



Bosworth  
Independent  
School

# GCSE Course Guide



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# Why Bosworth?



## Why Bosworth?

- A diverse, dynamic, and proudly global community of staff and students
- High quality, personalised support for all students
- Strong academic outcomes
- Small class sizes and specialist teaching by subject experts
- A broad and balanced curriculum offering a wide range of subjects
- A calm and purposeful learning environment where students thrive
- A personal tutor is assigned to each student to provide support and guidance
- A rich and varied co-curricular programme that promotes personal development through diverse activities, academic extension, and student leadership
- Excellent university destinations

## GCSE (2-year course)



The GCSE is a two-year course, culminating in exams at the end of the second year (Year 11). Our GCSE class sizes range from 8 to 16 pupils, creating an ideal environment for personalised attention and support—essential during these crucial years of study.

Students study compulsory core subjects (English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) alongside a number of optional subjects, which they are free to choose. At the end of Year 11, students are assessed through formal public examinations, which are set and marked by examination boards regulated by the Joint Council for Qualifications in the United Kingdom.

Students who are not native English speakers typically take the PET (Cambridge Preliminary Test), followed by the IGCSE in English as a Second Language in Year 11.

Each week, students complete assessed homework, and regular exam style testing takes place throughout the year. In Year 10, students take end-of-year exams to ensure they are on track and to inform our advice for improvement as they prepare for their final year of study.

### Subjects currently on offer

(This can change, subject to demand)

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education (PE)
- Physics
- Psychology
- Spanish

## Fast Track GCSE (1-year course)



This intensive one-year GCSE course is aimed at students aged 15+ who already have some prior knowledge of the subjects they wish to study.

We also offer the Fast Track GCSE option, which allows students to focus on a reduced number of subjects, including the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science.

Students choose five subjects to study. Students who are not native speakers usually take English as a Foreign Language (EFL) as one of their compulsory subjects.

Each week, students will have assessed homework and there is also regular exam-style testing over the year to ensure they are on track and to inform our advice for improvement. Students take mock exams in all subjects to allow us to fine-tune their revision for the final exams.

### Subjects currently on offer

(This can change, subject to demand)

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

# Subject Options



## Course details:

Students choose 9 subjects for GCSE examination purposes. Compulsory core subjects are studied alongside a number of options.

Our GCSE class sizes range from 8 to 16 pupils. Small class sizes create an ideal environment to provide a high level of attention and support, which is essential in these crucial years of study. It also provides international students with an opportunity to become familiar with the British style of education and to acclimatise to a new lifestyle.

# Art & Design

## Course details:

GCSE Art and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature.

This two-unit specification enables students to develop their ability to actively engage in the processes of Art and Design. They are: to build creative skills through learning and doing, to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working and develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.

### Entry Requirements

It is useful to have studied Art before, but is not essential.

### Course Content

There are two components, one of which is a controlled assessment:

#### Component 1: Portfolio

Students are given a choice of several themes. Students work in sketchbooks and are encouraged to explore a variety of media, techniques and processes. A portfolio must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

#### Component 2: Externally set assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title.

### Assessment

#### Component 1:

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives.

How is it assessed?

- No time limit
- 120 marks
- 60% of GCSE

The portfolio is marked by the school and moderated by WJEC Eduqas during a visit in June.

#### Component 2:

A component that relates to a chosen subject title and shows coverage of all four assessment objectives.

How is it assessed?

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Component 2 is set by WJEC Eduqas, marked by the school and moderated by WJEC Eduqas during a visit in June.

### Where does it lead?

GCSE Art develops a range of skills, confidence in using a variety of media, the ability to understand processes and an appreciation of the work of others. Many students will go on to study Art at A Level and then at university. Art is important for those hoping to follow degree courses in either Fine or Applied Art.

Art is also valuable for a number of indirectly related careers such as Architecture, Museum Work, Arts Administration, Exhibition Research and Teaching as well as preparing students for vocational practical courses after A Levels.

# Biology

## Course details:

Biology is a wide-ranging course involving the study of all living things and their environments.

### Entry Requirements

A good level of English is needed for this subject because it has a large and specialised vocabulary.

### Course Content

We study Edexcel IGCSE.

Study topics include: cell biology, organ systems, disease, homeostasis, genetics, evolution and ecology.

