



YEAR 9 UPPER SCHOOL

PREFERENCE BOOKLET







Key Stage 4 preferences

This booklet describes the courses that we offer to students in Years 10 and 11.

In Year 10, for the first time in your school career, you have some choice about what you study. You do not have complete freedom - several subjects are compulsory - but you are able to drop some subjects and to start some new ones. It is absolutely vital that you make these choices carefully.

Studying a modern foreign language gives you great skills for the rest of your life. The internet has brought everyone much closer together so chatting, blogging and networking with people of different languages is a fantastic opportunity to find out about other cultures and traditions. We hope that many of you continue to develop the language skills you have developed so far.

However, most occupations do not require you to follow particular courses - getting the best possible grades will usually be more important. As such, it makes good sense to choose subjects that you will do well in.

Remember, you cannot tell which teacher you will get; you cannot be sure which class you will be in and who else will be in it. It is much better to put these things to one side when making your choices.

I would urge you to take as much advice as you can. Talk to your parents; talk to older brothers and sisters; talk to students that you know in Years 10 and 11; talk to your teachers and your tutor. Some of the subjects will be new to you, do take the trouble to find out about them.

We want all of our students to enjoy courses that will give them the chance to achieve impressive qualifications.

"Impressive" is an important word . We want to help students get access to the best sixth forms and colleges, to the best universities and to stimulating and rewarding jobs. This means getting the best possible grades in subjects they are going to enjoy and which are respected by employers and by other education institutions. For many of the students, impressive means GCSE passes at grade 5 or better in a variety of academic subjects.

We are here to help and advise students and parents. We hope you will attend the **Year 9 Preference Evening on Wednesday 22 January 2025**; when we will say more about the important choices that you need to make, but you are also welcome to get in touch directly at any time.

The preference form will be available to complete online.

Choosing subjects that you enjoy and that you are good at is a good starting point.

Remember, you will want to leave us at the end of Year 11 with the best possible grades and to be able to look back on an interesting and rewarding set of courses. Good luck!

Mrs C Farrand Assistant Headteacher



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Please be aware of the following:

You need to select FOUR option preferences, you can select:

- only one Technology subject (Design & Technology or Hospitality & Catering)
- a maximum of two humanities subjects (History, Geography or Religious Studies)
- a Modern Foreign Language (MFL)
- a maximum of two 'Arts' subjects (Art, Drama, Music, Photography, PE or Dance)
- Computer Science
- Statistics/FSMQ (must be discussed with Mr Edwards)

You need to indicate a reserve subject for each block on your preference form.

Key dates

- Preference Evening 22 January 2025.
- Preference forms live (online) from 8pm 22 January 2025.
- Preference forms completed by 30 January 2025.
- Finalisation of the curriculum for each upper school student takes place between April-May.
- New timetable begins 17 June 2025.



English Language and Literature

Course Title and Exam Board

GCSE English Language and English Literature with AQA Exam Board.



Course Description

All students will study two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature. Reading, writing, and speaking and listening are of vital importance in everyday life and also essential for most careers. As such, students will continue to hone their skills in order to read and respond to fiction and non-fiction texts effectively in English Language. For English Literature, students will study three central texts: Macbeth, A Christmas Carol and either An Inspector Calls, or Lord of the Flies, as well as a selection of poetry from the AQA Power and Conflict Anthology.

Skills and Concepts

In both GCSEs, students will be encouraged to develop their skills in reading and writing, as well as spoken language, helping to improve their expression on the page and in discussion.

In English Literature, and the reading elements of English Language, students will learn how to unpick an author's intention and purpose, analysing language, grammar and structure. In English Language, 50% of marks are attributed to writing and they will be asked to demonstrate and apply what they have learned reading texts, and apply their understanding to their writing as they take on the role of author.

English Literature and Language both emphasise analytical thought and precise understanding, as well as extended writing, which are important skills going forward in education, and in many careers and in life.

Requirements

The examinations in English Language and English Literature have one level of entry and are assessed through terminal exams in the summer term of Year 11.

Student Groupings

Students will be taught in mixed attainment learning classes for English and English Literature; this allows for smaller class groups and greater teacher support for students. The work in all classes will be differentiated to challenge the most able, but also support the needs of those students who find English more of a challenge.

Mathematics

Course Description

All students follow the national curriculum in Mathematics. You will study number (Arithmetic), Ratio and Proportion, Algebra, Shape, Space and Measures (Geometry) and Data Handling (Statistics), which together with Using and Applying Mathematics form the Attainment Targets on which your final assessment for GCSE will be based.

Skills and Concepts

You will be encouraged to develop your knowledge of a wide variety of mathematical concepts, skills and techniques in order to develop problem solving abilities when presented with functional problems that better prepare students for the real world application of Maths.

A great deal of emphasis will be placed on communication skills including both written and oral explanations of mathematical ideas.

Method of Assessment

There are two tiers of assessment. Higher grades available 4 to 9 and Foundation 1 to 5. These are 100% exam and there will be no coursework component. There are three exams, two of which require the use of a calculator.

The Higher tier and Foundation tier course will be examined 2024.

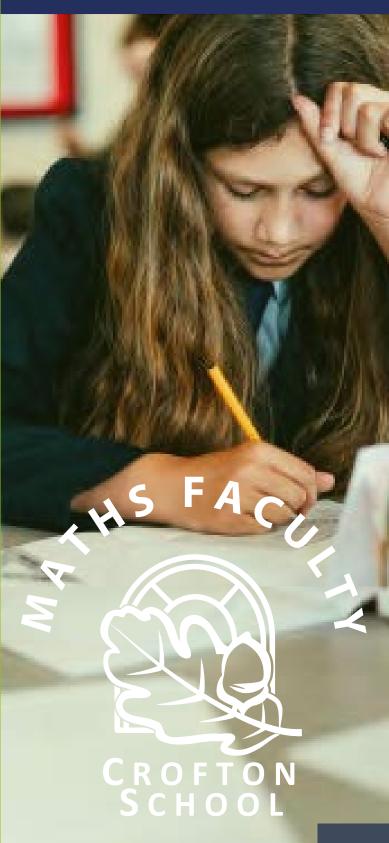
Teaching Groups

You will be set according to your ability after discussions between teachers and with reference to the grades you obtain in your Year 9 exams.

