



GCSE OPTIONS BOOKLET 2021-24

A pupil guide to Key Stage 4 courses at Springfield School



1	Contents Page	14	Child Development
2	Introduction	15	Computer Science GCSE
3	Compulsory Subjects	16	Design and Technology GCSE
4	Optional Subjects	17	Design and Technology (Textiles) GCSE
5	Decision Making	18	Digital Photography GCSE
6	English Language & Literature GCSEs	19	Drama GCSE
7	Mathematics GCSE	20	Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE
8	Science GCSE	21	Media Studies GCSE (Eduqas)
9	German GCSE	22	Music GCSE
10	French GCSE	23	PE GCSE
11	Geography GCSE	24	PE Health & Fitness NCFE Level 2 Certificate
12	History GCSE	25	Religious Studies GCSE
13	Art and Design GCSE	26	Your Option Choices



This is an exciting time to be a Year 8 pupil at Springfield School. Year 8 pupils are able to have some choice over which subjects they choose to study from Year 9 onwards. So that they continue to have a broad and balanced spread of GCSE subjects, they will continue to have to study a range of subjects including English, Mathematics and Science as well as non GCSE areas such as Personal Development Learning (PSHE/Citizenship). However, they will be able to choose subjects, including new ones that they may not have experienced before, that they are interested in studying further.

Learning in Year 9 should feel different for pupils currently in Year 8. Teachers will use Year 9 lessons as a foundation year for the beginning of the formal GCSE programme and may well use some of the lessons towards the summer as a starting point for GCSE study. Year 9 will be an opportunity for pupils to learn more about their chosen subjects in depth and should increase their confidence, knowledge and skills in preparation for GCSE.

Parents and pupils, please take the time to study this booklet and its contents before deciding which subjects to choose.

In this booklet you will find:

- General guidelines as to which subjects are compulsory from Year 9 onwards and which are optional
- Subject course outlines for every subject, compulsory or optional
- A link on page 26 to the Google Form by which to choose your options



Compulsory Subjects

3

English - All pupils will study English Language and English Literature which will lead to two GCSEs by the end of Year 11.

Mathematics

Science – The majority of pupils will follow a combined Science course which will lead to two GCSEs by the end of Year 11. Some pupils with a particular aptitude for Science will be able to follow three separate Science GCSEs. Pupils will need to speak with their Science teacher to discuss their suitability for this.

Modern Foreign Language – All pupils will continue to follow their current language, leading either to a full GCSE or FCSE in Languages (Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education).

Humanities – All pupils will have to choose between either Geography or History or could choose to do both subjects.

ICT – As competence in ICT is such an important skill to have in the modern world, all pupils will continue to study the subject. The OCR Nationals or similar will be taken during Year 10.

PE – As a healthy lifestyle is important in today's world, all pupils will have core PE lessons. If pupils want to specifically follow a GCSE course in PE, they will have to choose this as one of their options.

Expressive Arts and R.S. – All pupils in Year 9 will have lessons of R.S., Drama, Art and Music on a rotation basis, even if they do not choose to follow a full GCSE course.



Optional Subjects

4

Art and Design

Photography

(These two subjects are certificated as an Art qualification so pupils can only choose one of these)

Design and Technology

(Food and Nutrition/Product Design/Textiles)

(These subjects are all certificated as a Technology qualification so pupils can only choose one of these)

Computer Science *(this is separate to ICT above)*

Child Development

Drama

Health and Fitness (NCFE) Level 2

Media Studies

Music

PE

Religious Studies

In total there are three optional subjects pupils can choose.



It is really important that Year 8 pupils think carefully about their choices.

- They should choose subjects that they like, not because their friends are doing it
- They should choose the subject, not the teacher (they might not have that teacher in Year 9)
- They should speak to their teachers to find out more about the subject
- They should think carefully before choosing a subject that they may have had difficulty with in the past. For example, if they have not been very organised in the past to bring in food for Technology, should they choose Food and Nutrition...?

Careful decision making is important because once pupils have started Year 9 it will be extremely difficult to change options once the timetable is established

Step 1 – Look through this booklet, discuss the subjects, think carefully about interests and enthusiasms

Step 2 – Complete the online Google Form via the link on page 26 of this booklet, looking closely at the instructions. The online Google Form should be completed by Monday 22nd March 2021.

Options choices will be confirmed by the end of June.

Please be aware that we might not be able to meet every pupil's first choice of Options. If little demand for a subject means that we will not be able to timetable that subject, a certain element of re-direction will be necessary. Where this is the case, pupils and parents will be informed as part of the process.



English Language and Literature GCSEs

6

Background to the subject

GCSE English Language is designed to inspire and motivate pupils, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, whilst ensuring, as far as possible, that the assessment and texts are accessible to the full range of pupils.

GCSE English Literature enriches lives and opens doors. Therefore, it is designed for all pupils – accessible and enabling for pupils of all abilities through text choices and questions that provide both access and stretch.

What will you do?

The courses will enable pupils to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods and texts as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to develop and secure the range of key skills within both English Language and English Literature. Pupils will be exposed to a wide range of challenging texts from around the world, including the Literary Heritage. Year 9 will act as a foundation year where pupils will experiment with textual analysis and crafting creative writing; analysing how meaning and effects are created in a text. By the end of Year 9 pupils will have a secure foundation on which to build towards the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11.