Students are taught in various ways through lectures, seminars, independent research, film and field work. Practical experiments are carried out wherever appropriate in addition to the 10 'required practicals' that are part of the assessment process.

### Assessment

This is a linear course which means all the written assessment is at the end.

Exam papers:

**Paper 1:** 2 hours

**Paper 2:** 1 hour 15 minutes

These contain multi-choice, structured, short and long answer questions.

### Where does it lead?

Excellent grades in Biology are required to study medicine, dentistry or veterinary science.

# Business

## Course details:

Business IGCSE examines how businesses operate in a modern economy. It explores business concerns in a variety of countries and how businesses manage in the short and long term. There is analysis of the creative side of business, considering how firms can create a successful brand image and align this with their corporate objectives.

There is also study of the 'softer' skills of business like people management and motivation.

The performance of businesses is assessed by analysis of their financial results and so there is also a large numerical element to the course. Students will leave with the basic skills in Business which will act as the perfect foundation for study at a higher level.

### Entry Requirements

- English – there is a requirement for students to produce analytical written answers. The students should be able to express themselves with clarity in a written format.
- Maths – the numerical content of this specification is high. The student should be comfortable with basic mathematical operations as well as percentages and ratios.
- Commitment – we expect a strong and focused commitment to Business because the course has demanding homework requirements.

# Chemistry

## Course details:

This course provides a thorough grounding in the Principles of Chemistry, physical, organic and inorganic chemistry.

### Entry Requirements

A very good level of English and Maths.

### Course Content

We study Edexcel IGCSE.

Study topics include: atomic structure and bonding, quantitative chemistry, chemical and energy changes, organic chemistry, chemical analysis and the atmosphere.

Students will be taught via lectures, seminars, independent research, film and field work. Practical experiments are carried out throughout. There are also 8 'required practicals' as part of the assessment process.

### Course Content

**Section 1:** Business and the Environment Objectives of Businesses/ Legal Structures/ Multi-National Operations/ International Trade.

**Section 2:** Human Resources Organisational Charts/ Motivation/ Communication/ Financial Rewards.

**Section 3:** Accounting & Finance Sources of Finance/ Working Capital/ Budgets/ Cash Flow Forecasts/ Break Even Analysis.

**Section 4:** Marketing Segmentation/ Marketing Mix/ Market Research.

**Section 5:** Production Economies of Scale/ Methods of Production/ Lean Production/ Quality.

### Assessment

Exam Paper: Edexcel (4BS1)

**Paper 1:** Investigating Small Businesses (50% of IGCSE)

**Paper 2:** Investigating Large Businesses (50% of IGCSE)

### Where does it lead?

The Edexcel IGCSE gives the best preparation for the study of Business at A Level. It is significant in that it develops the students' numerical and analytical skills and these are transferable across a number of academic areas.

As a subject, Business has an almost limitless array of applications and industries. Therefore, the IGCSE gives a realistic impression of the real world and prepares the student for what they might face in any career choice.

# Computer Science



## Course details:

GCSE Computer Science encourages students to recognise well established methodologies of computing along with looking at technological advances. The subject covers a range of computing areas enabling students to explore the array of different concepts that computing encompasses.

### Entry Requirements

Maths – Target of grade 6+ required

### Course Content

- Fundamentals of algorithms
- Programming
- Fundamentals of data representation
- Computer Systems
- Fundamentals of computer networks
- Cyber security
- Relational Databases / SQL
- Ethical, legal & environmental impacts

### Assessment

**Paper 1:** Computational thinking & programming skills (50% of GCSE)

**Paper 2:** Computing concepts (50% of GCSE)

### Where does it lead?

The Computer Science GCSE gives students an excellent preparation for studying Computer Science at A Level. With all areas of people's lives using computers in one way or another, knowledge of how these systems work is beneficial even if a different career path to computers is chosen.

# Drama



## Course details:

GCSE Drama requires students to reflect on their understanding of the dramatic form and apply it both academically and practically to the study of dramatic texts as well as in the exploration of themes and ideas through drama. Studying Drama is about understanding the world in which we live as well as learning to appreciate the theatre as a member of the audience, an actor, a director, and as a theatre technician.

### Course Content

#### Component 1: Devising

Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus (free choice for centre).

Performance of this devised piece or design realisation for this performance.

Analyse and evaluate the devising process and performance.

