



KS4 Curriculum

September 2024



Hele's School

Useful names and contacts

Principal

Mrs. J. Mason

Assistant Principal (Curriculum)

Mrs. A. Ayres

Examinations Officer

Mrs. K. Revill

Careers Information, Advice & Guidance

Mrs. V. Yeomans

yeomans@heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Supportive Education

Mrs. A. Byrne

Head of Year 9

Mrs. G. Stewart

Tutors

9A Mr. S. Cartwright

9B Mr. J. Bean

9C Mrs. T. Edwards

9D Mrs. C. Farmer / Mrs. C. Butler

9E Miss. S. Waters

9F Mrs. A. Greet

9G Mr. J. Douglas

9H Mrs. A. Smith

Curriculum area

Art

Business Studies

Computing /Creative iMedia

Design and Technology

Drama

English Language and English Literature

Geography

History

Hospitality and Catering

Latin

Mathematics

Modern Foreign Languages (German, French and Spanish)

Music

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

Physical Education

Religious Studies

Science

Travel and Tourism

Point of contact

Ms. C. Wakeham / Mr. S. Jones

Mr. A. Smith

Mr. A. Irvine

Mrs. K. Wooding

Mr. S. Jones

Mr. M. Miller

Mr. M. Kelly

Mr. S. Atkinson-Sporle

Mrs. K. Wooding

Mrs. T. Brookshaw

Mrs. E. Pearce

Mrs. K. Blandin-Neaves

Mr. S. Cartwright

Mrs. S. Smith

Mr. M. Cusack

Mrs. L. Shelley

Mr. R. Ramage

Mrs. K. Blandin-Neaves

Important Dates

Jan 16th

Feb 7th

Feb 9th

Feb 20th

Feb 22nd

Feb - March

Mar 11th

Mar 18th

Apr 29th - May 10th

w/b May 20th

Careers Fair 4pm

Options Assembly

Options Booklet issued live

IA2 subject reports issued

Options Fair and Information Evening

Grouped tutor interviews

Option Forms issued

Deadline for return of Option Forms

1:1 meetings with Mrs Ayres if necessary

Subject choices confirmed in writing

Introduction

We aim to provide a personalised Key Stage 4 curriculum with breadth, balance and depth so that students are able to achieve in ways appropriate to their individual strengths and interests. Key Stage 4 covers Years 10 and 11 and it is at this stage that students can start to make choices about which subjects to continue with to GCSE level. Whilst some courses are compulsory others are optional; a combination of compulsory, or core subjects, plus 4 GCSE "Options" make up each individual student's curriculum.

Students currently in Year 9 will be required to remain in education or training until the age of 18; this can include employment with training and so does not mean that students need to remain in school for the whole of this period. Considering future pathways early can mean that staying on until the age of 18 is enjoyable rather than a burden!

Choosing option subjects is an important process, as these courses and the qualifications achieved at the end of Year 11 form the passport for entry to further and higher education as well as employment.

This booklet explains the following:

- which subjects are compulsory (core curriculum)
- which subjects are available as optional choices
- what each of the optional courses involves, how they are assessed and where they can lead to in the future
- the English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc)
- Restricted subject combinations

Core Curriculum

All students at Hele's School will study the core curriculum, which is compulsory. The subjects which make up the core are:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Combined Science: Trilogy 2 x GCSEs
- PSHE core studies
- Physical Education core studies

Most students will also take a Modern Foreign Language (French / German) as core, as we believe pupils will develop valuable skills for the future. We make provision for any student who wishes to study their core MFL to GCSE level. Some students will be guided to choose either History or Geography instead of French or German, as core.

Optional Courses

In addition to the core curriculum all students will study 3 from the following list:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Creative iMedia

- Design Technology
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality
- Latin
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Travel & Tourism

The English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc)

The Government introduced the E-Bacc in 2011. This is not a qualification in itself, but is an award given to students who achieve a GCSE "good pass" in all 5 of the following subject, which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors:

- English
- Maths
- a science (including computer science)
- a humanities (either history or geography)
- a foreign or ancient language

Our curriculum model does not force all students to take all 5 E-Bacc subjects, but certainly the majority of students do so; all students on Pathway 1 as well as anyone considering going into higher education (such as university) are advised to include either history or geography as an option, to meet the requirements of the E-Bacc.

A balanced curriculum

During Key Stage 4, students will start exploring and applying for their chosen route for years 12 and 13. It is important to keep this in mind when selecting Key Stage 4 choices. Whilst some students might have made a decision on what career path they would like to follow, this is unusual aged 13/14 and it is likely that the majority are, at this stage, unsure on possible careers.

We would advise all students to choose a broad range of courses to keep as many options open as possible, and to carefully consider taking at least one subject which has an element of internal assessment alongside those which are all examined at the end of Year 11. These subjects are Art & Design, Creative iMedia, Design Technology, Drama, Hospitality, Music, Physical Education, Sport Studies and Travel & Tourism.

Further advice and guidance on careers information is available through PSHE lessons, through the Careers Pilot website, or through contact with Mrs Yeomans - yeomans@heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Are you thinking of studying at university?

It is possible that a choice you make now may impact on the courses you can apply for at university, although this is unlikely. Students should be aware that some university courses will require a particular subject to have been studied at A Level, and many A levels require the subject to have been studied at Key Stage 4.

