



OLDFIELD SCHOOL

Year 9 Options Booklet 2023



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Dear Student,

You are about to start the most important stage of your education so far. At the end of Year 11, you will sit your GCSEs and these qualifications are the key to unlock so many of the amazing opportunities that will be available to you. Whilst the “core” subjects remain unchanged, you will now get to make some very important choices about which subjects you would like to continue studying.

The choices

The core subjects that you **must take** are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (Separate or Trilogy Sciences)
- PE
- PSHE

You will then be asked to **choose two** from the following:

- French (if you have studied French in Years 8 and 9)
- Geography
- History
- Spanish (if you have studied Spanish in Years 8 and 9)
- Additional English and Maths (for identified students only)

Then you will be given a free choice to pick **two further option subjects**, as well as **two reserve subjects** (though of course you cannot repeat subjects already chosen).

We are here to help. Use this booklet as a basis for discussion with your tutor, Head of Year, subject teachers and myself. I will speak to you in an assembly to explain the process that you will follow. There will also be an information video that you can watch at home with your parents, along with extra information about subjects that are new at KS4 that you have not studied so far.

Making your choices

It is important that you choose a range of subjects that will match your interests and abilities, and, if you have thought about what you would like to do after your GCSEs, are suited to that.

When making your choices, you will need to consider whether they are giving you as many options as possible for the future. Many universities will want to see a range of subjects studied, and this includes the “English Baccalaureate” (or Ebacc) subjects.

When you have made your choices, they will be reviewed to ensure that you have a suitable balance.

Questions that you should think about

Do you know what you want to do after Year 11?

Make sure that your choices will allow you to do this.

Do you want to study certain subjects at A Level?

Check what GCSEs are needed to be able to study them.

Do you have plans to go to University?

Visit the website *Informed Choices* and check how the qualifications you achieve can affect the courses you can do. www.informedchoices.ac.uk/

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Reeves, Deputy Headteacher

Oldfield School Core Curriculum

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Trilogy Science (Double Award) **or** Separate Sciences
- Physical Education (Core)
- Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE)

You **must** pick two of these four subjects:

- French (if you have studied French in Years 8 and 9)
- Geography
- History
- Spanish (if you have studied Spanish in Years 8 and 9)

And then any **two** other subjects from the list below (assuming you haven't already picked them);

- Art & Design: Fine Art
- Business Studies
- Child Development
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- History
- Information Technologies
- Media Studies
- Music
- Art & Design: Photography
- Physical Education Options: PE or Sports Studies
- Design & Technology: Product Design or Textiles
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

This is not a qualification in itself, it is more a performance measure used to judge schools.

The curriculum provision on offer will enable you to obtain the English Baccalaureate providing you achieve at least a grade 5 in each of the following subjects:

- English (either Language or Literature)
- Mathematics
- Two sciences (either from Separate or Trilogy Sciences, or Computer Science)
- French or Spanish
- Geography or History

English Language (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Roberts and Miss Mellor

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700

English Language is an essential course which underpins the basic writing and reading skills needed to succeed in a wide range of other subjects and future careers. Learners will develop their ability to communicate effectively, clearly and appropriately through writing and speaking – giving them the skills and the confidence that they will need whatever their chosen career. They will also be introduced to a range of writing styles and develop functional language skills essential to everyday life.

The English Language course is taught as a linked course with English Literature with only one tier of entry. All components are examined at the end of the course.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing: (50%)

Section A Reading: Understanding one prose extract of literature from the 20th century assessed through four structured questions.

Section B Prose Writing: One creative writing task inspired by a picture stimulus.
Examination; 1 hour 45 minutes.

Paper 2 – Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives: (50%)

Section A Reading: Understanding two prose extracts of non-fiction from the 19th and 21st centuries; assessed through four structured questions.

Section B Writing: One creative writing task inspired by a given statement.
Examination; 1 hour 45 minutes.

Non-Examination Assessment: Spoken Language Endorsement

One presentation or speech and response to follow-up questions and feedback. This is reported as a part of the qualification but is not included in the final GCSE mark for English Language.

HOW WILL ENGLISH LANGUAGE HELP ME?

You will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening which will help you in the real world as well as in your future career or higher / further education. This course enables you to access all other courses.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

English Language A level is an exciting and interesting course in its own right which develops many of the skills and topics studied in this GCSE course. It is also an essential foundation for many other courses.