Performer or designer routes available.

#### Component 2: Performance from Text

Students will perform in two key extracts from a performance text.

Centre choice of performance text.

#### Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

Practical exploration and study of one complete performance text.

Centre choice of set texts.

Live theatre evaluation.

### Assessment

Drama consists of two non-examination assessment components and one externally examined paper.

### Where does it lead?

Students can progress from this qualification to: AS and A Level in Drama and Theatre.

# English Language

## Course details:

English Language involves the discussion and exploration of the way writers use language and structure for a variety of purposes and to create a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Students need to be open minded and willing to hear and discuss the opinions of their peers in order to understand the way texts can be interpreted. The course covers a variety of texts from fiction and non-fiction novels to letters, diaries, reports and journalistic articles.

Students will need to understand the way a writer is influenced by what is happening around them, as well as the purpose and audience for the text being produced. They will develop their skills of thinking critically, reading and analysing texts closely and structuring responses. The skills acquired and developed in this subject are useful for future studies in A Level Literature, Psychology, Law and History.

### Course Content

The specification we follow is AQA English Language.

This can be undertaken as a one or two-year course depending on the type of course being taken at Bosworth. There are two assessed examinations and one non-assessed module of spoken language, where students create a presentation and respond to questions from their peers.

During the course, students will look at a range of texts and textual extracts of varying lengths from both fiction and non-fiction. The texts will have been created for a variety of purposes and from a variety of different time periods. Some will have been produced by famous writers and some by unknown writers. The texts are divided into two sections:

19th, 20th and 21st century non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts

20th and 21st century literature

### Assessment

**Paper 1:** Exploration of Creative Writing with 20th and 21st

Century Texts

**Section A:** Students are given one literature fiction text to read. They are given one short question, two longer questions and one extended question to answer, based on the given text.

**Section B:** Students need to create a piece of descriptive or narrative writing.

1 hour and 45 minutes: 50% of the GCSE mark.

**Paper 2:** Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives within 19th, 20th and 21st Century Texts

**Section A:** Students must read one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text. They are given one short question, two longer questions, and one extended question to answer, based on the given texts.

**Section B:** Students need to create a piece of writing to present a particular viewpoint.

1 hour and 45 minutes: 50% of the GCSE mark.

### Where does it lead?

This subject is very versatile, developing skills that are relevant in a number of different careers or Higher Education courses. These include interpretive abilities, communication, an understanding of how language works, close analysis, and the ability to construct a well-argued case.

As well as an English Literature degree itself, students of Language might go on to study university degrees in a range of subjects, including History, Sociology, Psychology, Drama, Theatre Studies, and Law.

Language is a subject that can support careers in the above areas, as well as in teaching, business and finance, journalism, publishing – and even politics. Employers tend to regard English Language as an ideal subject of study and one that develops essential and transferable skills.

# English Literature

## Course details:

English Literature involves the discussion and exploration of the key themes in all literature: love, relationships, conflict, and power.

Students need to be open-minded and willing to hear and discuss the opinions of their peers in order to understand the ways texts can be interpreted. Studying Literature can be challenging, but it is also immensely rewarding. Students will develop the key skills of thinking critically, reading and analysing texts closely, and structuring responses effectively. The skills acquired and developed in this subject are useful for future studies in A Levels such as English Literature, English Language, Psychology, Sociology, and History.

The course covers a variety and range of modern and historical prose, poetry, and drama texts from Shakespeare, Steinbeck, and Priestley to Carol Ann Duffy and Imtiaz Dharker, with many more along the way.

Students will need to understand the ways in which a writer is influenced by what is happening around them; therefore, a willingness to 'read around' texts is essential.

### Course Content

The specification we follow is Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English Literature.

This is a two-year course that offers the option of a coursework unit or an open-book exam for Component 2.

There are two sections to this course:

Poetry and Modern Prose; and Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts.