Universities publish their current entry requirements online, and they can also be found through the UCAS website, so students may wish to do a little research in this area. The E-Bacc can be a useful addition to your application for Higher Education.

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector. They have launched an interactive website called "Informed Choices", which can be useful both for students who have a clear idea of the courses they might like to take and also for those who aim to attend a top university but are currently unsure of their particular focus on study. This website can be found at informedchoices.ac.uk

Our curriculum delivers Combined Science GCSE to all students; this does NOT preclude students from studying individual science subjects at A level, nor from going on to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry at Higher Education.

Choosing courses

When you are choosing your option subjects you need as much information as possible about each course. There is plenty of information in the pages ahead, and more if you look on line. You will be asked to express several preferences for subjects you would like to study over the next two years, and will be allocated courses from your list of preferences. The school will have the ultimate decision in determining the most appropriate package of courses for you in light of your past and current performance, your commitment to learning and your future plans. There may be some courses that do not recruit sufficiently to run; in this instance an alternative will be allocated in discussion with students and parents.

Do not make choices based on your friends' choices; the teacher you have now in Year 9, or the one you had in Year 7 or 8; whether it sounds easy/cool/good; because someone you know took it and really liked it; because it's new and you've never done it before. These are not valid reasons; you really need to be sure of what you are signing up for!

Consider a range of factors such as the assessment pattern (is it examined at the end of Y11, are there any non – examined assessments or internal assessments?); the course content; what it might lead to later in life; skills acquired throughout the course; whether or not you have enjoyed learning about this subject previously.

Course allocation

Students will be allocated to courses in such a manner as to ensure that as many choices are met for as many students as possible. Where a course is oversubscribed, the school will consider a range of factors including subject preferences as identified on the Options Form, and Commitment to Learning. If a course does not attract enough students to run then the next preference will be taken from the student's Options Form.

Changing and dropping courses

It is very unlikely that you will be able to change courses once you have started a course in September. Some courses will be full, and others will start on GCSE work very quickly, so moving because you feel you have chosen a course for the wrong reasons and later asking to swap to an alternative is sometimes impossible and often very difficult.

A personalised curriculum

Students are guided onto different pathways, to enable us to structure our curriculum appropriately and meet the needs of different groups of students. We pride ourselves on having a rigorous and broadly academic curriculum at the core of every student's learning and a wide range of Level 2 courses are offered with a variety of assessment models and content.

Pathway 1

As well as the core curriculum listed previously, your son/daughter will have a Modern Foreign Language as part of their core curriculum, and will take a further 3 GCSE option subjects.

In order to fulfil the requirement of the EBacc we recommend that they select at least one of history or geography. In addition, to maintain a balanced curriculum and to spread the assessment load we recommend selecting a subject with some non-examined (internal) assessment. The assessment model is listed for each subject in the following pages.

Pathway 2

As well as the core curriculum listed previously, your son/daughter will choose between their core Modern Foreign Language, or history, or geography as part of their core curriculum, and will take a further 3 GCSE option subjects.

If they wish to fulfil the requirement of the EBacc they would need to select their language as their core option, and either history or geography as one of the other 3. In addition, to maintain a balanced curriculum and to spread the assessment load we recommend selecting at least one subject with some non-examined (internal) assessment. The assessment model is listed for each subject in the following pages.

Pathway 3

As well as the core curriculum listed previously, your son/daughter will choose between their core Modern Foreign Language or history, or geography as part of their core curriculum. They will take a further 2 option subjects and have additional specialist teaching in English and Maths.

To maintain a balanced curriculum and to spread the assessment load we recommend selecting *at least* one subject with some non-examined (internal) assessment for the 2 option subjects. The assessment model is listed for each subject in the following pages.

National Qualification Framework

Several subjects can be studied at different levels. Below is an explanation of the different types of qualification. You can find out if a subject you are interested in has different qualifications by reading the details for that subject.

| Qualifications: what the different levels mean | Examples of Qualifications | What they give you |
|---|--|---|
| Entry Level | Entry Level Certificates | Basic knowledge and skills Appropriate for students who will find Level 1 courses too challenging. |
| Level 1 | GCSE grades 1 - 3 BTEC Cambridge Nationals Technical Award Level 1 Music grades 1-3 | Basic knowledge and skills. Ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision. Maybe linked to job competence. |
| Level 2 | GCSE grades 4 - 9 BTEC Cambridge Nationals Technical Award Level 2 Music grades 4-5 | Good knowledge and understanding of a subject. Ability to perform a variety of tasks with some guidance or supervision. Appropriate for many job roles. |
| Level 3 | AS and A2 levels BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards Cambridge Nationals Technical Level 3 Music grades 6-9 | Ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding, at a detailed level. Appropriate if you plan to go to university, work independently, or (in some cases) supervise and train others in their field of work. |
| Further levels 4-8 from higher apprenticeships and degrees to post graduate degrees and doctorates | | |

Questions and Answers

Why do I have to state my preferences for subjects to study?

For a number of reasons. You will be required to study subjects in a great deal more depth than at Key Stage 3, and there are only so many hours in a school week; there are too many subjects for you to be able to take them all. In addition, not everyone is equally successful at all subjects, so this is an ideal opportunity for you to concentrate more on subjects which are going to be important for you and that you enjoy.

Why is my choice important?