English Literature (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Roberts and Miss Mellor

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702

English Literature is the study of a number of texts – plays, poetry and prose, which present students with interesting characters and issues, covering a range of engaging topics. They will study a wide range of texts which enable them to develop the skills of evaluation and forming their own opinions and arguments, whilst simultaneously providing a brief introduction to our rich literary heritage.

The English Literature course is taught as a linked course with English Language and only one tier of entry. All components are examined at the end of the course.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Nineteenth Century Novel (40%) 1hr 45 mins

Section A: This is based on the study of one play by Shakespeare, *Macbeth*, and will be assessed through one extract question linked to the whole play.

Section B: One text, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* or *A Christmas Carol*, will be studied and assessed through one extract question linked to the whole novel – following the same format as the Shakespeare question.

Paper 2: Post 1914 Prose/Drama; Anthology Poetry; Unseen Poetry (60%) 2hr 15 mins

Section A - Post 1914 Prose/Drama: One text will be studied, *An Inspector Calls*, and assessed through a source-based question.

Section B – Anthology Poetry: One comparative question based on a given poem and theme to a poem of their choice.

Section C - Unseen Poetry: Having developed the skills of writing about poetry, you will answer two questions on poems you have not studied before; one of these will be a comparison.

Students will not have copies of these texts in the examinations.

All assessments include some marks for the quality of your writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

HOW WILL ENGLISH LITERATURE HELP ME?

You will read and analyse a number of texts, developing skills in understanding how writers create meaning. During your reading and discussions you will learn how to analyse what is written and how it manipulates the reader. You will take part in discussions and gain confidence in sharing your opinions with others.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

You will be able to take this course as an A level course at Oldfield School, where the texts we study are more complex but also really interesting and thought-provoking. The skills you learn in GCSE English Literature will help you in other analytical subjects based on written texts.

Mathematics (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Smith

Examination Board Link: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

The course builds on topics that you have studied at Key Stage 3 with an increased focus on applying mathematics in context, problem solving, reasoning and the functional elements of the subject.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course content is divided into six broad areas of mathematics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

The final award is covered by three equally weighted written examinations taken in the summer of Year 11.

Paper 1 (Non-Calculator) 1 hour and 30 minutes

Paper 2 (Calculator) 1 hour and 30 minutes

Paper 3 (Calculator) 1 hour and 30 minutes

The examination has two different levels of entry; Higher Level and Foundation Level. You will be entered for the level most appropriate to your aptitude and ability.

HOW WILL MATHEMATICS HELP ME?

The skills developed in this course will prepare you to function mathematically in the world. It will help you in other subjects such as Business Studies, Science and Technology.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Students gaining a good grade at Higher Level Mathematics will be suitable candidates for taking A level Mathematics or Further Mathematics in Years 12 and 13 in Oldfield Sixth Form. In addition, students achieving a grade 4 or above can study Core Maths which is a qualification supporting students to apply their mathematical skills in wider, real life contexts.

Trilogy Science Double Award (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Cornelius (Maternity leave until April/May 2023), Miss Houston (Acting Leader of Learning until April/May 2023)

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464

The Trilogy Science course is the most suitable course for the majority of students and studying Trilogy does not preclude any future A levels in science subjects. Indeed, if you wished to study Medicine (or similar) at university, having the highest possible grades in Trilogy would be more beneficial than three lower grades in the separate sciences. Students will study all three sciences and will be awarded with one double weighted GCSE qualification.

COURSE CONTENT

Biology has the following units; cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

Chemistry has the following units; atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics has the following units; forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

ASSESSMENT

- There are six papers in total; two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.
- Duration: All the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.
- Each paper is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.
- Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.
- There is a choice between two levels of entry for examinations; Foundation and Higher.
- Grading: this qualification has a different grade system to others. This double award is worth two GCSEs and is made up of two equal or adjacent grades. There are seventeen possible grade combinations; 9-9, 9-8, 8-8, 8-7, 7-7, 7-6, 6-6, 6-5,2-1, 1-1. For example, a 5-4 is equivalent to having obtained one GCSE at grade 5 and a second at grade 4.

HOW WILL TRILOGY SCIENCE HELP ME?