#### Poetry and Modern Prose (closed-book exam – 60%)

Students will study two set texts for this component: all 16 poems from Part 3 of the Pearson Edexcel

International GCSE English Anthology and one of the following modern prose set texts:

- To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
- Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- The Whale Rider by Witi Ihimaera
- The Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan
- Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

#### Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts (open-book exam or coursework – 40%)

Students will study two set texts for this component: one modern drama set text and one literary heritage set text. The full list of options for this component is as follows:

A choice of one text from Modern Drama:

- A View from the Bridge by Arthur Miller
- An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (adapted by Simon Stephens)
- Kindertransport by Diane Samuels
- Death and the King's Horseman by Wole Soyinka

A choice of one text from Literary Heritage:

- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- The Merchant of Venice by William Shakespeare
- Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
- Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
- The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

#### Where does it lead?

Literature helps students explore and analyse some of life's greatest questions and supports the development of deeper, more reflective thinking. It also opens doors to careers and courses in advertising, marketing and PR, arts administration, library and information management, law, editing and publishing, journalism, and other areas of the media.

# French

## Course details:

Studying a modern language at GCSE is a life-long skill for education, employment or even travel purposes. GCSE French places the emphasis on communication through both written and oral exchanges.

The course develops the four skill areas of speaking, reading, listening and writing using a wide variety of materials and teaching techniques to interest the students. Language classes are small which is advantageous as each student has the opportunity to communicate in the target language with both the teacher and fellow classmates.

Looking beyond GCSE study, some UK universities ask for a modern foreign language at GCSE or above as part of their entrance requirements, even if the student is not planning to study a language. They feel that proof of studying a language shows great aptitude and flexibility. Also many employers look favourably upon a candidate offering a foreign language, particularly in the light of globalisation.

### Entry Requirements

French will help students to develop their linguistic skills as well as their cultural knowledge of the world around them. A successful linguist must have an interest in learning a modern language and enjoy communicating with others and sharing ideas. Some prior language knowledge is essential so ideally the student should have at least 3 years prior learning.

### Course Content

The specification we follow is the AQA Syllabus. All four skill areas (reading/writing/listening/speaking) are examined. This is a linear two-year GCSE course.

All examinations will take place at the end of the 2 years' study and there is no coursework element. The oral examination is conducted by the class teacher.

There is a tiering system and students will either be entered for the Foundation or Higher tier in all 4 skill areas. It is not possible to mix the tiers.

#### The themes covered include:

- Identity and culture – family and friends, new technology, free time activities, customs and festivals
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest – home, town neighbourhood and region, charity and voluntary work, environment, poverty and homelessness, holidays and travel
- Current and future study and employment – school life, work, university
- There is also an element of translating from French into English and vice versa

### Assessment

All papers are taken at the end of the 2 year course.

**Writing:** Higher (1 hour 15 minutes) or Foundation (1 hour): 25% of final GCSE mark

**Speaking:** Higher (10-12 minutes assessment time) or Foundation (7-9 minutes assessment time): 25% of final GCSE mark

**Reading:** Higher (1 hour) or Foundation (45 minutes): 25% of final GCSE mark

**Listening:** Higher (45 minutes) or Foundation (35 minutes): 25% of final GCSE mark

#### Where does it lead?

Studying French at GCSE can lead to continuing to enhance your linguistic and communication skills at A Level. A modern language is useful in the world of business, leisure, tourism and education.

# Geography

## Course details:

Going Places – Geography aims to understand the world and stimulate an interest in places.

We hope to inspire students to become global citizens by exploring their place in the world and their values as well as their responsibilities to other people and to the environment. The content focuses on current issues in a complex and dynamic world.

A modern and engaging approach covers key ideas and debates such as climate change, globalisation, economic progress, urban regeneration and management of world resources. The focus of this course is an understanding of the changing nature of physical and human processes, and of how the physical/human interface needs to be managed in order to ensure human and environmental sustainability.

Students will learn to appreciate the differences and similarities between people, places and cultures, leading to an improved understanding of societies and economies.

### Entry Requirements

It is useful to have studied Geography before but it is not an essential requirement.

### Course Content

The AQA GCSE syllabus is divided into three papers have been designed to develop an understanding of both the natural and the human environment

- Living with the physical environment
- Challenges in the human environment
- Geographical skills and applications

### Assessment

#### Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks

#### Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks

#### Paper 3: Geographical applications

Written paper, 1 hour 15 minutes, 76 marks

### Where does it lead?

Geography is very versatile, developing skills that are relevant in a number of different careers or Higher Education courses, such as: interpretation, communication, becoming an effective and independent learner and a critical and reflective thinker with an enquiring mind.

To gain knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts relevant to a changing world and to be able to take responsibility as a global citizen who can recognise how individuals can contribute to a sustainable future is invaluable.