Please see page 40 for information on Statistics and Additional Maths.

Course Title and Exam Board

Mathematics with OCR Exam Board



AQA GCSE Combined Science

Course Title and Exam Board

The courses offered in Science are:

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy



100% of the GCSE grade is determined by exams. These exams test knowledge and understanding as well as assessing pupils on practicals that they have studied. The Science course does not include any controlled assessments (formal assessments conducted during class time).

All students not taking Separate Sciences will begin this programme of study at the beginning of Key Stage 4.

Course Description

GCSE Combined Science provides a Key Stage 4 Science course for learners of any ability, whether you intend to study Science further or not. Students will study all three disciplines of Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate teaching and learning units.

Method of Assessment

GCSE Combined Science is examined in the summer term of Year 11. Each paper carries equal weighting for determination of the two GCSE scores.

Biology 1c: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins
Biology 2c: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins
Chemistry 1c: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins
Chemistry 2c: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins
Physics 1c: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins
Physics 2c: Written paper - 1 hour 15 mins

Student Groupings

Students will be set according to performance during Key Stage 3, including, but not limited to: Year 9 exam scores as well as quality and punctuality of both class work and homework.

(3 GCSEs) AQA GCSE Separate Science

Separate Sciences (sometimes known as Triple Science) is not an option subject; students will be invited, by letter, to take the course over the two years of their GCSE. These invitations are based on student performance during Key Stage 3, including, but not limited to: Year 9 exam scores as well as quality and punctuality of both class work and homework.

This decision has been made due to the fast pace of the three GCSEs compared to that of studying Combined Science. The Separate Science course also adds pressure during an already busy examination season; a student studying Separate Science will have to study additional content during the course to cover the extra GCSE. Students are only invited if it is felt that they can handle the additional demands of the course.

Studying for two Science GCSEs rather than three will not reduce the chance of a student studying A Levels in two Sciences; local colleges and sixth forms look for one GCSE Science at grade 6 or higher for each Science A Level to be studied.

Course Description

GCSE Separate Science provides a Key Stage 4 Science course for learners of high ability. The specification presents Biology, Chemistry and Physics in separate teaching and learning units and provides a firm foundation for progression to AS and A Level Science.

Method of Assessment

GCSE Separate Science is examined in the summer term of Year 11. Each paper carries equal weighting for determination of GCSE scores.

Biology

Biology 1s: Written paper - 1 hour 45 mins Biology 2s: Written paper - 1 hour 45 mins

Chemistry

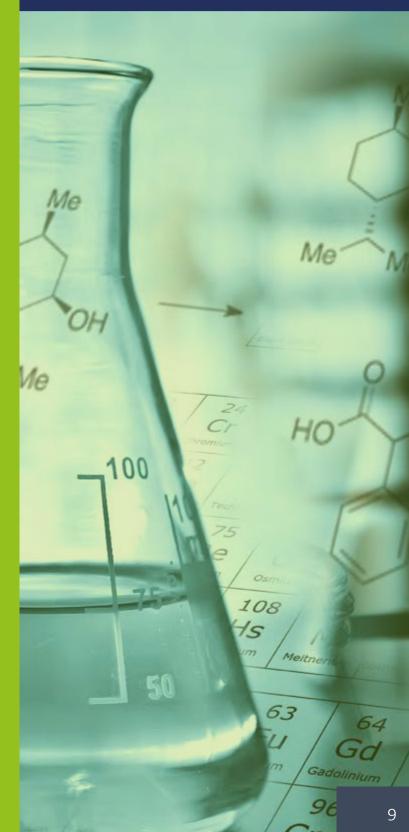
Chemistry 1s: Written paper - 1 hour 45 mins Chemistry 2s: Written paper - 1 hour 45 mins

Physics

Physics 1s: Written paper - 1 hour 45 mins Physics 2s: Written paper - 1 hour 45 mins

Course Title and Exam Board

The courses offered in Science are: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics: AQA GCSE Separate Sciences: Biology, Chemistry, Physics



Core Physical Education

All students will continue with 2 hours of compulsory Physical Education every week. Building upon Key Stage 3, PE lessons will aim to keep students active and enjoying physical activity whilst continuing to develop an understanding of how physical activity supports social, physical and mental wellbeing.



Course Description- Year 10 and 11: In Year 10 and 11, all students follow a diverse curriculum and will experience activities they have not had chance to participate in before. Students are mostly taught in single sex, mixed ability classes except where a student also chooses GCSE PE. In this instance, students will study sports in more detail and be assessed for the practical element of the GCSE PE course.

Each activity block will last for approximately 8 lessons and there will be links to the GCSE syllabus for students who have opted to follow the course. Examples of the type of activities are:

- Trampolining and Gymnastics
- Benchball or Dodgeball
- Rounders
- Table Tennis
- Rugby or Tag Rugby
- Health and Fitness
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Athletics
- Softball
- Tennis
- Dance

Skills and Concepts

Our aims include:

- gaining enjoyment and satisfaction from being involved in physical activity
- continuing to develop your physical competencies
- enhancing your self-esteem through the development of your physical confidence
- coping with the challenges of competitive and cooperative situations
- encouraging you to adopt an active lifestyle while at school and throughout life after Crofton.

Personal Development Learning

Crofton School prides itself on its established and recognised Personal Development Learning programme. It is designed to best prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of young adult life and beyond. It provides a unique opportunity for students to be informed about and further develop social, political, economic and health issues that will enable them to make the most of their lives as one member of a larger British society that shares common ideals and values for us all to live our lives to the maximum in the pursuit of our individual and collective goals.

Course Description

Personal Development Learning encourages students to reflect on and celebrate their existing individual strengths and remaining areas for development. In a rapidly changing world, students are taught the value of transferable skills such as teamwork, problem solving, decision making, independence and leadership. Personal Development Learning at Crofton School is divided into 4 main themes:

Being and Feeling

Students are also invited to consider important health issues, to do with their bodies, relationships and emotional wellbeing. Spiritual development is an intrinsic part of nurturing and reflecting on their emotional wellbeing.