Students will develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods, organise and present information clearly and use ICT. You will also gain a greater understanding of how science works and its essential role in society.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

The Trilogy route is an excellent grounding to progress onto A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Separate Sciences (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Cornelius (Maternity leave until April/May 2023), Miss Houston (Acting Leader of Learning until April/May 2023)

Examination Board Link: Biology; www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461

Chemistry; www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462

Physics; www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463

We will identify the most able science students from Year 9 who will be offered the opportunity to study for the Separate Sciences GCSEs. The selection process will be based on students' assessment levels obtained throughout Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9. Students cannot choose to study one or two of the science subjects, you must study all three. The units of study are the same as the Trilogy Science Double Award, except that there is significantly more content and depth in each unit. This will lead to three separate GCSEs being awarded, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The grades awarded are independent of one another.

Students following separate sciences will be expected to work at the higher tier level.

COURSE CONTENT

Biology has the following units: Cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

Chemistry has the following units: Atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics has the following units: Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter, atomic structure and space physics.

ASSESSMENT

Each science course will be examined by two papers which will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics. The questions will use clear language to assess students only on their scientific ability.

Duration: Both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: Multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response.

HOW WILL SEPARATE SCIENCES HELP ME?

Students will develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods, organise and present information clearly and use ICT. You will also develop practical skills and gain a greater understanding of how science works and its essential role in society.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Studying Separate Sciences GCSEs will provide you with an excellent foundation for progression onto A level sciences at Oldfield School.

Physical Education (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: n/a

Qualification: n/a

Teacher Contact: Mr Driver

This subject is non-examined and gives you the chance to take part in a range of physical activities that will challenge you both physically and mentally. The lessons are focused around participation, enjoyment and a sense of competition giving students the opportunity to play sports they may not have experienced before.

COURSE CONTENT

During these lessons you will have the opportunity to select a pathway of sports that suits you. This will include a wide range of sports aimed at ensuring there is an appropriate choice for all students to engage in. For GCSE PE students the core PE lessons will be used as part of assessing your practical sports.

HOW WILL PHYSICAL EDUCATION HELP ME?

By taking part in a range of physical activities you will be able to make decisions about how to lead a healthy active life when you leave school. You will understand the need for regular exercise and the benefits of leading an active lifestyle. You will improve your confidence and social skills by working in groups, managing and coaching your peers and working alongside staff assisting in the leadership programme.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

This is a core subject so all students take part in PE, however if there are sports you would like to take part in that we do not currently offer, please discuss this with a member of the PE department and where possible we will look to include it within our sporting pathways.

Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) (Core Curriculum)

Examination Board: n/a

Qualification: n/a

Teacher Contact: Mrs Macnaughton

In this subject you have opportunities to show that you can take responsibility for your own learning and career choices by setting personal targets and planning to meet them. You will develop your ability to weigh up alternative courses of action for health and wellbeing, and learn strategies for managing independent living. You will clarify your views and opinions through discussions with peers and interaction with the subject matter in lessons delivered by teachers, the school nurse and visitors to the school.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

PSHE is delivered through timetabled lessons once a fortnight, and will cover the following topics over Year 10:

- Employability and enterprise
- Revision techniques and preparation for examinations
- Relationships, sex and health education
- Alcohol and drugs education
- Body image and self esteem
- Financial education
- Crime and the criminal justice system
- The global community
- Learning to learn
- Practical healthy eating
- Equality and Diversity
- British Values and Citizenship
- Health and wellbeing.

There is no formal assessment for PSHE but students will be expected to collate their work and present a topic to the class at the end of Year 10.

HOW WILL PSHE HELP ME?

In PSHE you will develop the self-awareness, confidence and skills you need for adult life, further learning and work. You will learn to understand and consider the consequences of your decisions and gain the knowledge and skills to seek advice on personal issues. You will become more aware of your place in the world as global citizens and how your actions in many areas are significant in an interdependent world.

Art & Design: Fine Art

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Miss Wells

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206

This course will help you to develop your art skills so that you can produce work that you are really proud of. You will have a chance to express your own ideas and feelings and we will help you to do this in unusual and creative ways.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is divided into two parts:

Unit One – Portfolio

This work will be produced in your art lesson and homework time and is worth 60% of the total marks. Unit One consists of two main projects where we will explore a different theme for each one. We will look at inspiring artists, photographers and sculptors to inform our projects, spending time learning how to draw, paint, print-make and take photographs amongst other fine art practices. We will then experiment, develop and refine our work so that we can create our own pieces influenced by our artist research. These will culminate in the creation of final pieces towards the end of each of the projects. As you progress you will be given more freedom to make your own decisions, with the help and advice of your teacher.