- You are making a commitment now right through until the end of Year 11, and it is vital that you enjoy what you are doing.
- Your choice now may well make a difference to which courses you can take in Years 12 and 13 and, later, at university, college, or at work.
- Similarly, certain areas of employment may not be open to you if subjects have not been taken at KS4.

If I don't choose a subject now, can I study it later as an A level without having passed it at GCSE?

Many subjects, including Drama, Media, Hospitality, Sociology, Business Studies, and Travel and Tourism, may all be studied successfully from 'scratch' in Post 16. There will also be a wide range of courses available through the Plym Learning Consortium, which will be available to you with no prior experience, as long as you reach the entry criteria for A Level/Level 3 study.

How many examination subjects will I take?

Most pupils take 9 GCSE or equivalent subjects, although some will be doing more or fewer depending on whether they opt to study an extra course in twilight (after school), or whether they have been guided to Pathway 3.

How many subjects do I choose?

All students must take the core:

- Examined GCSE courses in English, Mathematics and Science.
- Non - examined core studies in RS, PE and Personal, Social, Health and Economic studies (PSHE)

Most students will also continue with their core MFL (French or German). In addition you will express several preferences from a list of optional subjects, from which you will be allocated three to study until the end of Year 11.

Curriculum Lead : Ms. C. Wakeham

Art, and Design

AQA Art, Craft and Design

Qualifications

GCSE Art & Design

Entry Requirements

A keen interest in Art & Design, You need to be competent in using a range of different media including painting and drawing, and have an interest in exploring the visual world.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

An understanding of the basic principles of art, craft and design; a willingness to take risks, work with different media and explore a range of artists; the ability to organise and communicate your own ideas.

What is this subject about?

Art, craft and design develops visual awareness and creative skills. You will gain practical experience in the use of colour, tone, line pattern, shape, texture, form and construction, as well as gaining knowledge of important historical and contemporary artists and designers. Art, craft and design is an important subject for future careers in Architecture, Design of all kinds, Illustration, Fashion, TV and Film, Animation, Computer Graphics, Teaching, etc. Companies across the world look for creative problem-solvers, which is a skill you will learn throughout the course.

When and how am I assessed?

Portfolio (60% of final GCSE mark).

- Sketchbook on a theme/subject showing detailed studies and ideas, including in-depth, written and practical work, looking at artists and designers.
- Investigation of a visual idea/theme to further your skills, knowledge and understanding. This will lead towards a final piece responding to your theme, using all of the skills and techniques developed throughout the coursework unit.
- Lots of experimentation in a variety of materials.
- Completed paintings/sculptures/prints with supporting written work to show the development of ideas leading to the final outcome.

Externally Set Task (40% of final GCSE mark).

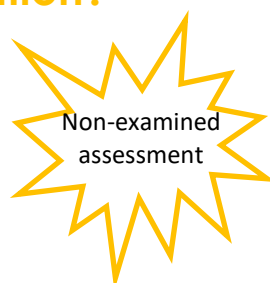
The externally set exam consists of a completed sketchbook and final piece. The Task paper is issued by AQA Exam Board from 2nd January of the year of examination with preparation time and 10hrs supervised time. This piece follows the same working processes as coursework and there is no separate written exam paper.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides access to a range of courses. Many pupils progress to the A level course, however some choose other routeways offered elsewhere.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Ms Wakeham or Mr Whitehead.



Art, and Design

Business

Head of Department : Mr. A. Smith

Business

OCR J253

Qualifications

GCSE Business

Entry Requirements

A secure grounding in English and Maths

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You need to possess a genuine interest in business, current affairs and the world around you. It is useful to be practical, methodical, a problem solver and able to work as part of a team as well as independently.

Most importantly you will require a positive attitude, self-motivation and organisation, with a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate those ideas effectively. These are not only the skills that you will need for the course, but also the skills needed to be successful in business.

What is this subject about?

The Business GCSE course is varied in content and will cover a number of business topic areas such as marketing, finance, law, production, human resource management and basic economics.

Students explore how business operates and its influence on society. They learn how to solve problems and explore the world of work and gain insight into various possible careers.

The course provides varied and lively opportunities to develop many new skills and to link theory with practice.

Through practical tasks you will learn the basics of how businesses operate and are set up, moving on to learn the role that people play in this process. You will investigate topics such as recruitment and selection, motivation and location of industry as part of your studies.

Through case study work you will learn about how businesses produce goods and services, the importance of finance and how the wider economy influences business.

When and how am I assessed?

2 x 1 hour 30 minute exams, each worth 50% of final GCSE grade.

100% Examination.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Almost every career has some element of business within it, and therefore the career opportunities after studying Business are almost unlimited.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Smith.

Head of Department : Mr. A. Irvine

Computer Science

OCR J277

Qualifications

GCSE Computer Science

Entry Requirements

This can be a challenging subject and it is imperative that you have a keen interest in finding out how computers work and a wish to learn computer programming.

Skills Required

A good background in ICT, Maths and Science is essential. You must be self-motivated and willing to work independently on solutions to difficult problems. The course is a mixture of theory lessons and programming tasks, and you should be able to focus on some tricky concepts and ask questions/research anything you do not understand.

What is the subject about?

Computer Science is the study of how computer hardware and software work together. There are two units which are covered as part of this course:

Unit 1 is titled "Computer Systems" and tests your understanding of Computer Hardware, Data, Networking, Security, Systems Software. It also covers Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental impacts of computer science.