Belonging and Connecting:

Personal Development Learning focuses on celebrating and nurturing the individual and equipping students with

Method of Assessment:

Each Half Term there are End of Topic Reflection Exercises which are considered important to help students remember and internalise key topic knowledge, skills and values.

the tools to make the most of being an effective and valued part of the wider society that they belong to. We develop the student's role as a young active citizen who recognises their rights AND responsibilities as consumer. Students are also taught about the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of difference such as those with different faiths, beliefs and sexuality.

Planning and Growing:

Students are empowered to think of how their individual wishes linked to careers, education, friends and pasttimes can be best met and fulfilled at different stages of their lives.

Enterprise and Diligence:

Equipped with knowledge about basic economic ideas and personal finance training, students are given the opportunity to reflect on and develop the benefits of being a creative thinker and what energy and other things and people are needed to make the idea into a reality. Careers Education is clearly an important part of being enterprising.

Student Groupings

Students are taught in their tutor groups.





Preference subjects

Art & Design

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GCSE Art, Craft & Design - AQA

Art at Crofton achieves outstanding results and has been recognised by Hampshire Education Authority as being amongst the highest GCSE results in the county.

In Art and Design, pupils are expected to submit a portfolio of work based on projects taught in class. This accounts for 60% of the course.

Possible themes include:

- Portraits
- Buildings
- Natural Forms
- Textures

Controlled test- 40%: a project/theme set by the examboard. Starting in the January of Year 11.

Pupils use lesson time until after the Easter holiday to... research/create ideas/experiment and prepare for their personal response. With teacher support.

There is a 2 day (10 hours) controlled time where pupils create their response (invigilated in exam conditions). They do get breaks! This is always completed before the first academic exam starts. Both units are marked inhouse and moderated by the exam board.

Pupils are awarded marks for:

- Ability to research and develop ideas
- Experimentation with materials
- Producing personal outcomes

They will have 5 hours per fortnight of curriculum time.

The Art Department is open at least 1 night per week for catch-up and enrichment to all Key Stage 4 pupils studying Art and Design.

To look at the standard of work produced in Art and Design, please visit our Instagram page - <u>Croftonartists</u>.



Computer Science

Course Title and Exam Board GCSE Computer Science with Edexcel examination board.

Method of Assessment There are two externally examined components weighted at 50% each.



Why choose GCSE Computer Science?

Studying Computer Science empowers you to solve complex, challenging problems, enabling you to make a positive difference in the world. Computing jobs often come with high salaries. Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions, from astronomy to financial analysis – not just in IT related jobs!

Course Description

Our GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It provides a practical approach to developing computational skills. This includes innovative, practical onscreen assessment to ensure all students develop the computational skills they need for an exciting digital future beyond the classroom.

It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

Content overview

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science

- **Computational thinking** understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.
- **Data** understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.
- **Computers** understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.
- **Networks** understanding of computer networks and network security.
- **Issues and impact** awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues.

Assessment overview- This **written paper** consists of five compulsory questions, each one focused on one of the topic areas. The questions consist of multiple-choice, short-, mediumand extended-open-response, tabular and diagrammatic items.

Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking

- Understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs
- Understanding how to decompose and analyse problems
- Ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Assessment overview - This paper is **practical** in nature and requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems. Students will complete this assessment onscreen using their Integrated Development Environment (IDE) of choice.

Dance

Course Description

Although no dance experience is necessary, some performance experience would be of great benefit to you and the confidence to perform in front of your peers. The students study a dance anthology of 6 different dance works. These consist of: different styles and fusions, a selection of established and emerging choreographies, different numbers and combinations of dancers, influence of other cultures and inclusive dance.

Skills and Concepts

- 1. Throughout the course, performance work will stem from various ideas, concepts and themes from established professional dance works. Theoretical lessons will focus on appreciation of prescribed professional works from the dance anthology and more general performance and choreography skills.
- 2. There will be an expectation to take part in extra-curricular performance opportunities as they arise e.g. assemblies, local area festival, dance shows.
- 3. You will be responsible for creating a final choreography piece for up to five dancers and these rehearsals will take place after school and/or lunch times.

Due to the requirements of the course students will be required to complete GROUP WORK as well as solo work. As a consequence of this, the ability to work well in a group and commitment to the group is of VITAL importance

There will be some rehearsals after school and lunch times. This requires strong organisational skills and dedication as you will be expected to attend some of these.

Student Groupings

You will be taught in mixed ability groups.

Dance kit

Students are expected to wear appropriate dance kit for practical lessons, for GCSE Dance this includes, black/blue plain leggings, PE top or black top. There will be an opportunity to purchase a GCSE Dance top although this is not compulsory kit. No jewellery or socks (including socks with grips). Students may wear dance specific footwear if they prefer.

Course Title and Exam Board

Performing Arts; Dance 8236 with AQA Exam Board

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL practical exam/coursework is filmed for examination as requested by the exam board.

Dance Anthology

Dance Work	Dance Company	Choreographer
Artificial Things Inclusive Contemporary, contact work	Stopgap Dance Company	Lucy Bennett
A Linha Curso. Contemporary, Samba, Capoeira	Rambert Dance Company	Itzik Gelili
Infra Contemporary Ballet	The Royal Ballet	Wayne McGregor
Shadows Contemporary, Classic Dance	Phoenix Dance Theatre	Christopher Bruce
Within Her Eyes Contemporary, Contact work	James Cousins Company	James Cousins
Emancipation of Expressionism Hip Hop	Boy Blue Entertainment	Kenrick H20 Sandy

You will be studying:	Method of Assessment	Percentage Weighting
Choreography	Choreography	30%
Performance	Performance	30%
Dance Appreciation	Written Paper	40%



Design and Technology

Course Title and Exam Board

GCSE Design and Technology with the AQA Exam Board.



Course Description

This exciting and brand new course from AQA gives students the opportunity to study at least one material area of Design and Technology alongside the core elements of the subject. The individual aspects are Graphic Products and Resistant Materials.

