop their own geographical skills.

GCSE Examination Board: AQA specification A

Assessment

Pupils take 2 written exam papers; paper 1 examines physical geography and geographical skills; paper 2 examines the human geography element. The papers are set at 2 levels, foundation and higher level. Decisions about which paper to enter the pupils for will be made after the mock examinations in Year 11. Pupils who are entered for the foundation tier paper have the opportunity to gain grade C-G. Those entered for the higher tier paper have the opportunity to gain grade A*-D. As well as sitting these examination papers pupils will submit a piece of coursework which is worth 25% of the total marks. The data for the completion of this coursework is collected during the residential fieldtrip to the Lake District. Pupils are allowed 25% of lesson time to complete this work with guidance from their class teacher. This is handed in before the October half term in Year 11.

GEOLOGY

Mr P Wraith

This science covers topics such as fossils, minerals, rocks, volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, geological time, economic aspects such as mineral exploration and extraction and a geological history of the British Isles. This subject requires you to apply yourself steadily in a practical manner, and is rewarding and interesting. The subject will allow students to solve problems, understand the landscapes around them and gives time to reflect on events and life that have gone before.

GCSE Examination Board : WJEC

Assessment

Students take two written papers.

Paper 1 This is made up of short answer theory questions which are worth 50% of the total.

Paper 2 This is made up of problem solving exercises which includes the interpretation of geological maps, specimens, photographs and other data. This is worth 30% of the total marks.

Those students who show an aptitude for the subject will be entered for the higher level paper which will give them the opportunity of gaining a grade in the A* to D range. The student who sits the foundation paper has the opportunity of gaining a grade in the C to grade G range.

The other 20% is gained through the submission of a coursework. The first piece is based around a field visit to the Castleton region. Students will explore a variety of locations above and below the surface, with the intention of reconstructing the ancient scenery and environment of the Carboniferous. The second piece of coursework is an experiment in the laboratory investigating sediments from a variety of environments. The overall coursework mark is achieved from the amalgamation of the best marks from these two pieces of work.

The syllabus is enhanced with other out of school opportunities. We hope to repeat a successful enrichment trip for geography/geology to Switzerland which has allowed students to study sedimentary rock formations, a salt mine, folding and faulting, glaciation and experience the epic proportions of mountain building. A trip to Manchester Museum takes place to study dinosaur specimens and other forms of ancient life. Other weekend day visits to various field locations are run to enrich the curriculum.

HISTORY

Head of Department: Mr M Barry

The course covers some of the major issues, events and personalities which have helped to shape the world in which we live. The specification is varied, stimulating and, above all challenging. It enables students to explore a range of topics and to develop skills that will be of use in a wide range of future careers.

In Year 10 students will make a study in depth of two **Governments in Action**:-

- America 1919 – 1941
- Germany 1918 – 1939

In Year 11 students will study **Conflict in the Modern World 1900 – 1949** which examines International History and British History.

- The First World War
- The origins of the Second World War
- The origins of the Cold War

GCSE Examination Board : AQA (Specification B : 3042)

Assessment

Students will sit two written papers that base their questions on a wide range of source material – written, cartoons, photographs and graphs. The techniques used in answering these questions tend to incorporate content knowledge and skills in dealing with evidence. Students will also be required to answer in an extended writing format.

Paper 1 (37.5%) tests the specification content on Conflict in the Modern World

Paper 2 (37.5%) tests the specification content on Governments in Action

Furthermore, there are two coursework assignments that account for 25% of the final mark.

Unit 1 - Investigating leisure and tourism.

Unit 2 - Marketing in leisure and tourism.

Unit 3 - Customer service in leisure and tourism.

The students will be provided with a broad background of understanding and care knowledge of the leisure and tourism industries in the UK. This will be provided in a student centred approach with an opportunity to apply the knowledge in a vocationally relevant way.