Students of Geography might go on to study for university degrees in that subject – or a range

of other subjects including: History, Sociology, Psychology, English and Law. Geography is a subject that can support careers in the above areas as well as Teaching, Logistics, Business & Finance, Journalism, Publishing and Politics.

Employers view Geography as an ideal topic of study and one that develops essential and transferable skills. Indeed a recent survey showed that Geography graduates are behind only Law and Sports Sciences in their employability, due to the wide range of transferable skills they have.

# History

## Course details:

Cambridge IGCSE History offers students the opportunity to study world history in the 19th and 20th centuries. It encourages learners to raise questions and to develop and deploy historical skills, knowledge and understanding in order to provide historical explanations. Learners explore history from a diversity of perspectives, including social, economical, cultural and political. The GCSE curriculum History encourages learners to be: confident, exploring historical concepts such as cause and consequence, change and continuity, and similarity and difference responsible, appreciating historical evidence and how to use it reflective, gaining a greater understanding of international issues and inter-relationships innovative, learning how to present clear, logical arguments engaged, developing an interest in and enthusiasm for learning about and understanding the past.

### Entry Requirements

It is useful to have studied history before but this is not an essential requirement. To be successful at GCSE History, students need to have a passion for historical periods, people and events; to be curious and enjoy reading and writing extended essays.

### Course Content

Our areas of study are:

**Core Study:** International Relations since 1919, including the Treaty of Versailles, the League of Nations, Hitler's Foreign Policy, the Cold War and the USSR's control of Eastern Europe until 1989.

**Depth Study:** Germany 1919-1945

### First year:

**Paper 1:** Understanding the Modern World

**Section A:** America: 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality

**Section B:** Wider World Depth Studies: Conflict and Tension 1918-1939

### Second year:

**Paper 2:** Shaping the Nation

**Section A:** Britain: Health and the People c1000 to present day

**Section B:** British Depth Studies including the historic environment:

- Elizabethan England c1568-1603
- The Historic Environment of Elizabethan England

### Assessment

All candidates take three components. All candidates take Paper 1 and Paper 2 and either Component 3 or Paper 4. Candidates will be eligible for grades A\* to G. All candidates take Paper 1: 2 hours Structured Questions 40% 60 marks

- Candidates answer two questions from Section A (Core content) and one question from Section B (Depth studies).
- All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into three parts: (a), (b) and (c). Externally assessed Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes Document Questions 30% 40 marks
- Candidates answer one question on one prescribed topic taken from Section A (Core content).
- Candidates are presented with a range of source materials relating to each prescribed topic
- Externally assessed All candidates take either: or: Component 3 Coursework 30% 40 marks
- Candidates produce one piece of extended writing based on a depth study from the syllabus or a depth study devised by the centre. Internally assessed and externally moderated Paper 4 1 hour Alternative to Coursework 30% 40 marks
- Candidates answer one question on a depth study.
- All questions are in the form of structured essays, split into two parts: (a) and (b). Externally assessed

### Where does it lead?

Progression to A Level study; subjects that complement A Level History include: English Literature, English Language, Philosophy, Politics, Law and Economics.

History teaches you a range of skills that are valued in the workplace and many History students work in Law, Politics, Journalism, Teaching, Social Research and Economics to name but a few.

# Mathematics

## Course details:

The International GCSE in Mathematics is designed to enable students to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- Acquire, select, and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions
- Comprehend, interpret, and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

### Entry Requirements

The qualification builds on the content, knowledge and skills developed in the Key Stage 3 Programme of Study (ages 11–14) or international equivalences for Mathematics.

### Course Content

The Edexcel International GCSE Mathematics (9-1) course covers the following topic areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Statistics

### Assessment

Students will be assessed at either Foundation or Higher Tier depending on their ability in the subject.

- Foundation Tier (Grade 5-1); or
- Higher Tier (Grade 9-4)

Students will sit two externally assessed examinations at the end of their course; both with the use of a calculator and formulae sheet included with each exam. We recommend and teach with the Casio FX-991EX Classwiz calculator.

- Paper 1 (4MA1/1F or 1H): 2 hours
- Paper 2 (4MA1/2F or 2H): 2 hours

The total number of marks for each paper is 100.

Each paper is 50% of the total International GCSE.