The course covers all aspects of the National Curriculum for Design and Technology and continues to build upon skills learnt at Key Stage 3 level. You will learn about a range of materials, manufacturing processes, techniques and new technologies and utilise them appropriately

The course consists of a piece of non-exam assessment (coursework) and one exam which are weighted 50% and 50%. The non-exam assessment comprises of a research, design and evaluation portfolio. The context of this will be issued each year by the exam board. The exam consists of a range of question styles which are technically and theoretically based. Year 10 will build on skills and theoretical knowledge in preparation for the completion of the non-exam assessment and the exam in Year 11.

The 3 key areas of study are:

- Core technical principals
- Specialist technical principals
- Designing and making principles.

All three areas are assessed through the non-exam assessment and the written exam.

Skills and Concepts

You will use a variety of tools, machinery and equipment effectively and safely to make quality products as a result of research. You should have some understanding of a range of industrial processes and new technologies. In your work you will use a range of materials to manufacture single items demonstrating your technical understanding. ICT will be used where possible, you will use CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture).

In this course you will be taught how to cut, shape and form materials. You will combine and process materials to alter the overall appearance and function. The finishing processes applied to these materials will also be studied.



This course provides a natural progression to further education courses: apprenticeships, A-Levels and vocational courses. These can then lead into a wide variety of career opportunities, including working in the building industry, graphical and web design, architecture, interior design, fashion design, jewellery design and engineering.

Method of Assessment Unit 1: Non-Exam assessment (NEA) -Coursework

- Practical application of the three key study areas- Core technical principals, specialist technical principals and designing and making principles.
- Internally assessed
- 50% of overall grade

Unit 2: Written exam

Written exam based on the three key study areas

- Consists of multiple choice and short answer questions examining the core technical principals.
- Consists of longer response questions that assess the specialist technical principals.
- Consists of questions that assess the designing and making process.
- Externally assessed written examination accounting for 50% of the marks.

Student Groupings

Students will study at least one of the following material areas:

- Graphics
- Resistant Materials



Graphics

In the Graphics area you will be using a variety of graphical media in your designing and making as well as developing an understanding of materials and processes used in the other areas of Technology. You will use a range of processes and skills to broaden your practical ability and CAD CAM to enhance your skills.

Resistant Materials

In the Resistant Materials area you will be designing and making products in wood, metal and plastic as well as developing an understanding of materials and processes used in the other areas of Technology. You will have the opportunity to use CAD and CAM techniques and learn about a variety of workshop techniques and practices.

Drama

Course Title and Exam Board GCSE Drama; AQA 70% Theory (40% written exam and 30% coursework, which can be redrafted), 30% Practical



The skills students develop in Drama will be of considerable benefit and compliment their future career choices. Team work, collaboration, communication and creative thinking skills are a vital aspect of the course which are transferable to nearly all career pathways. A passion for the arts is essential as students must take responsibility for their creative decisions and processes. It is advised that students attend arts events and visit the theatre regularly to support their appreciation of the subject and have a true passion for creating theatre. They must be prepared to produce in-depth written exam work to support the practical elements of the course as there is a heavy weighting of 70% theory. Both performance and design technical options can be explored as pathways during the course.

Course Description

The course is broken down into three components;

Component 1: Understanding Drama (Practical and written application) 40%

What is assessed?

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of six
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 1hr 45mins
- Open book
- 80 marks

Questions?

- Section A: Multiple choice (4 marks)
- Section B: Four questions given from the extract of the set play (44 marks)
- Section C: One two-part question (from a choice) of the work of live theatre makers in a single live theatre production (32 marks)

This component is marked by the AQA examiner.

Component 2: Devising Drama 40% (Written 30%, Practical 10%)

What is assessed?

- Process of creating devised drama
- Performance of devised drama (students may work as a designer or performer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

How is it assessed?

- Drama log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total

These components are marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Text in Practice 20% (Practical)

What is assessed?

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as a designer or performer)
- Free choice of the play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for component 1.

How is it assessed?

- Performances extract 1 (20 marks) and extract 2 (20 marks)
- 40 marks in total

This component is marked by AQA.

Skills and Concepts (and expectations)

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to 'put yourself in somebody else's shoes'. Students will play many different parts in different given circumstances. Students will need to be ready to take creative risks and be pushed outside their comfort zone. Students will enjoy this course if they want to study a course which is practical, creative and expressive. Students will also need to be prepared to undertake the demands of the written content of the course as this involves in-depth and critical analysis and set text exploration. Essentially, students do need to have a passion, enthusiasm and interest for drama and theatre inside and outside of school. They will be working as a collaborative team during all lessons and expectations of performance professionalism and discipline will be the key to a successful performance group.

The ideal student knows that fundamentally drama relies on the group; therefore, they must be ready to cooperate with others. This means 'putting the group first, for what is good for the group and in hand what is good for you'. Commitment is paramount as students will be expected to rehearse in their own time to support their group work and this will be compulsory leading up to performance exam deadlines and assessments. Finally, students need to be aware they must have the confidence to perform regularly to an audience in class and also for larger audiences for performance evenings. There will be some explicit content explored in the set texts from the exam board for Component 1.

Student Groupings

Groups for GCSE Drama are mixed ability.



Film Studies

Course Title and Exam Board

GCSE Film Studies: Edugas

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In Film Studies, pupils are expected to submit coursework and complete exams based on the films they have studied.

Lessons focus on film history, film terminology, key sequences, analysis, as well as themes, topics and the context of films.

The Coursework- 60 marks - 30%

Write an independent screenplay extract from one genre of film (800 - 1000 words) and create an accompanying shooting script for approx. 1 minute of screen time

An evaluative analysis (750 - 850 words)

The Exams- 140 marks- 70%

Component 1 (70 marks - 35%) 1 hour 30 minutes

Component 2 (70 marks - 35%) 1 hour 30 minutes

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of:

- the ways in which meanings and responses are generated through film
- a contrasting, culturally diverse range of films from different national contexts
- film as an aesthetic medium
- how films reflect the social, cultural and political contexts in which they are made
- the relationship between film and film technology over time.