During the course links will be forged with local leisure and tourist outlets so that students can gain an insight into the relationships that exist between sectors such as business, retail and distribution, and hospitality and catering. By the end of the course they will be equipped to make an informed decision about whether they wish to enter employment or continue with higher level qualifications in this or related sectors.

GCSE ICT (FULL COURSE)

Head of Department: Mr J Longworth

This is a very demanding course with a very heavy coursework element.

The course will comprise of three distinct parts:

1. Assignment – this section is set by the examination board and tests the students' abilities to solve problems using ICT.
2. Project – students are able to choose their own project based around a small company or club. Students will use the skills and problem solving abilities developed in Year 10 to develop ICT for their company or club.
3. Examination – this will test the students' knowledge of ICT. There is one exam which is one and a half hours in length.

National Curriculum

The Information Communication Technology GCSE covers the National Curriculum Targets for ICT and beyond. The course is concerned with the development of students' ability to solve problems using Information Communications Technology. The technology will be used to collect, store manipulate and transmit information.

Homework

With a large element of this course being a practical nature, the term homework may be deceiving. The students will be expected to spend time after school both developing their skills on machines and completing portfolio/project work. Some of the homework will be theory based or research work. Students will also be expected to use homework time for the designing of project work.

Assessment

The course assignment is weighted as follows:

Assignment	30%
Project	30%
Examination	40%

MUSIC

Head of Department : Mr S. Stonehouse

The GCSE Music course is intended to improve your understanding and appreciation of music whilst improving your practical skills in both composing and performing. The entire spectrum of musical styles and genres is covered within the five areas of study and you are given the opportunity to perform and compose in each of the styles.

For students interested in music technology there are tremendous opportunities to compose their music using the latest computer software and record their music in the recording studio. With the facilities now on offer we expect pupils to excel in this area of the course and unleash their creativity.

The GCSE music course is divided into four elements:-

- **One Integrated Assignment (Composing) (25%)** - In a style to be chosen by the exam board from one of the five areas of study, assigned in November (Year 11) and completed by May (year 11)
- **One piece of coursework composition (25%)** – One piece chosen from the area of study, 'Music for Special Events'.
- **Coursework Performance (25%)** - One solo performance and one ensemble performance to be assessed at any time during the course. It is important to note that if you do not currently play an instrument we strongly recommend that you pursue lessons in your chosen discipline (instrument or voice)
- **A Listening exam (25%)** - This exam will be focusing on the five areas of study

Five Area of Study

1. Popular Music since 1960
2. Film Music
3. Dance Music
4. Orchestral Landmarks
5. Music for Special Events

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GCSE

Head of Department : Mrs K Dodd

The course sub-divides into three parts :-

1. Practical and theoretical aspects of PE

You are instructed in a number of games to enable you to improve your personal performance and to obtain a detailed knowledge of the skills, concepts, rules and tactics involved. The sports are normally a selection from Badminton, Hockey, Netball, Rounders, Rugby, Soccer and Basketball. Fitness training will be ongoing throughout the course. You will be expected to act as a coach as well as a performer in all practical activities.

2. Health-related fitness

You study anatomy, physiology and the importance of exercise and diet for the maintenance of good health, as well as investigating the psychological factors which can affect physical performance.

3. Sport within society

You study topical issues such as politics and sport; sports sponsorship; sport and the media; the organisation of sport in the UK; factors affecting individual participation in sport.

GCSE Examination Board : AQA/SEG Assessment

Parts 2 & 3 are examined by a 2 hour written exam which accounts for 40% of the marks. The other 60% is awarded for a practical assessment of your skill in 4 sports as well as your ability in the planning, performing and evaluating of fitness training sessions.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Teacher Responsible: Ms L Morris

This AQA course is modular and you will:

- Take the Truth, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues Unit (RS Short Course) at the end of Year 10 (Written paper 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours)
- In Year 11 study Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues (Written paper 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours)

You then have a full GCSE in Religious Studies

Year 10

Truth, Spiritually and Contemporary Issues

Year 11

Key Beliefs, Ultimate Questions and Life Issues