There will be approximately 40% of questions targeted at grades 5 and 4, across papers 1F, 1H, 2F and 2H to aid standardisation and comparability of award between tiers.

### Where does it lead?

An IGCSE in Mathematics is a basic entry requirement for most university courses and employment opportunities. Students can progress from this qualification to:

- The GCE Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and Advanced Level in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Pure Mathematics
- Other equivalent, Level 3 Mathematics qualifications
- Further study in other areas where mathematics is required including the physical and social sciences which rely heavily on the content covered in the mathematics syllabus
- Other further training or employment where numerate skills and knowledge are required

# Music

## Course details:

At Bosworth, we follow the Eduqas Syllabus, which consists of three engaging components, assessed through practical performances, compositions and one externally examined paper.

In GCSE Music you will learn how to investigate, analyse and evaluate music and its features. You will learn how to perform, compose and appreciate different types of music, developing critical and creative thinking, encouraging a more holistic view of your knowledge. The Eduqas syllabus allows you to develop your knowledge and skills in music, enabling you to progress to A Level Music. This specification also provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who do not wish to progress further.

### Course Content

#### Performance

In performance, you will submit a minimum of two solo performances. One of these must be as part of an ensemble lasting at least one minute in length. The total duration of the performances must be 4-6 minutes. They

can comprise one or more pieces of your choice. This is 30% of the qualification, receiving 72 marks.

#### Composition

There are two compositions, one is a freestyle and the other is in response to a brief set by the Eduqas. These can be for any instrument or IT, each lasting between three to six minutes. This is 30% of the qualification worth 72 marks.

#### The Written Appraising Exam

The written appraising exam covers music from 1700-1820, studying historic works such as Bach Badinerie for Flute and String Orchestra (Final Movement). From here it is a short step to the exciting world of music for stage and screen, ending with fusion music mixing African with Celtic and into popular music, studying "Africa" by Toto. The written exam paper is 1 hour 15 minutes and it is 40% of the exam and worth 96 marks.

There are no previous learning requirements for GCSE Music, building on a subject content typically taught at KS3.

# Physical Education (PE)

## Course details:

Physical Education (PE) as a GCSE comprises of both theory and practical aspects. The aim of the course is to provide students with an improved knowledge and understanding of how to effectively live an active and healthy lifestyle, while also developing and enhancing their physical performance. Students will be encouraged to develop an improved understanding and appreciation of their own and others' cultures in relation to PE.

It is an ideal subject to accompany the study of scientific subjects, since the learning theory covers key areas of human physiological systems (e.g. anatomy and energy systems).

Students will be assessed both internally and externally. There are two written units which will be taken as part of the formal examination period with both lasting 1 hour, with two further units made up of practical elements being assessed internally by the tutor.

PE is an excellent subject to aspire to take right through to university level, where "Sport science" is now a highly regarded degree. Universities such as Bath and Loughborough are renowned for high levels of sporting excellence, and provide degrees tailored to career opportunities in a range of fields.

#### Component 1: Fitness & Body Systems

Written Exam: 1hr 30 mins 36% of GCSE 80 Marks

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology Topic 2: Movement analysis Topic 3: Physical training Topic 4: Use of data

#### Component 2: Health & Performance

Written Exam: 1hr 15mins 24% of GCSE 60 Marks

Topic 1: Health, fitness and wellbeing Topic 2: Sport psychology Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences Topic 4: Use of data

#### Component 3: Practical Performance

What's Assessed: Skills during individual and team activities General performance skills

Non-Examined Assessment: Internally Marked & Externally Moderated 30% of GCSE 105 Marks (35 marks per activity)

#### Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

Non-Examined Assessment Internally Marked & Marked Externally Moderated 10% of GCSE 20 Marks

What's Assessed: Aim and planning analysis Carrying out and monitoring the PEP Evaluation of the PEP



# Physics

## Course details:

IGCSE Physics course involves the study of how the world around us works.

### Entry Requirements

A good level of English and Maths is needed for this subject.

### Course Content

We study Edexcel IGCSE.

Study topics include: forces, energy, waves, electricity & magnetism, particle theory, atomic structure, space and physics.

Students will be taught via lectures, seminars, independent research, film and field work.

Practical experiments are carried out wherever

appropriate in addition to the 10 'Required Practicals' that are part of the assessment process.