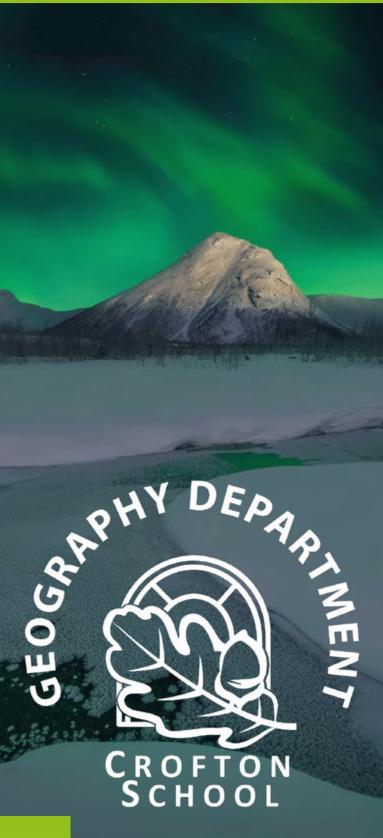




Geography

Course Title and Exam Board

GCSE Geography - AQA Exam Board



Course Description

This course looks at people and their interaction with the environment.

- You will learn to make sense of your surroundings, both human and physical.
- You will gain knowledge of different places and environments in the UK and around the world.
- You will develop an appreciation of the threats to our environment, evaluate different solutions to these issues and learn how you can make a difference.
- You will learn about the opportunities, constraints and challenges facing different people throughout the world.
- You will develop a range of skills including; map work, problem solving, group work, communication skills (e.g. presentation, debating), ICT, literacy and numeracy.

There are four main areas on subject content:

Living with the physical environment

- The challenge of natural hazards Tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change.
- The living world Ecosystems, tropical rainforests, cold environments.
- Physical landscapes in the UK Physical landscapes in the UK- Coastal landscapes and river landscapes.

Challenges in the human environment

- Urban issues and challenges Global urban growth, urban change in the UK, sustainability.
- The changing economic world Global development and quality of life, the UK economy.
- The challenge of resource management Global and UK resource management, food.

Geographical applications

- Issue evaluations Critical thinking, decision making and problem-solving using secondary sources (including pre-released material).
- Fieldwork Two geographical enquiries, including the collection of primary data on field trips.

Geographical skills

- Cartographic skills
- Graphical skills
- Numerical skills

- Statistical skills
- Use of quantitative and qualitative data
- Formulating enquiries and arguments
- Literacy

PLEASE NOTE...

Students are expected to attend two fieldtrips (one human and one physical) and undertake independent research. We will visit locations accessible in an extended school day (e.g. 8am-4pm).

Method of Assessment:

The assessment takes the form of three written examination papers and there are no longer tiers in Geography (all students will sit the same paper, regardless of their ability). The exam papers will include a number of different styles of question, including multiple-choice, short answer and extended essay-style responses.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment 35% of the GCSE, 1 hour and 30 minutes, 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology). This exam assesses knowledge and understanding of the physical geography units. Students will also be required to apply geographical skills.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment 35% of the GCSE, 1 hour and 30 minutes, 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology). This exam assesses knowledge and understanding of the human geography units. Students will also be required to apply geographical skills.

Paper 3: Geographical application

30% of the GCSE, 1 hour and 30 minutes, 76 marks (including 6 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology). This exam assesses the issues evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills elements of the course. In the first part of the exam students will be expected to analyse resources about any aspect of the specification and answer questions about a contemporary geographical issue. There will be a prerelease booklet to study in class before the final exams. Students must think critically, consider stakeholders' views, evaluate the advantages and disadvantages and generate solutions.

In the second part of the exam student's understanding of the enquiry process will be examined. Questions will be based on the two days of fieldwork carried out during the course and unfamiliar fieldwork from different contexts. Students will need to demonstrate that they can ask geographical questions, generate hypotheses, collect data, analyse data (using mathematical and statistical techniques), draw conclusions and evaluate their fieldwork.

Student Groupings

Geography will be taught in either ability sets or mixed groups, depending on the number of students.

Please talk to your teacher if you have any questions about the geography course.

Geography tackles the big issues! Without geography...... you are nowhere!

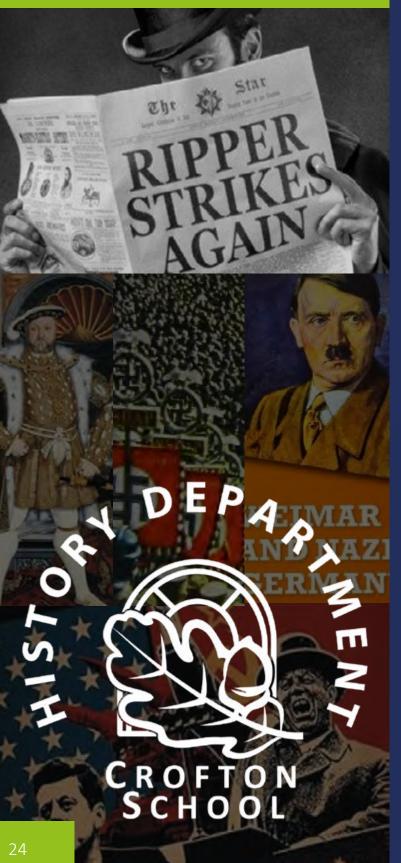
- as international links become closer, easier and faster, we need more than ever to understand the geography of the world;
- to help protect the environment- both at home and abroad- we need to understand geographical influences, and the geographical relationships linking people and their surroundings;
- to make the most of our multicultural society we need to understand and appreciate the cultures and backgrounds of people from all over the world.



History

Course Title and Exam Board

GCSE History- Edexcel



Course Description

The course is made up of five teaching units over Year 10 and Year 11. There will be three examinations in the summer of Year 11 and NO controlled assessment.

Paper 1:

Thematic study and historical environment
This paper contains a theme throughout British History
of Crime and Punishment that leads students to analyse
and evaluate events that happened from c1000 to the
present. As part of this paper they will be studying Jack
the Ripper and the Whitechapel murders as an isolated
event as well as other aspects of the development of
what constitutes a crime and how these are punished in
British society e.g. witch trials or hanging.