Unit 2 is titled "Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming". This unit develops skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic and translators.

The main aim is to build up a working knowledge of computer programming using the Python language. Students are set problem solving tasks where they are encouraged to work independently and try out different programming methods and techniques.

When and how am I assessed?

Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 are examined at the end of the course.

| Content | Assessment Overview | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Computer Systems | 80 marks (no calculators allowed) 1 hour and 30 minutes Written paper | 50% of total GCSE |
| Computational thinking, algorithms and programming | 80 marks (no calculators allowed) 1 hour and 30 minutes Written paper | 50% of total GCSE |

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course would allow you to progress on to a level 3 Computer Science course. At the time of printing the average Computer Scientist Salary is £57,500 per year.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Irvine

Counts towards
the English
Baccalaureate

Computer Science

Head of Department : Mr. A. Irvine

Creative iMedia

Qualifications

Cambridge National Creative iMedia Level 1/Level 2 J834



Entry Requirements

You will have taken a keen interest in the iMedia unit in Year 9.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this ?

A strong interest in ICT and using computers. Creativity - to be able to come up with designs which can be realised in a digital product. The ability to work independently on coursework which will count towards your final grade.

What is this subject about?

Students will develop knowledge and practical skills that can be applied to real-life digital media contexts. You will analyse scenarios and design, plan, create and review your digital graphics products. This subject encourages students to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media. This includes factors that influence digital product design; use of media code and conventions; pre-production planning; legal issues and the creation/publishing/distribution considerations. You will develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely.

When and how am I assessed?

There are three units which make up the final grade for this course.

| Unit title | Type of assessment |
|---|--|
| RO93: Creative iMedia in the media industry | Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour and 30 minutes - 70 marks |
| RO94: Visual identity and digital graphics | Coursework assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx. 10-12 hours - 50 marks |
| R095 : Characters and comics | Coursework assessed tasks OCR moderated Approx. 10-12 hours - 70 marks |

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Irvine, Mrs Smith or Mrs Edwards.

Head of Department : Mrs. K. Wooding

Design Technology

AQA 8552

Qualifications

GCSE Design Technology

Entry Requirements

If you have enjoyed KS3 Design Technology and shown at least good commitment to learning, if you are creative and inquisitive and you enjoy problem solving and creating solutions, then this course is for you.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Have you ever wondered what designers actually do? Have you ever wondered how things move or work or what makes products successful?

A qualification in Design and Technology will prepare you to become a creative and critical thinker, developing skills to design and deliver prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. You also need to be able to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

What is this subject about?

This GCSE will help you to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of existing products, and to be creative in your approach to work, develop your designing ability, use of digital technologies in designing and creating products. You will learn about creative, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as about important issues that affect design in the wider world such as sustainability, global issues and inclusive user-centred design.

During the course you will study a wide range of materials; you will also develop an understanding of systems, computer aided design and mechanisms to support any potential design solutions you may develop later on. You will then develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of specific materials and related techniques and processes, in order to construct working prototypes and achieve functioning design solutions. This content reflects the importance of Design & Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

When and how am I assessed?

The coursework Design Challenge is a single task that is worth 50% of the qualification. There will be open and real-world contexts for you to interpret and explore provided by the exam board.

The other 50% of the qualification covers the principles of design and technology in an examination. This is a single examination component with questions covering both 'core' and 'in-depth' content. This examination is 2 hours long.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

The study of design and technology can lead to future careers in product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design; it will develop your design and thinking skills that open up a world of possibility, providing the tools to create the future. You will build and develop your broad knowledge and understanding from KS3. A variety of materials are studied and different processes experienced. Your skills will be developed through working with the appropriate materials and technologies for the task. This mirrors the world of real design and leads to further specialism at A level through Product Design.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Design Technology teacher.



Design Technology

Drama

Head of Department : Mr. S. Jones

Drama

Eduqas

Qualifications

GCSE Drama

Entry Requirements

None



Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You will have the opportunity learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these to new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time management skills. You will need to be able to work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas, all of which will develop your emotional intelligence. Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills. Your written skills, both analytical and creative, as well as your ability to self-reflect, will be developed through a range of tasks. Studying drama will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. Through studying drama, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

What is this subject about?

You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but also your design skills in areas such as:

Lighting design; Sound design; Set design; Costume, Hair and Make-Up Design.

You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform from a text. You can choose to concentrate on acting or design. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions.

The Eduqas GCSE Drama specification has three components: Devising Theatre, Performing from a Text, and Interpreting Theatre.

When and how am I assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre 40% You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre. You will produce: a portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process; a performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group); an evaluation of the final performance or design. Teacher assessed, and externally moderated

Component 2: Performing from a Text 20% You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design. You will produce a performance lasting between 5-14 minutes using sections of text from both extracts. Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre 40% Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. You will answer:

Section A: Set Text - A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.

Section B: Live Theatre Review – One question from a choice of two, analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course. Externally assessed examination.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Drama teacher.

Head of Department : Mr. M. Miller

English Language and Literature

GCSE English Language, and GCSE English Literature.

Qualifications

GCSE English Language, AQA, 8700; GCSE English Literature, AQA, 8702

Entry Requirements

All students are required to study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

What is this subject about?