Unit Two – Externally Set Task

The examination board will send us an examination paper that will contain a theme. You will work through a small project in order to arrive at a final outcome. This will be similar in format to the personal portfolio in that you will develop and explore ideas, try a range of different materials and then plan a final piece. The examination will last for ten hours (with adequate breaks throughout) and in this you will complete your final piece using materials of your own choice. Your sketch book will be marked alongside your final pieces for your final grade.

The externally set assignment is worth 40% of the total marks.

HOW WILL ART HELP ME?

Art education is all about learning to look at things in different ways. We will inspire you to do the same. The presentation and research skills that you learn in art will help you in your other subjects as well. You will be able to use images and look at images in lots of different subjects with much greater knowledge and understanding.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Art GCSE is fun and exciting and it will be a valuable asset if you want to study A level Art or Photography with us in Oldfield Sixth Form. There are many careers that include art, [click here for more information;](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/photography)
<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/photography>
<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/arts-and-creative/894045-careers-in-art-and-design>

Business Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas/WJEC

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Britton

Examination Board Link: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/business/gcse/>

If you enjoy watching TV programmes such as *The Apprentice*, *Dragon's Den* and *Inside the Factory*, GCSE Business Studies might appeal to you. GCSE Business Studies is designed for you to learn the skills of running a business, such as managing money, advertising and employing staff.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The content is presented in six clear and distinct topic areas:

- Business activity
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Finance
- Marketing
- Human resources.

The subject content will be assessed across two examination papers:

Component 1: Business Dynamics (62.5% of the qualification) is a 2 hour exam (100 marks). A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content.

Component 2: Business Considerations (37.5% of the qualification) is a 90 minute exam (60 marks). Data response questions covering all of the specification content.

Both components assess content from all six topic areas, so learners will be required to draw together knowledge, skills and understanding from across the subject content in each assessment.

HOW WILL BUSINESS STUDIES HELP ME?

You will develop a thorough understanding of topical and local business issues and will think about them in a critical manner, to build the skills of application, analysis and evaluation. It will empower you to develop as a commercially minded and enterprising individual. The course will also help you to develop a wide range of skills, enabling you to analyse information critically, develop arguments, make justified decisions and to prepare you for further study and career pathways.

You will be given opportunities to take part in business enrichment activities. Business Studies is a popular GCSE and – due to the diverse content – it complements a very wide range of other GCSE courses on offer, including Technology, Geography, Computer Science and Media Studies.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Business Studies GCSE is a good foundation for an A level course in Business or Economics at Oldfield Sixth Form, as well as college courses such as accountancy, law, tourism and economics.

Child Development

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: OCR Cambridge National Level 2 Certificate

Teacher Contact: Mrs Clark

Examination Board Link: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/child-development-level-1-2-i809/specification-at-a-glance/

Have you got a young brother, sister or cousin? Do you watch *One Born Every Minute* without screaming? Are you considering becoming a midwife, teacher or nursery worker? Answer yes to all or some of the above and Child Development could be the course for you.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Child Development follows the OCR Cambridge National specification and is the equivalent to a GCSE qualification.

All students will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.

The course includes talks from midwives and health visitors as well as bathing and changing a baby (doll) and making a meal for a toddler. You will also test drive prams, choose suitable outfits and toys and take a computerised 'real baby' home for the weekend.

Child Development is made up of preparation for an exam at the end of Year 11 and completion of two pieces of coursework. Coursework is completed at home and in school so you will need to be organised and able to meet deadlines as well as work independently. You will benefit from the opportunity to respond to feedback from your teacher and therefore make improvements before it is submitted for final marking.

HOW WILL CHILD DEVELOPMENT HELP ME?

This course is an enjoyable course for those interested in children and will be beneficial to all students as it teaches key skills and knowledge of the fundamentals of child care and development. It can lead to A level studies and vocational courses or training.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

A Cambridge National in Child Development is a perfect foundation for the Cambridge Technical Health and Social Care course offered at Oldfield Sixth Form, or any course specialising in children, teaching, psychology or health.

Computer Science

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Eidman

Examination Board Link: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/>

GCSE Computer Science is regarded as one of the Science subjects alongside Biology, Chemistry and Physics with regard to EBacc qualifications.

Computing is a way of thinking. It is making the impossible possible. It is creating solutions to problems in everyday life.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The specification is split into three components:

Component 01 – Computer Systems. 50% of the final total.