The paper length is 1 hour 15 minutes and worth 30% of the total grade.

Students will need to understand what has changed or stayed the same over this time period when it comes to the crimes or punishments in Britain, as well as use sources to explain their answers.

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study This paper contains a study of Henry VIII where students develop their knowledge of the time and build their understanding of the social, political and economic developments, for example, understanding why Wolsey was able to gain power. Within this paper students will also be studying another period study, The Cold War 1941-91 which analyses how international relations changed over time. The Cold War will focus on three crises that happened as well as the rise and fall of tensions between the superpowers.

The paper length is 1 hour 45 minutes and worth 40% of the total grade.

Students need to develop their knowledge and understanding about the Cold War and the British study on Henry VIII; they should develop their understanding of causes of key events within these time periods.



Hospitality and Catering

Course Title and Exam Board Eduqas WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering. Syllabus: Eduqas (WJEC)



Course Description

Hospitality and Catering is a creative and innovative course which focuses on nurturing the students' understanding of research and the development of food skills; the application of the principles of food science and nutrition and the understanding of local and global hospitality and catering industry. In addition, the qualification supports students to develop the essential employability skills that are valued by employers, further and higher education.

Area of Content:

The course will be made up of the following modules;

- Hospitality in catering in context, you will investigate and learn how the hospitality service operates, learn about the environment in which operators work and visit local hotels to help visualise the services offered.
- Investigate food hygiene, including completing a basic food hygiene qualification.
- Principles of nutrition, diet and good health. You will be looking at the role of the main nutrients in the diet, their sources, function and deficiency disease.
- Where food comes from and food related sustainability issues.
- Cooking and food preparation

Skills and Concepts

Dishes cooked will include a wide range of dishes: main meal dishes, vegetable dishes, pastries, cakes, sauces, dishes for special diets, starters, desserts etc. It is expected that students will cook every week in order to develop their practical skills and to produce a wide range of high quality dishes.

Method of Assessment

Unit 1: Theory of Food, Nutrition and Hospitality and Catering Industry.

- 40% of qualification
- Examination duration is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

- Internal assessment, external modification, non-examination assessment
- Research, prepare, cook and present dishes. Nine hours (including a four hour practical assessment)
- 60% of qualification.



Modern Foreign Languages

Course Title & Exam Board:

GCSE French (8652), AQA



French

Course Description

This course is made up of three themes which are taught over Years 10 and 11 and build on the curriculum taught in Years 7-9. There are four final examinations which are taken at the end of Year 11.

The benefits of studying GCSE French include:

- The ability to communicate with people and process information is a key skill in itself and this will be enhanced by studying a language to GCSE.
- In a world where the UK is competing in a global marketplace, it is increasingly advantageous to be able to use a language other than English.
- France is our closest neighbour and the main gateway
 for the import and export of goods to and from the
 UK. There is an ever-increasing need for language
 practitioners who can negotiate sales, understand
 legal documents in another language and deal with
 import and export.
- Learning one language makes it easier to learn a second, so a GCSE can enable you to learn other languages later on in life.
- Learning a language has been proven to boost your overall memory skills.

The course is divided into three themes as follows:

- 1. People and Lifestyle
- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others;
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle;
- Topic 3: Education and work.
- 2. Popular Culture
- Topic 1: Free-time activities;
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations;
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture.



- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest;
- Topic 2: Media and technology;
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live.

Method of Assessment:

MFL GCSE examinations are tiered and candidates will sit either Foundation (for grades 1-5) or Higher (for grades 5-9). There is no mixing and matching of entry tiers; students sit the same tier for all 4 of their papers. Each paper is worth 25% of the qualification.

Listening

35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier).

Section A: listening comprehension

Section B: dictation.

Speaking

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 15 minutes' preparation time.

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + 15 minutes' preparation time.

Role play

Reading aloud

Photo card discussion.

Reading

45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier).

Section A – reading comprehension.

Section B – translation into English.

Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier).

Questions: Foundation Tier:

Question 1 – five short sentences in response to a photo;

Question 2 – a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words;

Question 3 – five short grammar tasks;

Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 35 words in total;

Question 5 – 90-word essay in response to three compulsory bullet points, from a choice of two titles.

Questions: Higher Tier:

Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 50 words in total;

Question 2- 90-word essay in response to three compulsory bullet points, from a choice of two titles;

Question 3 – open-ended writing task, 150 words, from a choice from two questions.

Modern Foreign Languages



Spanish

Course Description

This course is made up of three themes which are taught over Years 10 and 11 and build on the curriculum taught in Years 7-9. There are four final examinations which are taken at the end of Year 11.

The benefits of studying GCSE Spanish include:

- The ability to communicate with people and process information is a key skill in itself and this will be enhanced by studying a language to GCSE.
- In a world where the UK is competing in a global marketplace, it is increasingly advantageous to be able to use a language other than English.
- Spain and Latin America are major trading partners for the import and export of goods to and from the UK. There is an ever-increasing need for language practitioners who can negotiate sales, understand legal documents in another language and deal with import and export.
- Learning one language makes it easier to learn a second, so a GCSE can enable you to learn other languages later on in life.
- Learning a language has been proven to boost your overall memory skills.

The course is divided into three themes as follows:

- 1. People and Lifestyle
- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others;
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle;
- Topic 3: Education and work.
- 2. Popular Culture
- Topic 1: Free-time activities;
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations;
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture.



- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest;
- Topic 2: Media and technology;
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live.

Method of Assessment:

MFL GCSE examinations are tiered and candidates will sit either Foundation (for grades 1-5) or Higher (for grades 5-9). There is no mixing and matching of entry tiers; students sit the same tier for all 4 of their papers. Each paper is worth 25% of the qualification.

Listening

35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier).

Section A: listening comprehension

Section B: dictation.

Speaking

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 15 minutes' preparation time.

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + 15 minutes' preparation time.

Role play

Reading aloud

Photo card discussion.

Reading

45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier).

Section A – reading comprehension.

Section B – translation into English.

Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier).

Questions: Foundation Tier:

Question 1 – five short sentences in response to a photo;

Question 2 – a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words;

Question 3 – five short grammar tasks;

Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into Spanish, minimum 35 words in total;

Question 5 - 90-word essay in response to three compulsory bullet points, from a choice of two titles.

Questions: Higher Tier:

Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into Spanish, minimum 50 words in total;

Question 2- 90-word essay in response to three compulsory bullet points, from a choice of two titles:

Question 3 – open-ended writing task, 150 words, from a choice from two questions.

Modern Foreign Languages

Course Title & Exam Board: GCSE German (8662), AQA

German

Course Description

This course is made up of three themes which are taught over Years 10 and 11 and build on the curriculum taught in Years 7-9. There are four final examinations which are taken at the end of Year 11.

The benefits of studying GCSE German include:

- The ability to communicate with people and process information is a key skill in itself and this will be enhanced by studying a language to GCSE.
- In a world where the UK is competing in a global marketplace, it is increasingly advantageous to be able to use a language other than English.
- Germany is one of our main trading partners for the import and export of goods to and from the UK. There is an ever-increasing need for language practitioners who can negotiate sales, understand legal documents in another language and deal with import and export.
- Learning one language makes it easier to learn a second, so a GCSE can enable you to learn other languages later on in life.
- Learning a language has been proven to boost your overall memory skills.

The course is divided into three themes as follows:

- 1. People and Lifestyle
- Topic 1: Identity and relationships with others;
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle;
- Topic 3: Education and work.
- 2. Popular Culture
- Topic 1: Free-time activities;
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations;
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture.



- 3. Communication and the world around us
- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, including places of interest;
- Topic 2: Media and technology;
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live.

Method of Assessment:

MFL GCSE examinations are tiered and candidates will sit either Foundation (for grades 1-5) or Higher (for grades 5-9). There is no mixing and matching of entry tiers; students sit the same tier for all 4 of their papers. Each paper is worth 25% of the qualification.

Listening

35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier).

Section A: listening comprehension

Section B: dictation.

Speaking

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 15 minutes' preparation time.

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + 15 minutes' preparation time.

Role play

Reading aloud

Photo card discussion.

Reading

45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier).

Section A – reading comprehension.

Section B – translation into English.

Writing

Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier).

Question 1 – five short sentences in response to a photo;

Question 2 – a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words;

Question 3 – five short grammar tasks;

Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into German, minimum 35 words in total;

Question 5 – 90-word essay in response to three compulsory bullet points, from a choice of two titles.

Questions: Higher Tier:

Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into German, minimum 50 words in total;

Question 2- 90-word essay in response to three compulsory bullet points, from a choice of two titles;

Question 3 – open-ended writing task, 150 words, from a choice from two questions.

Music

Course Title and Exam Board

GCSE Music with AQA Exam Board



Student Groupings

You are taught in mixed ability classes.

Instrumental Lessons and Common Queries

- Students do not have to have reached a certain grade on their instrument/voice to take Music but the students who reach 4+ grades tend to be a grade 3 or above standard
- Students do not have to have instrumental or singing lessons in school but the course is much easier if they do- for 60% of the course students will need to play and compose music so it is important that time is spent practising each day
- Students opting for music will be encouraged to participate in the musical life of the school
- Students opting for music will be given priority in receiving vocal or instrumental lessons, depending on space

Course Description

GCSE music focuses of four areas of study and uses a variety of music for each area:

- Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
- Popular Music
- Traditional Music
- Western Classical Tradition since 1910

Learning and musical language is centred on the musical elements of melody, harmony, tonality, structure, sonority (timbre), texture, tempo, metre, rhythm, dynamics and articulation.

Skills and Concepts/Method of Assessment GCSE music allows you to develop your skills within three main components:

- Understanding music (40%). This component focuses on listening and contextual understanding. It is assessed through a written exam lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. In Section A students answer questions on excerpts of music that are played; in Section B students answer questions relating to specific 'study pieces'.
- Performing music (30%). For this component, students must record two pieces, one solo and the other as an ensemble. Total performance time must last four minutes minimum and seven minutes maximum. The total playing time in the ensemble performance must be one minute minimum.
- Composing music (30%). For this component, students must compose two compositions. Both compositions must last a (combined) time of between three minutes minimum and four and a half minutes maximum. Composition 1 (15%) is based on a choice of briefs that are set each year; Composition 2 (15%) is a free composition.

Photography

Photography at Crofton is a new course, offered for the last 4 years. We recommend that students speak to their Art Teacher and look at some of the outstanding displays showcasing the current students' work around the school.

In GCSE Photography, pupils are expected to submit a portfolio of work based on projects taught in class. This accounts for 60% of the course.

Possible themes include:

- Portraits
- Abstract
- Natural Forms
- Textures

Controlled test- 40%: a project/theme set by the examboard.

Starting in the January of Year 11.

Pupils use lesson time until after the Easter holiday to... research/create ideas/experiment and prepare for their personal response. With teacher support.

There is a 2 day (10 hours) controlled time where pupils create their response (invigilated in exam conditions). They do get breaks! This is always completed before the first academic exam starts. Both units are marked inhouse and moderated by the exam board.

Pupils are awarded marks for:

- Ability to research and develop ideas
- Experimentation with materials
- Producing personal outcomes

They will have 5 hours per fortnight of curriculum time.

The Art and Photography Department is open at least 1 night per week for catch-up and enrichment to all Key Stage 4 pupils studying Photography.

To look at the standard of work produced in Photography, please visit our Instagram page - <u>Croftonphotography.</u>

Course Title and Exam Board GCSE Photography - AQA



Physical Education (GCSE)

Course Title and Exam Board

AQA Full Course Physical Education (8582)



GCSE students will be assessed in both their theoretical knowledge of the effects of participation and exercise, and in their practical sporting ability in three activities, one individual, one team and one individual or team activity.