Put simply, English matters. Few would argue with the suggestion in the national curriculum that 'English has a pre-eminent place in education and society'. Partly, this is because of the functional role that English plays: it is through mastery of English that students are able to communicate with the world – and have the world communicate with them – in a frictionless way. It is through the medium of English, for example, that those we teach are able to fully access the rich knowledge of history, art, science and every other subject they encounter at school; it is through the medium of English that opportunities open up beyond the school gates. As such, it is a powerful tool for social justice. Yet the subject we love is far more than 'functional skills' or 'communication studies', an empty vehicle for transmitting whichever knowledge we choose to task it with; rather it is itself a rich discipline with its own ways of thinking, speaking, reading and writing. It is a subject that revels not just in the word, but in the crafting of the word and which can introduce our students to nuance, to layers, to shades of grey in a world too often presented in black and white. Crucially, it is a subject which – particularly through literature, but not exclusively – can induct students into knowledge of the human condition; to both the universality and diversity of experience, to written works that can make the heart sing and the soul sigh; to cautionary tales about the world in which we live; to forms of creative self-expression that can capture an ephemeral moment in words like an insect trapped in amber; and to the analytical thinking, reading and writing that allows us to become critical consumers of the world around us.

Whether it be the basics of reading, writing and speaking, the knowledge of English as a discipline, or the cultural, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual and creative development gained through the subject, our subject is fundamentally about enfranchisement.

When and how am I assessed?

Terminal Examination.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to Mr Chiswell or Miss Sum.

Core
Subject

English Language & Literature

French

Head of Department : Mrs K. Blandin-Neaves

French

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Qualifications

GCSE French

Entry Requirements

Able linguists, with a passion for French, who have good or excellent commitment to learning

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Good communication skills, resilience, strong listening skills, literacy skills and interpreting information

What is this subject about?

GCSE French helps students develop their French language skills and gives students a broad understanding of culture in French speaking countries.

The course encourages a love of language learning and allows students to take their place in our multi-lingual world.

The course allows students to study a wide variety of topics that are relevant to today, such as; technology, free time activities, customs and festivals, social issues, travel and tourism, global issues and education.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE French will develop listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills.

Our aim is to enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts.

Listening - Examination 25%

Speaking - Examination 25%

Reading - Examination 25%

Writing - Examination 25%

Where could this subject take me in the future?

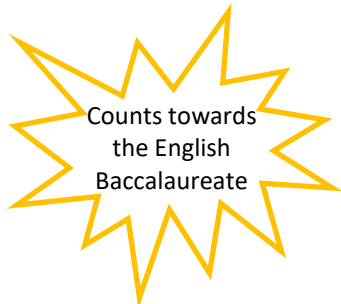
Anywhere in the world!

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language means you can excel in a wide range of careers : Travel and Tourism, Services, Marketing, Journalism, Law, Translation and many more

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your French teacher.

“To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world”



Counts towards
the English
Baccalaureate

Head of Department : Mr. M. Kelly

Geography

AQA Geography 8035

Qualifications

GCSE Geography

Entry Requirements

An interest in the world around you, and good commitment to learning in Geography.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

GCSE geographers should have a keen interest in the study of the world around them. You will be working with a variety of resources, including maps, photographic and statistical data as well as GIS (geographic information systems). Fieldwork is an essential element of the course which will mean planning, collecting and interpreting data from your own geographical investigations.

What is this subject about?

The geography course is all about developing a better understanding of the world we live in. Topics of study are contemporary and relevant and include natural hazards, climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of meeting our needs for food, water and energy supplies. You will be encouraged to understand your role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

When and how am I assessed?

The course is divided into 3 units with an exam for each one:

Living with the physical environment - natural hazards; river and coastal environments in the UK; tropical rainforest and hot desert ecosystems.

Challenges in the human environment - urban issues in the UK and in low income countries; global variations in economic development and quality of life; management of food, water and energy resources.

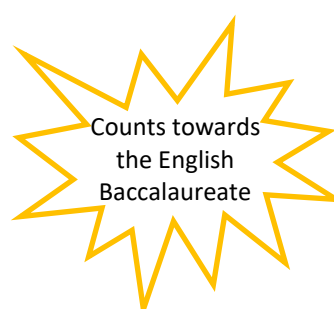
Geographical applications - a critical thinking and problem solving task based on the physical and human themes above and questions focused on two fieldwork investigations completed during the course.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Geography provides an excellent knowledge base from which to pursue many careers and post 16 courses. Geography makes use of literacy, numeracy, ICT, presentation and communication skills, many aspects of which are required in the workplace.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Geography teacher.



Geography

German

Head of Department : Mrs K. Blandin-Neaves

German

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Qualifications

GCSE German

Entry Requirements

Able linguists, with a passion for German, who have good or excellent commitment to learning

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Good communication skills, resilience, strong listening skills, literacy skills and interpreting Information

What is this subject about?

GCSE German helps students develop their German language skills and gives students a broad understanding of culture in German speaking countries.

The course encourages a love of language learning and allows students to take their place in our multi-lingual world.

The course allows students to study a wide variety of topics that are relevant to today, such as; technology, free time activities, customs and festivals, social issues, travel and tourism, global issues and education.

GCSE German will develop listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills.

Our aim is to enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts.

Listening - Examination 25%

Speaking - Examination 25%

Reading - Examination 25%

Writing - Examination 25%

Where could this subject take me in the future?