This focuses on computer systems. It is an examined unit and makes up 50% of the assessment total. It is a written exam paper lasting 90 minutes in duration. It focuses upon the main theoretical topics. These are networks, security, software and storage.

Component 02 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming. 50% of the final total.

This is a written exam, focused on computational thinking and algorithms. You will be tested on the elements of computational thinking and logic. You are principally assessed on your ability to write, correct and improve algorithms. This also takes 90 minutes and is a written paper.

Programming Project

This is a requirement of the course, but does not count towards the final grade. You will be challenged by a range of exciting and engaging tasks to apply the knowledge and skills you have learned. Computer programming is used to help analyse, design, test and evaluate a program written by the student to a pre-determined task. The work completed in this project consolidates the learning achieved for Component 02.

HOW WILL COMPUTING HELP ME?

This course will provide a science-based qualification with a range of skills centred on effective computer use. It will support skills developed in mathematics, science and technology, and potentially open up further studies in the computer environment at A level and beyond.

Computer science is a growth area in the UK jobs sector and there are many sector leading businesses in the South West area offering further employment and training opportunities for capable enthusiastic students.

CAUTION unless you are interested in programming and the inside of a computer, this course may not be right for you. Also consider the IT course which is a more user based approach to ICT and focusses upon specific ICT style skills.

Dance

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Smith

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236>

GCSE Dance follows the AQA syllabus and is the perfect course for students who love to create dances, perform and watch other people dance. Above all you will find that by studying dance you will improve your creative skills as well as your physical skills - that is what makes dance unique.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The GCSE Dance course has two components:

Component 1; Performance and Choreography

Solo Performance: You will learn two set phrases and will perform these as a solo. The marks from both set phrases are combined.

Performance in a Duo/Trio: You will perform in a group dance choreographed by yourself, your peers and your teacher. This will include movement material developed from two additional set phrases set by the exam board and material created by yourself and the teacher. The marks for performance are combined and are worth 30% of your final mark.

Choreography: You will create a solo or group dance based on a stimulus provided by the exam board. This is worth 30% of your final mark.

Component 2; Dance Appreciation

You will undertake a written exam paper at the end of the GCSE Dance course in which you will be assessed on your appreciation and critical analysis of your own work and six professional dance pieces. The examination will last for 1 hour and 30 minutes and is worth 40% of your final mark.

HOW WILL GCSE DANCE HELP ME?

Students studying GCSE Dance are able to develop practical dance skills such as alignment, flexibility, musicality and expression. It is also an excellent course for helping you to develop and enhance skills in team work, confidence, self-esteem, problem solving and obviously promoting fitness and wellbeing.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Students who have undertaken GCSE Dance are equipped to study a range of courses at Key Stage 5, including A level Dance in Oldfield Sixth Form.

Drama

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Ms Bloomfield

Examination Board Link: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/drama-and-theatre/gcse/>

If you enjoy working creatively and practically in groups, pairs and/or individually, or want to develop your knowledge and understanding of drama as well as your self-confidence as a performer and/or designer then you will enjoy this course. You will need to be able to work independently as well as with others and you will need to have time for after-school rehearsals.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The drama course covers many different aspects of acting, theatre crafts and performance.

Unit 1: Devised practical performance (40%). Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Students will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using the techniques of a theatre practitioner, in response to a stimulus set by the exam board. Students will need to produce a realisation of their piece of devised theatre, supporting evidence and an evaluation of the final performance or design.

Unit 2: Performance from a text (20%). Externally assessed by a visiting examiner in April/ May of Year 11.

Students will be assessed on their acting or design skills in a scene from a published play in small groups of between two and five members.

Unit 3: Written examination (40%). Written paper, 1 hour 30 minutes.

Students will be assessed on their ability to analyse the set text (Noughts and Crosses) as an actor, designer and director and complete a live theatre review.

HOW WILL DRAMA HELP ME?