Course Description

Students will have five lessons over two weeks; four of these will be classroom-based theory lessons and one practical lesson. Theory lessons cover a combination of sports science and sociology topics. Students will need to understand different factors, apply them to sporting examples and be able to justify their impact on performance. Students should have a broad knowledge of sport and stay up to date with current affairs. GCSE PE builds on the skills and understanding that you have achieved in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Skills and Concepts

The theory topics include:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

Students are required to show detailed knowledge through application to a variety of sporting examples and justify these in detailed concise long answer exam questions.

Students will be required to perform confidently under pressure and in front of their peers, teaching staff and external examiners.

Methods of Assessment for GCSE PE

The scheme of assessment is not tiered.

The course consists of controlled assessments and two written one hour 15 minute examinations.

- Final written exams- 60%
- Practical controlled assessment- 40% this includes:
- a) An "analysis and evaluation" of performancecontrolled assessment (10%)
- b) Controlled assessments in practical activities which are ongoing throughout the two years and moderated externally at the end of Year 11. (30%)

A full list of sports that can be assessed can be found from page 46 in the booklet <u>HERE</u>.



Religious Studies

Course Title and Exam Board

You will study WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) in Religious Studies. The Religious Studies course for the GCSE examination consists of a practical study of Christianity and one other world faith.



Course Description

Component 1- There are four sections covering:

- Issues of Relationships
- Issues of Life and Death
- Issues of Good and Evil
- Issues of Human Rights

Component 2- There are 2 sections covering:

- Beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity
- Beliefs, teachings and practices of another world faith

Skills and Concepts

As well as the academic study of how religion and religious people interact with the world around us, a variety of approaches are used to help the students understand their own place in the modern world and their own attitudes towards many issues that may affect themselves or society. The course will include visits to religious places of worship, so that a direct dialogue between students and religious believers can be established.

Areas of study include:

- Beliefs about God and creation and their relationship with science.
- Ideas about the afterlife, the value of human life and ethical issues.
- Changing attitudes towards divorce, family life, homosexuality and contraception.
- Issues around sexism, racism and immigration in Britain and the wider world.
- What we can do to promote peace and attitudes towards forgiveness and reconciliation.
- The need for law and justice, theories of punishment and different attitudes towards capital punishment.
- The nature of God, creation and the afterlife.
- Worship, sacraments, pilgrimage and celebrations.



Transferable skills gained by the Religious Studies student:

- Can interact in group work
- Can formulate reasoned opinions and effectively participate in discussions and debates
- Can understand various moral and ethical issues
- Can appreciate differing attitudes, opinions and beliefs
- Can have a better understanding of the world they live in
- Can relate to people of different cultures and religion
- Can be better prepared for facing life issues
- Enhance their spiritual development and contribute to their health and wellbeing

Method of Assessment

Employers will readily appreciate both the academic achievement, and the way in which the course has helped each student to learn the principles of tolerance and respect towards every human being, and an ability to work with others. Assessment is by examination- 3 exams. 1st exam: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world 50% (2 hours), 2nd exam Christianity 25% (1 hour) and 3rd exam a world faith 25% (1 hour). There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Student Groupings

You will be in medium sized mixed ability groupings, enabling the teacher to provide good quality personal care and support.

Things we do

Students who study GCSE Religious Studies will, amongst other things, have the opportunity to:

- Visit St Paul's Cathedral and other places of worship to learn from members of religious communities about issues in the GCSE course
- Listen to, and question, visiting speakers about their attitudes and beliefs

- Actively discuss, debate and form their own opinions and ideas
- Use of ICT equipment to help their study
- Use the mass media to help explain how the world they live in views issues around religion and society.



(FSMQ) Statistics & Additional Maths

Course Title and Exam Board
Statistics with Edexcel Exam Board
Additional Maths with OCR Exam Board

This is a combined option. In Year 10 students study and sit an exam in GCSE Statistics. In Year 11 students study and sit an exam in Additional Maths.

This option is only suitable for those who are in set 1 and are expected to achieve at least a grade 6 or better in Mathematics at the end of Year 11. Students must discuss with their Mathematics class teacher whether they would be a suitable candidate for this course. It is particularly suited to those who are considering studying courses beyond GCSE level with a high statistical content, e.g. Psychology, Sociology and Biology, as well as 'A' Level Mathematics.

Course Description

Statistics

Statistics covers the same content as the Data Handling section of the Mathematics syllabus with some additional material. This course follows the higher tier syllabus.

The course concentrates on developing your ability to handle and to interpret data so that you become more aware of the potential uses and pitfalls of the statistics that you may meet in other subjects. You will be expected to analyse data using a variety of high demand techniques and to examine critically the conclusions that others have made.

Additional Maths

Additional Maths is a further Maths course that is designed for students with high mathematical ability. It is not a GCSE but instead it is a free-standing Mathematics qualification (FSMQ). It consists of several higher GCSE topics in which we dig deeper and several 'A' Level modules. Additional Maths is particularly useful for helping to 'bridge the gap' between GCSE Mathematics and 'A' Level Mathematics as this transition can be very difficult for students.

It is assessed by one 2 hour exam at the end of Year 11. Grades are awarded from A-E with an A being worth 20 UCAS points.

Speak with your Teacher first

EXAMPLE ONLY

Year 9 preference form

Name:	Tutor Group:

Below are the option blocks for you to pick your options preferences.

You need to select **ONE** subject from each option block.

As you know, you will be studying English, Maths, Science, PDL and PE. You cannot pick three humanities subjects (History, Geography and RE). You may not pick more than one Technology subject (Resistant Materials/Graphics) or more than two Arts subjects (Art, Photography, PE, Dance, Drama or Music).

You should only tick Statistics/FSMQ if you have spoken to your Maths teacher.

Please tick only <u>ONE</u> subject from each of the four option blocks and <u>ONE</u> reserve for each block.

А	В	С	D
Geography	Geography	History	Art
History	History	Computer Science	Art Textiles
RE	RE	Art	Music
Spanish	French	Dance	GCSE PE
German	Computer Science	GCSE PE	Photography
Film Studies	Film Studies	Photography	Hospitality & Catering
Drama	Photography	Hospitality & Catering	Technology
	Music	Technology	Drama
			Stats/FSMQ
My reserve subject is:			

The sub	ject I wou	ld really	v like to	study is



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