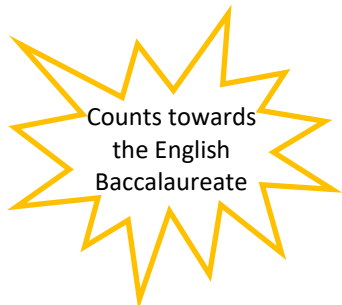
Anywhere in the world!

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language means you can excel in a wide range of careers : Travel and Tourism, Services, Marketing, Journalism, Law, Translation and many more

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your German teacher.

*"A different language is a
different vision of life"*



Counts towards
the English
Baccalaureate

Head of Department : Mr. S. Atkinson-Sporle

History

Edexcel History

Qualifications

GCSE History

Entry Requirements

Most important is a desire to learn about the past and a determination to succeed.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You will need good literacy skills, the ability to reflect on your work and the ability to take on board feedback.

What is this subject about?

Migrants in Britain, c800–present and Notting Hill, c1948–c1970

Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588

American West 1835-1895

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

When and how am I assessed?

When and how am I assessed?

You will have 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1 - Migrants in Britain - 1 hour 15 minutes

Paper 2 - American West and Early Elizabethan England - 1 hour 50 minutes

Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 - 1 hour 20 minutes

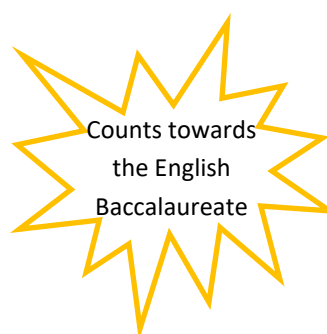
Where could this subject take me in the future?

History provides essential skills for students wishing to further their academic studies and for students seeking employment in competitive careers. History students have an understanding of human motivation and the way societies develop.

History students learn how to argue a case from evidence, even if it is a viewpoint they do not agree with at first. In addition, History students learn how to scrutinise sources of information in a way that is intelligent and sceptical. For these reasons, historians are valued especially in the following professions: Journalism, Politics, Business, Teaching, Law, Civil Service.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your History teacher.



History

Hospitality & Catering

Head of Department : Mrs. K. Wooding

Hospitality & Catering

WJEC 603/7022/2

Qualifications

Level 1 / 2 Award in Hospitality & Catering 601/7703/2

Entry Requirements

Enthusiasm for the subject, ability to communicate clearly in writing and an interest in preparing and cooking a range of food. You must be able to listen and follow instructions

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You will need to:

- have good verbal and written communication skills
- be able to meet strict deadlines
- have a curiosity about the sector
- be prepared to practise cooking and practical skills
- have a willingness to work in teams and independently

What is this subject about?

This subject is about the Hospitality & Catering industry, learning how to prepare, cook and serve food to a high standard, being able to plan in detail and evaluate outcomes accurately.

When and how am I assessed?

There are two units of study:

Unit 1 The Hospitality & Catering Industry, which is examined at the end of year 11 and accounts for 40% of the overall grade.

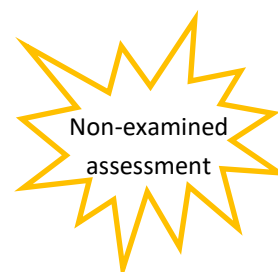
Unit 2 is about Hospitality & Catering in Action. This is assessed through a piece of controlled coursework.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course could provide ideas for possible Y10 work experience opportunities and part time work. Whether you intend to continue into Post 16 or move to college or training (such as apprenticeships) this qualification will give you an excellent foundation for a successful and rewarding career in the Hospitality & Catering industry. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotels and bar managers, and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mrs Wooding.



Head of Department : Mrs T Brookshaw

Latin

Qualifications

Eduqas

Entry Requirements

By preference you will have studied some Latin at KS3 but it is not essential. We would recommend that you are on pathway 1.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

To be logical and methodical

What is this subject about and how am I assessed?

The aim of Latin GCSE is to acquire a foundation in language and culture central for understanding the world around us. You will gain knowledge and understanding of the Roman world through reading and responding to its language, literature, art and archaeology. You will deepen your understanding of English and other languages, and develop transferrable analytical skills, equipping you for further study in arts, humanities and sciences.

| Component Title | Assessment and |
|---|---|
| Latin Language Students learn a defined vocabulary list of 450 words and prescribed grammar and syntax. Students are examined on unseen passages of Latin via comprehension questions and translation. | 1 hour 30 minute exam, worth 50% of the qualification |
| Latin Literature Students study a prescribed selection of Latin literature on Roman love and marriage, together with prescribed ancient source materials. Topics include marriage, morality, courtship and heartbreak. | 1 hour 15 minute open book exam, worth 30% of the qualification |
| Roman Civilisation Students demonstrate knowledge of an aspect of Roman civilisation (Roman religion). Students analyse and respond to ancient source material: literature in translation, ancient art and archaeology. Topics include gods and goddesses, temples, sacrifices and offerings, curses and divinations, and foreign gods. | 1 hour exam, worth 20% of the qualification |

Where could this subject take me in the future?