How will you be assessed?

In Year 9 you will be assessed with a CAT (Common Assessment Task) which will be completed under timed conditions at the end of each unit of work as well as examinations mid-year and at the end of the year. At the end of Year 11 terminal examinations will make up 100% of the grade as follows:

English Language: Paper 1- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. Assessed written exam - 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks; 50% of GCSE). Paper 2 - Presenting a viewpoint. Assessed: written exam – 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks; 50% of GCSE).

English Literature: Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel Assessed written exam - 1 hour 45 minutes (64 marks; 40% of GCSE). Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry. Assessed written exam – 2 hours 15 minutes (96 marks; 60% of GCSE).



Background to the subject

Mathematics GCSE is designed to support pupils in developing a confidence and fluency that will provide a foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

All pupils are expected to be able to:

- Use and apply standard techniques
- Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically

Solve non-routine problems in mathematical and non-mathematical contexts.

What will you do?

The Mathematics GCSE curriculum is divided into five key areas:

- Number
- Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Changes
- Algebra
- Geometry & Measures
- Statistics & Probability

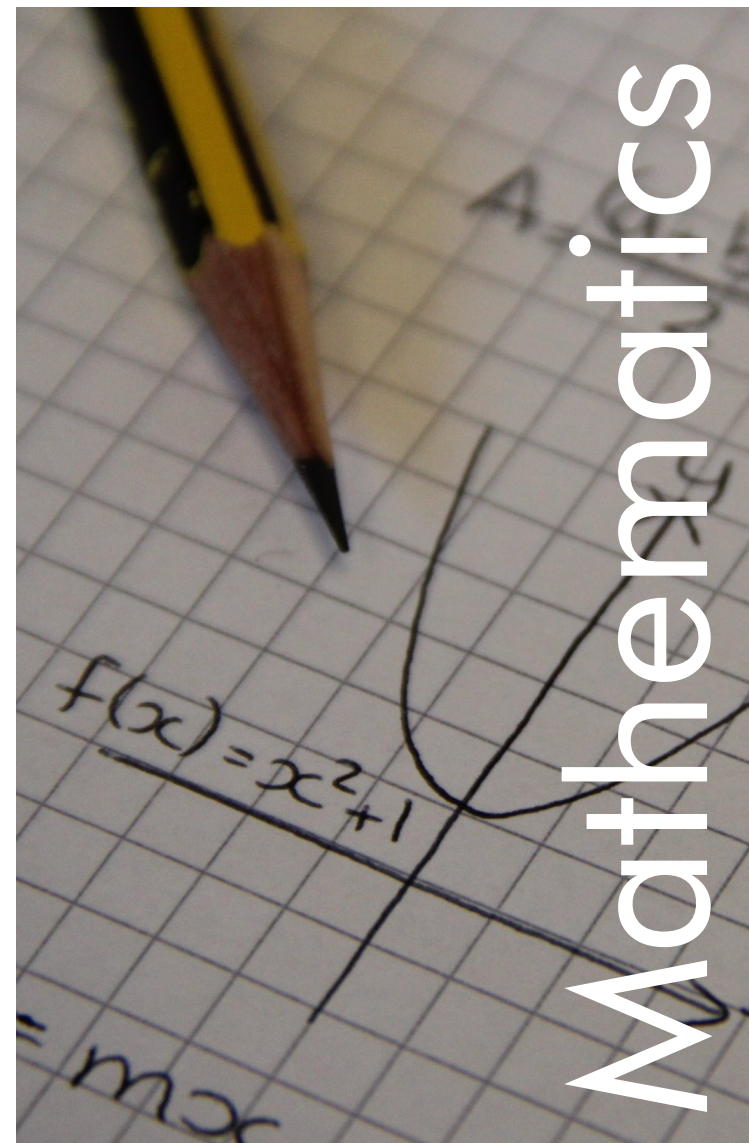
These areas are revisited, consolidated and extended each year.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 will be a foundation year for GCSE Mathematics. It will build upon and consolidate Years 7 and 8 as well as developing the fundamental skills needed to succeed in Years 10 and 11. Pupils will be expected to make increasing use of online resources in order to independently support their own learning.

How will you be assessed?

There are three terminal examinations, each lasting an hour and a half, which will be completed at the end of Year 11: Paper 1 - 33.33 % Non-Calculator. Paper 2 - 33.33% Calculator. Paper 3 - 33.33 % Calculator. Pupils will be entered for either Foundation or Higher tier. For the new 9-1 GCSE pupils will be required to memorise more formulae for their examinations. There is also an increased expectation that they will have, and competently use, a scientific calculator.



Background to the subject / What will you do?

Separate Sciences

Pupils will be selected for Separate Science GCSEs using continual assessment throughout Year 9. The following criteria will be taken into account:

- Consistent progress towards high expected grades
- Behaviour is consistently judged to be as expected or better
- Homework is consistently judged to be as expected or better
- Pupils demonstrate motivation, interest and a willingness to learn independently

Studying Separate Sciences will result in three GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These GCSEs will be terminally assessed. Lessons will involve both practical and theory work as well as making links between the topics covered and 'real life'.