Drama develops skills for life – working as a team, time-management, self-confidence, problem solving, communication and performing to strangers or in unfamiliar situations are all important aspects of this course. Drama is a creative subject and works well with other subjects such as Art, English Literature, Music, Dance, Photography and Psychology.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

A level Theatre Studies follows on from this course and is based on the same central elements of performance, textual analysis and practical exploration.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr A Mills

Examination Board Link: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-j309-from-2016/>

This GCSE offers a scientific approach to cooking where learners discover the essentials of food science, build strong practical cookery skills and a good understanding of nutrition. This course will offer you the chance to develop your knowledge and extend your skills so you understand all about food. It will provide you with hands on experience of working with food.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is divided into two parts:

Written Examination – 50%

You will learn all about nutrition, food provenance, food choice, cooking and a range of food preparation and cooking techniques. You will then have an examination lasting 1 hour 30 minutes where students will be asked to answer a range of short and long answer responses to the questions. The examination is worth 50% of the total GCSE.

Non-Exam Assessment – NEA1 – 15%

This will consist of a practical food investigation, where students will investigate the working characteristics, function and chemical properties of ingredients. This is worth 15% of the total GCSE.

Non-Exam Assessment – NEA2 – 35%

This task will assess students practical cooking and food preparation skills. Students will plan, prepare and cook three dishes that fit the task title. Students will make these three dishes within a three hour practical within Year 11. This is worth 35% of the total GCSE.

HOW WILL FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION HELP ME?

This course is full of exciting opportunities to be creative with food and learn new practical skills. It will teach you to prepare and cook dishes from cakes, tagines and curries, to portioning chicken and filleting fish. It will also provide you with practical life skills and knowledge of nutrition and health.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

A GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a good foundation for courses in hospitality and catering or Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition at Oldfield School in the Sixth Form. This course will complement other courses such as Science, Physical Education and within a range of other subjects.

French

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Miss Heaven

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The course has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Only students already studying French can opt for this course.

Paper 1: Listening (25%). Understanding different types of spoken language.

Paper 2: Speaking (25%). Communicating and interacting effectively in speech.

Paper 3: Reading (25%). Responding to different types of language.

Paper 4: Writing (25%). Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

The course is most suitable for students who enjoy language and culture and who are prepared to work hard and commit to learning lots of new vocabulary and grammatical concepts. The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries where French is spoken.

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local, national and international areas of interest.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

HOW WILL THIS HELP ME?

Speaking French will allow you to explore 'le monde francophone' in its entirety, not just France! This means you will be able to travel and work in the European countries of Belgium and Switzerland, parts of Canada, Caribbean locations such as Guadeloupe, Haiti and Martinique, as well as many countries in West Africa.

French is the fifth most spoken language worldwide and is the second most popular language for international organisations such as charities like 'Médecins Sans Frontières' (Doctors without Borders) and Amnesty International, world bodies such as the United Nations, and it is still considered the principal language for the fashion industry. More generally, French is a key language for international business and world politics.

Studying a language will vastly improve your communicative skills, cultural awareness and confidence whilst you learn about the different traditions within the French speaking world. You will also be able to communicate with other nationalities and discover a rich cultural heritage of film, music, art and literature.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

French GCSE is a highly regarded element of the EBacc qualification and it is an essential grounding for studying A level French at Oldfield Sixth Form. It is highly valued by both universities and employers. There are many diverse industries in which you can use your French skills. This includes careers in medicine, translation, international development, hospitality and journalism as well as travel and tourism opportunities such as working at a ski resort or training as a flight attendant.

Geography

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Santarpino

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035>

GCSE Geography is the course for students who are curious about the world outside the classroom.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

We learn about different places around the world and look at the opportunities and challenges they face. You will develop a broad understanding of the world and detailed knowledge of places in every continent.

Lessons involve a variety of activities including map skills, computer work, analysis, problem-solving, debate and hands-on fieldwork on sandy beaches – it is never dull! If you enjoy learning about new places and want to deepen your understanding of our world, then GCSE Geography is for you.

Field trips

Students spend two days in the field. You will visit Clevedon to explore the sea defences and examine inequality. The second day is spent visiting Bristol looking at the regeneration of the city.

We study the AQA syllabus and the course is divided into three sections:

Unit 1 looks at the challenge of natural hazards; earthquakes and volcanoes, hurricanes and tornadoes, as well as climate change. We learn how people live with and manage life in a hazard zone. Unit 1 also studies the physical geography of the UK with a focus on rivers and coasts as well as ecosystems with a focus on rainforests and hot deserts.

Unit 2 looks at the challenges cities face in the 21st century; how can they become sustainable and cope with rapid growth? Unit 2 also looks at economic geography and how global trade has winners and losers. Lastly we look at the challenge of limited resources and how humans are coping with shortages of food, water and energy.