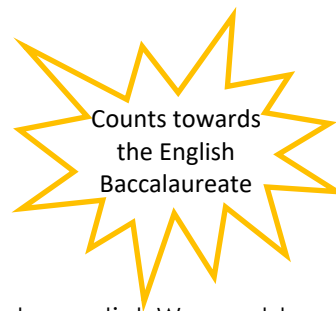
Latin provides the foundation for many careers, particularly law, medicine and sciences. Students who have studied Latin have also gone into politics, business, law, journalism and media. Latin is considered a 'prestigious' subject: it is highly respected by universities and employers.

What if I have not studied Latin at KS3?

If you have not studied Latin before, there will be a some on line lessons to review over the summer to help you get started.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Brookshaw



Latin

Head of Department : Mrs. E Pearce

Maths

GCSE Mathematics

Qualifications

Edexcel 1MA1

Core
Subject

Entry Requirements

All students are required to study GCSE Mathematics

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Mathematics teaches us how to approach and solve problems, both familiar and unfamiliar, in an ever changing world. These skills are essential to all aspects of education and life beyond school. You need to be willing to work hard and be resilient when facing difficulty, but everyone can do maths!

What is this subject about?

Mathematics is a creative and highly interconnected discipline. It is essential for everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. GCSE mathematics extends the topics met through Key Stage 3, deepening understanding and extending knowledge. You will study Number, Algebra, Ratio & Proportion, Geometry, Statistics and Probability throughout the course. You will be provided with the opportunity to develop mathematical knowledge and skills to set you up for life.

When and how am I assessed?

There are 3 written examination papers at the end of the GCSE course. Any content from the entire specification can be on any of the three papers.

Paper 1 – non-calculator – 1 hour 30 mins.

Paper 2 – calculator – 1 hour 30 mins.

Paper 3 – calculator – 1 hour 30 mins.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Our mathematics curriculum is designed to provide a foundation for understanding the world, equipping you with the knowledge, tools and skills to give you access to your desired pathway beyond school. Being mathematically literate will ensure that you can approach adult life with an assurance of independence, especially around financial matters. GCSE Mathematics is an essential requirement for most Higher Education course and many employment opportunities.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your mathematics teacher for more information. There will be an opportunity for invited students to study the Level 2 Further Maths certificate outside of the normal taught curriculum. This will enhance and enrich your understanding of more complex mathematics.

Head of Department : Mr. S. Cartwright

Music

Eduqas

Qualifications

GCSE Music

Entry Requirements

A love and enthusiasm for music and a desire to improve performing and composing skills. The ability to read music is helpful.

At least good Commitment to Learning in Music.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Students must be able to demonstrate a broad range of performing and composing skills both on their own and in a group. You will develop your performing skills on your chosen instrument and improve your creative skills through composition and harmony. The course will enable you to develop key skills in ICT through the use of computer sequencing and multi track recording of your compositions. You will also need to be able to manage your time and workload and to develop your wider skills of working with others.

What is this subject about and how am I assessed?

Integrated Portfolio (30%)

One solo performance, and one composition.

Practical Component (30%)

One ensemble performance and one composition.

Listening and appraising (40%)

One hour 30 minutes examination.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the AS/A2 level in music, as well as the BTEC National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology). You may wish to take GCSE music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had an experience of music, or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during the course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching, or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Music teacher.



Music

Physical Education

Head of Department: Mr. M. Cusack

Physical Education

Exam Board AQA

Qualifications

GCSE PE 8582

Entry Requirements

It is recommended that pupils have a secure grasp of English, Maths and Science due to the academic nature of the theory content. Pupils need to be regularly playing **at least 2 sports** from the prescribed list of sports and these can be either individual or team sports. Pupils need to attend extra-curricular clubs to improve their skills and tactical awareness.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

To be accepted on this course you **MUST** play at least two sports (minimum of one outside of school). We would expect to see regular attendance at extra-curricular clubs.

What is this subject about?

The subject will help develop your confidence and competence across a range of practical sports and you will be assessed in 3 of these as a practical performer within a competitive context. Theoretical knowledge development will center around anatomy and physiology (how the body works), sports psychology (how the mind works), and contemporary issues in sport. **The majority of the course is classroom based.**

How am I assessed?

Terminal exams (2 x written papers 60%),

Written coursework (10%),

3 practical sports (10% each).

Where could this subject take me in the future?

GCSE PE is a good prerequisite for A Level PE, BTEC Level 3 Sport and then leading to higher education degree level Sports Science, Sports Psychology and Physical Education and coaching courses. Physiotherapy, Sports Coaching or Sciences, PE Teaching, Armed Forces and Nursing/Medicine would all be career paths that students could follow with GCSE PE.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Cusack, Miss Marment, Mr Carwardine, Ms Prifti or Mr Rayner.



Head of Department : Mrs. L. Shelley

Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

Qualifications

AQA, Religious Studies GCSE A, 8062

Entry Requirements

The desire to study and engage in debates about religion, ethics and philosophy.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

An enquiring, thoughtful approach to issues that concern humanity. The ability to look at beliefs from different perspectives. A positive attitude to developing your own personal beliefs. Motivation and commitment towards constructing written answers.

What is this subject about?

The GCSE consists of two papers. The Themes paper focusses on topics that are current and at the heart of modern society. The topics include, medical ethics, treatment of animals and the ethics of medical testing on animals, beliefs about the origins of the universe, human relationships and sexuality, gender roles and family life, human rights, crime and punishment and ideas about the afterlife. The Beliefs Paper focusses on the study of two religions. Currently, we study Christianity and Islam.

When and how am I assessed?