Combined Science (Trilogy)

This course will result in two GCSEs at the end of Year 11. The course consists of Biology, Chemistry and Physics units which pupils will study throughout Key Stage 4. Pupils will be expected to develop their practical skills, along with their mathematical and literacy skills, which will all be assessed in the terminal examinations. These skills will be embedded in lessons throughout the Key Stage.

What will you do in Year 9?

During Year 9 pupils will be taught a range of required practicals which will be examined in the GCSE written papers. They will be taught the key vocabulary, along with the practical methods for these experiments, to allow them to consolidate their skills. All Year 9 pupils will then be taught the Combined Science (Trilogy) course until the end of the summer term, at which point we will make the decision as to whether pupils continue on with the Combined Science (Trilogy) course or take the Separate Science GCSEs.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will sit six terminal examinations with equal weighting. Pupils will be tested on their knowledge and understanding as well as skills linked to numeracy, literacy, analysis and evaluation.



Background to the subject

GCSE German helps pupils develop their language skills in a variety of contexts and a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where German is spoken. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable pupils to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

What will you do?

This course will enable pupils to develop their ability to write and speak in German and to understand German when it is written down or spoken. It builds on the KS3 study and prepares students for further study, e.g. GCSE to AS; AS to A2.

What will you do in Year 9?

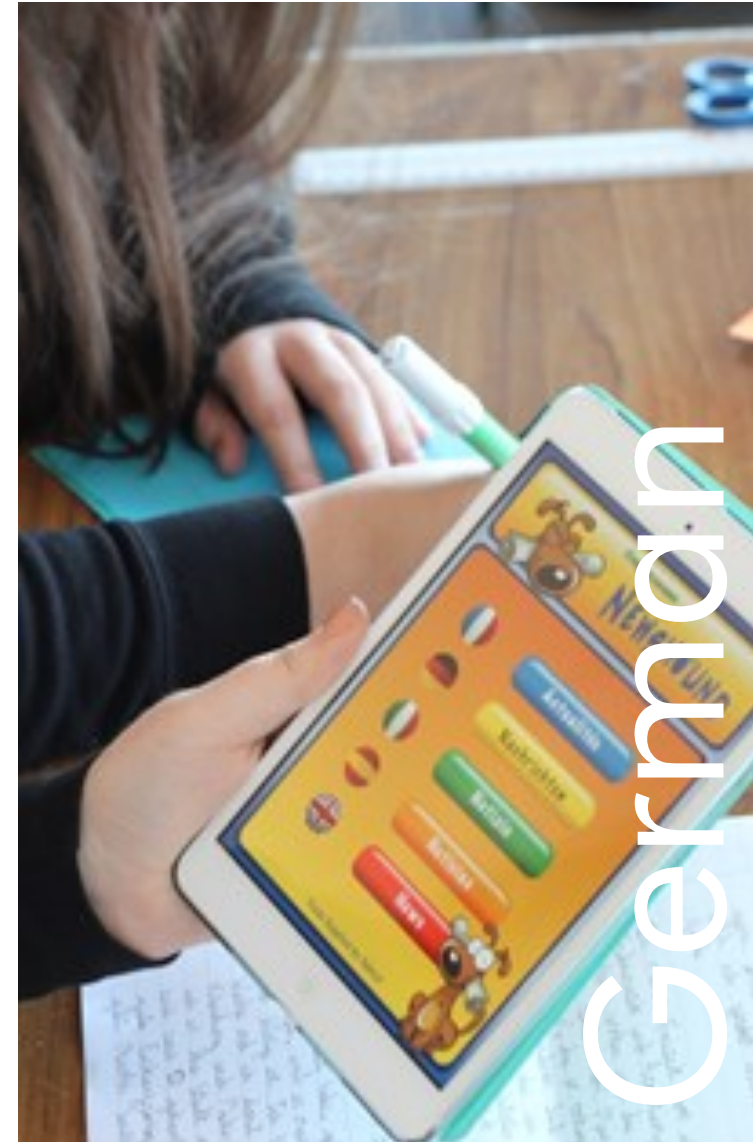
Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to acquire some of the skills and cover some of the topics required to succeed at GCSE. By the end of Year 9 pupils will have a broad grasp of tenses, vocabulary and sentence construction that will equip them to deal with the demands of Years 10 and 11.

How will you be assessed?

There are four units, each worth 25%:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

All four skills will be assessed in a terminal examination.



Background to the subject

GCSE French helps pupils develop their language skills in a variety of contexts and a broad understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken. It encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable pupils to take their place in a multi-lingual global society.

What will you do?

This course will enable pupils to develop their ability to write and speak in French and to understand French when it is written down or spoken. It builds on the KS3 study and prepares pupils for further study, e.g. GCSE to AS; AS to A2.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to acquire some of the skills and cover some of the topics required to succeed at GCSE. By the end of Year 9 pupils will have a broad grasp of tenses, vocabulary and sentence construction that will equip them to deal with the demands of Years 10 and 11.

How will you be assessed?

There are four units, each worth 25%:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

All four skills will be assessed in a terminal examination.



Background to the subject

GCSE Geography will provide the opportunity for pupils to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and their place within it. The GCSE course will deepen understanding of geographical processes, illuminate the impact of change and of complex people-environment interactions, highlight the dynamic links and interrelationships between places and environments at different scales, and develop pupils' competence in using a wide range of geographical investigative skills and approaches. Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.