### Assessment

Exam Papers

This is a linear course which means all the written assessment is at the end.

**Paper 1:** 2 hours

**Paper 2:** 1 hour 15 minutes

These contain multi-choice, structured, short and long answer questions.

### Where does it lead?

Excellent grades in Physics are needed to study engineering.

# Psychology

## Course details:

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. Psychologists carry out experiments and observations to try to understand why people act the way they do. They use this understanding to create useful applications to help people. If you're interested in understanding other humans better, this might be the subject for you.

Learning about how and why people behave in certain ways will help you build communication skills. People with a Psychology background can be found in business, management, medicine, healthcare, teaching, research, marketing, social work, police, the arts... anywhere there are people!

GCSE Psychology is a linear qualification which is usually taken over two years. It is assessed entirely by exams – no coursework. It offers a thorough introduction to the subject.

### Entry Requirements

A good grasp of English is useful to meet the demands of essay writing. Students will be required to use specialist vocabulary, understand psychological concepts, terminology and convention to explain their findings.

### Course Content

#### Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

1. Memory – how do we remember and why do we forget?
2. Perception – can we always believe what we see?
3. Development – how do children develop thinking and learning skills?
4. Research Methods – how do psychologists investigate human behaviour and mental processes?

#### Paper 2: Social Context and Behaviour

5. Social Influence – how are we influenced by group behaviour?
6. Language, Thought and Communication – what comes first: language or thought? And how well can we communicate non-verbally?
7. Brain and Neuropsychology – how does the brain work?
8. Psychological Problems – what is mental health and how can mental health issues be treated?

### Assessment

At the end of GCSE:

Students sit Paper 1 and Paper 2 exams which are each 1 hour 45 minutes.

# Spanish

## Course details:

Studying a modern language at GCSE is a life-long skill for education, employment or even travel purposes.

GCSE Spanish places the emphasis on communication through both written and oral exchanges. The course develops the four skill areas of speaking, reading, listening and writing using a wide variety of materials and teaching techniques to interest the students.

Language classes are small which is advantageous as each student has the opportunity to communicate in the target language with both the teacher and fellow classmates.

Looking beyond GCSE study, it is important to note that many UK universities are now starting to ask for a modern foreign language at GCSE or above as part of their entrance requirements, even if the student is not planning to study a language. They feel that proof of studying a language shows great aptitude and flexibility. Also many employers look favourably upon a candidate offering a foreign language, particularly in the light of globalisation.

### Entry Requirements

Spanish will help students to develop their linguistic skills as well as their cultural knowledge of the world around them. A successful linguist must have an interest in learning a modern language and enjoy communicating with others and sharing ideas. Some prior language knowledge is essential so ideally the student should have completed a KS3 course in their chosen language.

### Course Content

The specification we follow is the AQA Syllabus. All four skill areas (reading/writing/listening/speaking) are examined.

This is a linear two-year GCSE course; although some students joining the one-year GCSE cohort may complete it in one year if they already have a good level of the language being studied.

All examinations will take place at the end of the 2 years' of study and there is no coursework element. The oral examination is conducted by the class teacher. There is a tiering system and students will either be entered for the Foundation or Higher tier in all 4 skill areas. It is not possible to mix the tiers.

### The themes covered include:

- Identity and culture – family and friends, new technology, free time activities, customs and festivals
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest – home, town, neighbourhood and region, charity and voluntary work, environment, poverty and homelessness, holidays and travel
- Current and future study and employment – school life, work and university
- There is also an element of translating from Spanish into English and vice versa

### Assessment

All papers are taken at the end of the 2 year course.

**Writing:** Higher (1 hour 15 minutes) or Foundation (1 hour): 25% of final GCSE mark

**Speaking:** Higher (10-12 minutes assessment time) or Foundation (7-9 minutes assessment time): 25% of final GCSE mark

**Reading:** Higher (1 hour) or Foundation (45 minutes): 25% of final GCSE mark

**Listening:** Higher (45 minutes) or Foundation (35 minutes): 25% of final GCSE mark

### Where does it lead?

Studying Spanish at GCSE can continue to enhance your linguistic and communication skills at A Level. A modern language is useful in the world of business, leisure, tourism and education.



“

We seek to encourage each student to grow in confidence and to cultivate a life-long curiosity for the world around us.

”



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