The course is assessed through 100% examination at the end of year 11.

There are two papers, each being 1 hour 45 minutes long.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

The knowledge and skills gained through RS lend themselves to careers such as, Law, Police, Teaching, Nursing, Paramedic, Medicine, Journalism, Armed Forces and any job that requires a certain ability to empathise, communicate and understand other people. Many students who take GCSE progress to study the A level in Philosophy and Ethics. This is valued highly by the top universities due to the critical thinking skills involved in the subject.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Religious Studies teacher.

Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

Head of Department: Mr. R Ramage

Science

Exam Board AQA

Core
Subject

Qualifications

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy – equivalent to two GCSE grades

Entry Requirements

All students are required to study GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Science teaches us how to think, learn, solve problems and make informed decisions; these skills are integral to every aspect of education and life beyond the classroom.

What is this subject about?

As you grow up in an increasingly technologically and scientifically advanced world, you need to be scientifically literate to succeed. We believe that Science fires our imagination as the foundation of everything, we are surrounded by technology and the products of Science every day. Science gives us opportunities to be wrong that move us forward; being wrong leads us to a better understanding of the world and ourselves.

How am I assessed?

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Biology paper 1:

Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

Chemistry paper 1:

Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Physics paper 1:

Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Biology paper 2:

Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

Chemistry paper 2:

The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Physics paper 2:

Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

We equip you with the skills, enthusiasm, knowledge and understanding that not only allows you to make sense of the world but to become the scientists, medics and engineers of a shared future.

Science is a system for exploring, and for innovation; it is integral to our nation's economic growth and can form a path for our young people in a competitive global marketplace.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Biology, Chemistry or Physics teacher.

Head of Department : Mrs K. Blandin-Neaves

Spanish

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

Qualifications

GCSE Spanish

Entry Requirements

You must study French or German GCSE as your core option and have at least good commitment to learning in your current modern foreign language, be achieving 70% or more in vocabulary tests and have a secure understanding of grammar

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You need to understand and provide information and opinions about particular themes relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries where Spanish is spoken.

What is this subject about?

GCSE Spanish helps students develop their Spanish language skills and gives students a broad understanding of culture in Spanish speaking countries.

This course will start by introducing you to the new language and quickly build foundations, like at KS3, of vocab and grammar, before moving to GCSE content.

The course encourages a love of language learning and allows students to take their place in our multi-lingual world.

The course allows students to study a wide variety of topics that are relevant to today, such as; technology, free time activities, customs and festivals, social issues, travel and tourism, global issues and education.

GCSE Spanish will develop listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills.

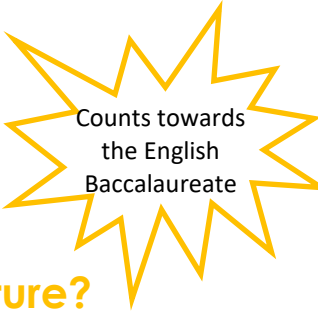
Our aim is to enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts.

Listening - Examination 25%

Speaking - Examination 25%

Reading - Examination 25%

Writing - Examination 25%



Counts towards
the English
Baccalaureate

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Anywhere in the world!

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language means you can excel in a wide range of careers : Travel and Tourism, Services, Marketing, Journalism, Law, Translation and many more.

Having 2 languages opens even more doors for the most able and confident linguists

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mrs Blandin-Neaves, Head of MFL.

*"The limits of my languages
are the limits of my world"*

Spanish

"Lessons are well-planned and carefully structured to give you the skills you need to build up your Spanish. You have to make sure you keep up to date with homework and put the extra effort in to learn your work well".

Travel & Tourism

Head of Department : Mrs. K. Blandin-Neaves

Travel & Tourism

Qualifications

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism - 603/7048/8

Entry Requirements

Good commitment to learning and a genuine interest in the industry. An interest in KS3 geography and some experience of travel are helpful.

Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You need to be able to work well independently, be committed and conscientious. Research skills will be developed throughout the course as well as planning skills and being able to make decisions and judgements. All lessons take place in a computer room so IT skills will also be developed.

What is this subject about?

The travel and tourism industry is studied in vocational contexts with real life examples. You will learn about the aims, products and services of different travel and tourism organisations, their use of consumer technologies, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer needs and preferences, and the influences on global travel and tourism. Many of the skills learnt and the knowledge acquired are transferable to other industries and subjects and it gives you the opportunity to practically apply your knowledge and skills through research and investigation.

When and how am I assessed?

Component 1 is assessed in year 10 terms 3 and 4 and is Controlled Assessment, it counts for 30% of your overall grade.

Component 2 is also Controlled Assessment and is covered in year 11 terms 1 and 2, this is again worth 30%.

Component 3 is assessed by a terminal exam in the Summer of year 11 and counts for 40% of the overall grade.

Where could this subject take me in the future?

Travel & Tourism students can go on to study the subject in further education. This subject could lead you to work within the industry and build your career prospects. This is particularly useful in this part of the UK.

Many Travel & Tourism students go on to have very successful careers in marketing, hospitality and management.

Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mrs Greet.





Principal: Justine Mason

Assistant Principal (Curriculum): Andrea Ayres

Hele's School

Seymour Road, Plympton

Plymouth, Devon PL7 4LT

T: 01752 337193

F: 01752 331460

E: heles.school@plymouth.gov.uk

www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk



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