What will you do?

Develop and extend knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, and of different scales including global; and of social, political and cultural context. Gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time. Apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts. This will include fieldwork opportunities both locally and abroad. It will also explore contemporary situations and issues; and develop well-evidenced arguments drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding

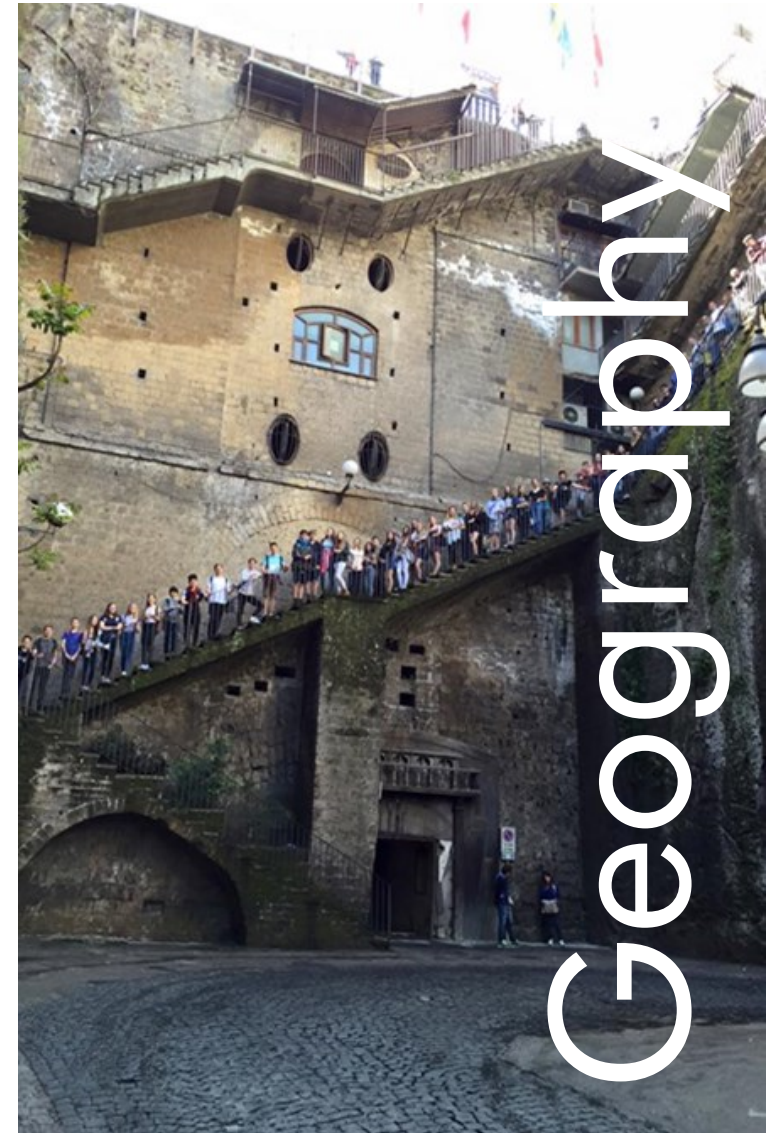
What will you do in Year 9?

Students will be introduced to a range of human and physical Geography topics allowing them to recall their KS3 learning and building the foundations for their final GCSE. By the end of Year 9 pupils will have a range of geographical skills that will equip them to deal with the demanding nature of the GCSE course.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will be assessed on the following: Place – processes and relationships. Physical geography – processes and change. Human geography – processes and change. People and environment – processes and interactions. Geographical skills

It will also be a requirement that at least two examples of fieldwork which are to be undertaken outside school.



Background to the subject

Through History at GCSE we investigate the events and mysteries of our past to help us understand our present and the world around us. History is about people – real people whose lives were sometimes exciting, such as the discovery of new medical breakthroughs, and sometimes frightening, like when Hitler increased his discrimination of the Jews in Nazi Germany. Whatever their lives were about, there's a fascinating, and sometimes tragic, story behind them.

What will you do?

The History GCSE will look at changes through time as well as events in depth across half a century. Through source analysis and enquiry, pupils will develop analytical skills and the ability to look at evidence critically, while finding out about exciting events from our past. Students will look at medicine in Britain and how it has changed over time. We will study in-depth the rise and fall of Nazi Germany and the international tensions between the two World Wars, as well as the impact of the Norman invasion in 1066.

What will you do in Year 9?

During Year 9 we will study a series of interesting topics, mirroring the style of the GCSE and practising the skills needed. We will look at topics like how Crime and Punishment have changed over time and a local study on the Mary Rose before moving onto the GCSE topic of Germany 1890-1945.

How will you be assessed?

The History GCSE will be assessed through two exams at the end of Year 11.



Background to the subject

GCSE Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. In art, there is no one correct answer. Therefore, the pupil is forced to analyse the problem given to them and come up with their own unique solution. This type of creative problem solving is a valuable skill. No matter what career is chosen, those who can create, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.

What will you do?

Over the duration of the course pupils will develop their observation and analytical skills. They will learn how to use a wide range of different media and build confidence in developing their own ideas. Art and Design is almost all practical, however pupils will be expected to write about the Artist's work giving their opinions about the Artist's working methods and show an understanding about how their work can influence the development of pupil's own ideas. Project themes change as the course progresses. Some will be set by the teacher - others will be driven by pupil's own personal choice.

What will you do in Year 9?

In Year 9 pupils will primarily be building their skills. They will study the work of different artists and learn how to use different techniques with skill and confidence. Pupils will experiment with a wide range of different media, some of which may be new to them. Pupils will work in a sketchbook and use it to develop their thinking and communication skills. By the end of Year 9 pupils will start their first GCSE project, this will give them time to develop a personal and meaningful project that will continue into Year 10.

How will you be assessed?

At the end of the course in Year 11 pupils will submit a portfolio of evidence, representing around 45 hours of work. This is normally made up of two coursework projects. A project includes preparatory studies and a final piece. This is worth 60% of the overall GCSE grade. Pupils must make sure that all of the following assessment objectives have been met: **AO1** - Research into relevant artists, **AO2** - Experimentation and developing ideas for a final piece, **AO3** - Initial ideas and response to the theme (spider diagrams and quick notes or drawings). Drawing from observation in a variety of materials and photographs and **AO4** - Final piece. **Exam 40%** - The Exam board will issue a paper each year giving different themes for pupils to work from. Pupils will be expected to pick one theme and develop their own personal response. Over 12 weeks pupils must cover all of the objectives above and complete a final piece in a 10 hour exam. **PLEASE NOTE:** There is a one-off contribution of £20 towards the cost of sketchbooks, folders and printing.



OCR Level 1 or 2 Cambridge National Certificate

Background to the subject

The certificate is for students who wish to develop knowledge and practical skills in child development. It is designed with practical and theoretical elements which will prepare students for further qualifications in Child Care, Health and Social Care, Psychology, Sociology and Biology.

The Course

All students will study three main topic areas:

1. Health and well-being for child development
2. Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years
3. Understand the development norms of a child from birth to five years.

What will you do?

Students will cover topics such as reproduction, parental responsibility, ante-natal care, birth, post natal provision conditions for development, child illness, child safety, nutrition and hygiene.

Students will also be given the opportunity to investigate feeding solutions, comparing these to nutritional requirements and evaluating the outcomes. Students will also observe development norms in children up to the age of five. This will include researching, planning and carrying out activities with a child.

How will you be assessed?

- Examination
- Two Centre Based units with practical task based assessment opportunities.
- Final Grade is 50% Controlled Assessment (as above) and one terminal examination 50%



Background to the subject

Computer Science was introduced to schools as it was recognised that there was a real shortage of skilled people in this fast-developing area. This subject is not about utilising word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software in various contexts – these skills are developed in the ICT Functional Skills course that every pupil undertakes in their core ICT lessons. Computer Science is the theory behind Computing and includes designing, writing, testing and debugging source code. It is excellent preparation for higher study and employment in Computer Science. Even if this is not a pupil's final career choice, this subject will develop those critical thinking, analytic and problem-solving skills that can be applied to technical problem in fields such as engineering, financial resource management, science and medicine. Computer Science is a demanding option generally most accessible to pupils who achieve well in Maths and/or Science and to those whose interest in programming reaches beyond the classroom.

What will you do?

Pupils study systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, system security, system software, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns and programming techniques

What will you do in Year 9?

In Year 9 pupils will study aspects of the following core units generally within a variety of practical activities including computational thinking, introduction to programming (Scratch, App Inventor and Python) and programming challenges that will prepare pupils for both their exam and the assessed Programming Project

How will you be assessed?

There are 2 units - Paper 1: Theory of Computer Science (Written 1.5 hours): 50% and Paper 2: Programming & Algorithms (Written 1.5 hours): 50%



Background to the subject

The Design and Technology GCSE is a course that explores how the world we live in has been designed and made. The course is designed to foster awareness of the need to consider sustainability and the environmental impact of their designing. Product Design GCSE will encourage pupils to investigate all areas of Design and Technology, from traditional skills through to the most modern manufacturing techniques. Studies are completed into modern Product Designers like James Dyson, Ross Lovegrove, Philippe Starck and Jonny Ive.

What will you do?

Pupils will undertake a variety of design and make tasks across the course. They will explore key concepts; from the initial design brief through to the manufacture of different products like lasercut memphis jewellery, bauhaus bird boxes, LED lighting and upcycled products. There is the opportunity to specialise in areas that are more suited to individual needs through the opportunity to discover the use of a range of materials from wood and plastic alongside our own CAD/CAM capabilities that include laser cutting and 3D Printing.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to acquire materials knowledge and design skills ready for the rigours of Year 10 & 11.

There will be a minimum of 3 different projects to complete across the year that will build upon the work pupils have already studied in previous years.

How will you be assessed?

There is one Controlled Assessment (50%). The Controlled Assessment is completed in Year 11. A choice of 3 design briefs are set by the Exam Board allowing pupils the choice of which area they wish to specialise in for their final project. The terminal examination is 50% - there will be one examination of two hours in the summer term of Year 11 featuring a range of questions that are set by the Exam Board. SECTION A: Design and Technology core skills and SECTION B: choice of materials.



Design and Technology (Textiles) GCSE

17

Background to the subject

The Design and Technology GCSE is a course that studies a range of practical and theoretical elements. The course is designed to allow pupils to generate creative ideas and modify technical techniques within a practical environment. There is an emphasis on how to consider sustainable design and the environmental impact of the practical choices made. Pupils are encouraged to study both modern and traditional Textile and Fashion works from designers such as Vivienne Westwood, Stella Jean, Kate Jenkins & Carolyn Saxby.

What will you do?

Pupils will undertake a variety of contemporary and traditional aspects of designing and making. Working to set briefs they will modify and develop their ideas innovatively. Throughout Year 9 pupils will explore textiles creatively developing their inner style in preparation for their Controlled Assessment period at GCSE.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to acquire both the practical and theoretical knowledge, understanding and skill set regarding Textiles and its application within Design & Technology. There will be a minimum of 3 different projects to complete across the year that will build upon the work pupils have already studied in Year 7 and 8. Projects include Construction & Decoration Skills, Two Piece Garment and an Individual Design Themed Product. These projects will provide a smooth transition from KS3 to GCSE, enabling pupils to develop a wide range of artistic and technical skills prior to beginning Year 10 and 11.

How will you be assessed?

Design Portfolio: 50% - the Controlled Assessment is completed in Year 11. A choice of design briefs are set by the Exam Board, allowing pupils the opportunity to select one specific design brief theme. Pupils can make products that vary from clothing and accessories to homeware. Terminal Examination: 50% - there will be one 2 hour written exam in the summer term of Year 11. The written exam features a broad range of questions that are set by the Exam Board. The paper is split into two subdivisions: Section A: Design & Technology and Section B : a choice of questions including Textiles



Background to the subject

This Photography course develops a wide range of skills, analytical and critical thinking and problem solving, which will be useful at college and future careers. Photography may offer a highly creative and hands-on alternative to other subjects you may be studying at GCSE.

What will you do?

Working with computers and photo editing software. Taking 35+ focus photos, in class and at home. Researching photographers, movements, artists, culture and trends. Developing creative responses to starting points and evaluating, annotating, refining work and ideas.

What will you do in Year 9?

This course will teach you to look at the world in an independent and creative way. You will be taught how to take photos, on a range of themes, using manual controls such as Aperture, Shutter Speed and how to upload, edit and present your images in Google slides and in a sketchbook. Camera requirements and SD card readers - in lessons students will have access to the school's 8 Canon Digital SLR cameras, it would be advantageous for pupils to have their own camera and USB SK card reader. A bridge camera with a fixed lens would be more than adequate but please ensure it meets the basic specification outlined below. Cameras brought to school must be securely stored by pupils in the lockable cupboard provided in the Art Department (we advise parents to ensure cameras brought into school are adequately insured. The camera must have the capacity to shoot in the following modes - Manual, Aperture Priority and Shutter Priority and use a standard 2GB/4GB SDHC/SD memory card (3cm x 2.2cm). If their camera uses a different sized card, pupils will need to bring in their own camera cable or a memory card adapter. Please note that there is a one off charge of £35 which will provide pupils with printing and an SD card.

How will you be assessed?

Photography is a coursework based subject, this means that every piece of work pupils produce in Year 9, 10 and 11 lessons will count towards their overall grade. The exam will make up another 40% which is taken over 10 weeks in Year 11. The coursework is normally made up of two/three coursework projects. A project includes preparatory studies and a final piece. This is worth 60% of the overall GCSE grade. Pupils must make sure that all of the following assessment objectives have been met: **AO1** - Research into relevant photographers (25%). **AO2** - Experimentation and developing ideas for a final piece (25%). **AO3** - Initial ideas and response to the theme (mind maps and quick notes or drawings). Taking photographs to record the world around you (25%). **AO4** - Final response (25%). The exam board will issue a paper each year giving different themes for pupils to work from in their exam. Pupils will be expected to pick one theme and develop their own personal response. Pupils must cover all of the assessment objectives above and their final piece will be completed in a 10 hour exam under exam conditions.



Background to the subject

Drama GCSE is a course that encourages pupils to develop a personal interest in why drama matters and be inspired, moved and changed. Whilst considering and exploring the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities, pupils will work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts generating, developing and communicating ideas. Drama GCSE allows pupils to develop a basis for their future roles as active citizens in employment and society in general, as well as for the possible further study of drama.

What will you do?

The course consists of three components. It is through practical engagement that understanding is enriched. Pupils explore a theme, topic or stimuli and come to appreciate how the dramatic medium and strategies can be used to create drama form and communicating meaning. Pupils will also study a complete and substantial play text, whilst developing performance skills and rehearsal techniques. The course requires learners to experience live theatre as a member of the audience.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 provides lots of opportunities to develop and practise performing and devising techniques by creating drama based on a range of different stimuli. Pupils explore contrasting theatre practitioners giving them a broad knowledge and experience of styles to draw on when creating their own drama. Pupils also look at how to realise scripted plays in performance as well as studying a play in depth looking at all aspects of performance including technical and design elements such as lighting and costume.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Devising – 40% - 60 marks internally assessed and externally moderated

There are 2 parts to the assessment: A portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of the process and a devised performance.

Component 2: Performance from text – 20% - 48 marks externally assessed by a visiting examiner

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice – 40% - 60 marks. Examination – 45 marks – 6 questions based on an extract from a chosen performance text. 15 marks – Live theatre evaluation – notes can be taken into examination.



Background to the subject

The Food and Nutrition GCSE is a course that explores various practical and theoretical elements within the food industry. The course is designed to allow pupils to generate and classify technical knowledge within a practical environment, whilst exploring the science and reasoning behind it. Pupils are encouraged to recognise the importance of sustainable living, meal preparation and the need for a healthy lifestyle. This structure will allow pupils to perfect their technical knowledge throughout.

What will you do?

Pupils will undertake a variety of practical across the course in preparation for the Controlled Assessment tasks. Pupils will work to set briefs and modify and justify their own ideas. Through the exploration period pupils will find their inner style and structure this ready for the Controlled Assessment period.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to work to acquire variety of skills such as technical knowledge and understanding, decision making skills and problem solving capabilities, all ready for the technical aspect of Year 10 and 11. Pupils will explore technical skills such as bread and pastry making, the handling and preparation of high risk foods such as meat and fish and using and preparing specialist sauces. There will be a strong emphasis on the nutritional content of the dishes conducted through trial and experimentation with ingredients. These will be recorded and analysed throughout the course in preparation for the practical Controlled Assessments.

How will you be assessed?

There are 2 Controlled Assessments: Task 1 Practical (Year 11) - 15% and Task 2 Practical (Year 11) - 35%. For the practical Controlled Assessment a set brief is chosen by the Exam Board. The Controlled Assessment tasks allow pupils to develop their technical skills, menu planning and nutritional analysis to a high standard. The terminal Examination makes up 50% of the qualification. There will be one examination of 1 hour 45 minutes in the summer term of Year 11 featuring a range of questions. Revision areas include food science, health and nutrition, food safety and food preparation. These questions are set by the Exam Board and revised thoroughly within school and at home.



Background to the subject

Media Studies GCSE is a course that analyses the world around you and the way people interact with it. People's lives are increasingly affected by the media, whether it is being subtly influenced by advertising methods, swayed by the bias of newspaper and magazine headlines or spending hours navigating the internet and virtual realities. Media Studies GCSE aims to critically look at all forms of media, analysing the ways media texts are constructed and consumed. The various forms of media platform – broadcasting, print and digital media – are increasingly important in the lives of young people and Media Studies aims to unpick and deconstruct how they work and the influence they have.

What will you do?

Key concepts such as audience, media language and representation are explored as well as some of the industries operating behind the scenes. There is a distinct practical element to the course, whereby pupils have many opportunities to create media texts, putting into practice what they have learnt in theory. The non-examination assessment is based on one of 8 media forms – pupils learn how a media text is put together and then they try to replicate it, aiming to make the finished product as 'fit for purpose' as possible.

What will you do in Year 9?

Year 9 is an ideal opportunity for pupils to acquire the language of Media Studies. Pupils will not have studied Media before so Year 9 will be a foundation year where pupils will experiment with creating media texts and analysing how a text is put together. By the end of Year 9 pupils will have a range of analytical vocabulary that will equip them to deal with the production coursework and the 20 Close Study Products.

How will you be assessed?

- One NEA during the course (Controlled Assessment) chosen from 8 media forms (e.g. advertising, magazines, television) - **30%** of the final grade
- Two exams at the end of Year 11 worth **35%** each
- Exams are based on knowledge gained over the course and on the 20 Close Study Products
- Close Study Products are dictated by the Eduqas exam board and are based on one unifying theme



Background to the subject

The GCSE Music course involves practical ways to develop a deeper understanding of how different styles of music are created and performed. Apart from being a highly enjoyable subject, taking the GCSE Music course can lead to further musical study at college and beyond. It is equally useful to future career pathways leading to employment in many industries and professions. Pupils develop broader life skills and attributes, including critical, creative thinking, artistic awareness, analytical and problem solving skills, cultural understanding, self-discipline, resilience and self-confidence.

What will you do?

Pupils will develop musical skills and interests in three elements of performing, composing and listening. Performing skills - both individually and as part of a group. Pupils rehearse and refine performances on their chosen instrument or voice, developing technical control, expression, communication and interpretation in their playing or singing. Pupils can select their own performance pieces and styles. Composing music - pupils will learn skills required by a composer. A range of compositional starting points are explored and pupils investigate different techniques for developing/manipulating ideas to turn them into completed pieces. Pupils can use music software and technology to aid the composing process. Listening to a diverse variety of music helps pupils learn how to identify the features they can hear. There is a continued focus on how elements of music are used for different purposes. The listening content includes pieces from different historical eras, film music and a range of pop music genres.

What will you do in Year 9?

Pupils practise, explore and develop their own performing, composing and listening skills, building upon their musical experiences and become more independent in their approach to creating music. As GCSE performance assessment is related to music grade exams standards, it is highly recommended that pupils undertake a form of extra curricular tuition in an instrument or voice (this can usually be arranged through the school if necessary). However, pupils do not need to have taken music grade exams to do this course - a willingness to play (or sing) and practise regularly is far more important. Listening skills and theory concepts are integrated into practical activities to build musicianship and knowledge ready for the GCSE written examination.

How will you be assessed?

There are four practical assessments that are started in Year 10 and developed/completed during Year 11. Solo performance: 15%; Ensemble performance: 15%; Composition 1 (brief set by the exam board): 15% and Composition 2 (free choice): 15%. There is one written examination at the end of Year 11 which will test listening skills, knowledge and understanding. The Listening Examination is 40%.



Background to the subject

GCSE PE is a challenging theoretical and practical course. It provides pupils with excellent opportunities to lead a healthy and active lifestyle. The content of the course is designed to furnish pupils with a specific and detailed high level understanding of sporting performance. The course leads on from the core Physical Education programme and integrates a theoretical underpinning of sporting concepts on a local, national and international level. The course will help to provide a pathway to further education and careers, including those associated with Sport Science.

The course

With the course breakdown being a mixture of theoretical exam, controlled coursework and practical ability, the time is set out with a balance of sporting based practical and classroom based theory sessions to prepare the pupils for the assessments.

What will you do (Theory)?

The two 75 minute terminal exams pack in a variety of curriculum topics. These range from understanding the active participant, including the concepts of anatomy, physiology, training principles and performance data analysis, through factors affecting participation such as social groupings, role models and sports psychology, to national and international issues such as media and sport.

What will you do (Practical)?

Throughout the course, pupils will be expected to perform in and will be assessed in a range of sporting activities. Their best three sporting grades will then be selected and moderated by the exam board. Very good sporting performance is key and it is advisable to be involved in at least two competitive community sports clubs and at least two school sports clubs to meet the high standards necessary to be successful on this course. In Year 11 the pupils will also undergo the analysis and improvement coursework looking at sport in more depth and making recommendations to improve performance.

How will you be assessed?

There are two assessment strands - knowledge and understanding for the active participant – 60%. Two terminal exams in Year 11 that together are worth 60% of the overall grade. The exams are based on the range of content that will be covered in the theory lessons. The active participant – 40%. This section comprises of two parts: three practical (performer) based assessments of sporting competency that must be from one of the exam board prescribed sporting activities and an analysis of sporting performance coursework.



Background to the subject

The NCFE Certificate in Health and Fitness is designed to give pupils a good general understanding of the principles behind health and fitness linked to a healthy lifestyle. Unlike the GCSE PE course, the content does not require such a high level performance ability but an in-depth knowledge at the sports science level is important. This course does have links to GCSE PE topics and is recognised as a Level 2 GCSE equivalent.

The course

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to health and fitness that includes an exam and a coursework based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the health and fitness sector or progress to further study.

The study of health and fitness involves understanding the functions of the body systems, understanding the principles of training, knowing how to create and apply lifestyle analysis tools and how to create a fitness programme for a person with specific goals. The qualification focuses on an applied study of the health and fitness industry and learners will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working within that sector.

How will I be assessed?

1. Unit 1: Introduction to Body Systems and Principles of Training in Health and Fitness (external exam)
2. Unit 2: Preparing and Planning for Health and Fitness (controlled assessment - coursework)

This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded at Level 1 Pass/Merit/Distinction and Level 2 Pass/Merit/Distinction



Religious Studies GCSE

25

Background to the subject and relevance.

Religious Studies GCSE offers a modern and inspiring option that will help pupils to learn about the approaches of religion and philosophy to some of the most fundamental questions about human existence and how people behave and why. We will look at human psychology as part of this process. Pupils will also look at non/religious secular views on key ethical issues.

It will enable pupils to gain a qualification in a subject they will have studied for most of their school life, and to build on the foundation that has provided. It is an excellent qualification to have if you are interested in journalism, law, teaching, social work, medicine and much more.

What will pupils do?

Pupils will look at key issues in the world today – perhaps including things seen or read in the news. Pupils will look at family life, peace and war and non-religious views on law, school and the family. Pupils will learn skills in interpreting and evaluating pieces of information, communicating and applying their knowledge and through problem solving. Religious Studies is a very interactive subject, with lots of room for discussion and debate.

What will pupils do in Year 9?

Year 9 will be a time to develop skills in analysis, justification and reflection, and understanding of key concepts such as morality, justice and the sanctity of life through lively debate and exploration of stories in the news. By the end of Year 9 pupils will have a good understanding of the range of skills and concepts necessary to succeed in this GCSE.

How will pupils be assessed?

At the end of the course there will be two exams. Paper 1: The study of religions - Christianity and Islam and Paper 1: Thematic studies - philosophical and ethical aspects.



Your Option Choices

26

To choose your options please complete the online Year 8 Options 2021 Google Form by 22nd March 2021 by following this link:

<https://forms.gle/oFaw8ujwfW4RN9bm8>


You must choose one subject from Section 1 and two subjects from Section 2.

OR

Choose two subjects from Section 1 and one from Section 2.

N.B. If you choose two subjects from Section 2 only one can be a technology subject and only one can be an art subject.

Please ensure you also select two reserve choices in the Reserve Choices section.



SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL

Year 8 Options 2021

*Required

Name of Parent/Carer completing this form *

Your answer

First name of your Year 8 child *

Your answer

Surname of your Year 8 child *

Your answer

Tutor Group (if known)

Choose ▼