Unit 3 is a skills based paper. It involves fieldwork questions, where you explain the work you have done outside the classroom and an issue analysis question where you explain a current global issue, such as the migration crisis in Europe.

All exams include a variety of different question types: including multiple choice, short answers and longer answers and longer case study responses. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

HOW WILL GEOGRAPHY HELP ME?

Geography develops a wide range of knowledge and skills that are desirable to employers and universities. Employers value the knowledge and skills that studying geography can provide, be it knowing how the world works, planning research and report writing, working in a team, using new technologies and communication skills – and much more. Universities value the depth of understanding you will develop: Geography is a facilitating subject and is accepted by all universities for the majority of courses. People who study Geography go on to a wide range of careers: from management to urban planning, working in the environment to travel and tourism, or in international charities or retail.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Geography GCSE is a useful foundation for A level Geography in Oldfield Sixth Form as well as supporting a range of other A level subjects from the sciences to other humanities subjects.

History

Examination Board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Moore

Examination Board Link: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

GCSE History is a course for people with questions about why our world is the way it is. If you enjoy using evidence to find out what happened, constructing unassailable arguments and, above all, if you are interested in people and why they behave in certain ways, then history is the course for you.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is divided into four units, covering a wide range of periods and places:

1. A period study- Germany, 1918-1939: The crushing effects of defeat in the First World War, the fragile democracy of the Weimar period and finally Hitler's rise to power and the impact of life in Nazi Germany on the German people.
2. A wider world depth study- The Cold War: Following on from the end of the Second World War, this unit looks at conflict and tension between East and West in the second half of the Twentieth Century. It focuses on the Cold War between the capitalist western allies and the communist bloc in the East, taking in spies, the Berlin Wall and the space race.
3. An overview course study covering a significant period of History of more than 1000 years, focused on Migration to Britain.
4. A British History unit, currently the Norman period from 1066.

All four units are assessed by written examination in the summer of Year 11.

HOW WILL HISTORY HELP ME?

If done properly, the study of History will provide you with a huge variety of useful skills, such as constructing an argument, using evidence to support your point of view, seeing things from another person's perspective and writing clearly and effectively. This is why people with history qualifications are prized in many walks of life including law, journalism, politics and the media. You will also gain valuable knowledge about the world in which you live. GCSE History is a challenging course, but if you are determined and engaged, an extremely rewarding one.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Beyond the GCSE, there is a popular A level History course at Oldfield Sixth Form. The department also runs a residential visit to Berlin in Year 11 to complement aspects of the courses studied.

Information Technologies

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: Cambridge National Certificate in IT Level 1/2

Teacher Contact: Mr Eidman

Examination Board Link: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/it-level-1-2-j836/

This qualification will develop the application of IT skills through their practical use. It will provide students with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing their employability when they leave school. The qualification will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The grading is GCSE equivalent and reported as

Distinction* at Level 2

Distinction at Level 2

Merit at Level 2

Pass at Level 2

This equates to a grade 4 upwards when compared to a GCSE.

You will study three different units of work. One will be an exam unit at the end of the course in Year 11, and two will be internally assessed pieces of coursework.

The exam unit is called "IT in the Digital World". It is a 90 minute written exam worth 35% of the final marks and covers the following six topics: Design tools, Human Computer Interface (HCI) in everyday life, data and testing, cyber-security and legislation, digital communications, Internet of Everything (IoE). These topics are designed to give a modern focus on the role of IT in the world around us and how it is used.

The first coursework unit is based upon data manipulation using spreadsheets. It is designed to make students capable and ready for an office-based environment where problem solving, recording data and predicting potential outcomes and financial forecasting are essential skills.

The second coursework is based on using Augmented Reality software to present information. It is more up to date than traditional presentation methods and is designed to be a more forward-facing application of technology and allow students to create a resource suitable for use on phones and tablets as well as traditional PCs. The greater role of user interaction is a key ingredient.

For both coursework pieces, a pre-set assignment is provided by the exam board to ensure consistency of work, but there is ample scope within this for students to show their individual talents. The 2 pieces of coursework are equally weighted and contribute 65% of the final marks.

HOW WILL THIS COURSE HELP ME?

If you wish to study at Level 3, at college or school, this will be an excellent pathway into further education in any ICT related course. It will enable the student to follow apprenticeships in IT related courses or could be used as a skill-based subject which shows an employer the capabilities of the individual and their level of practical competency. It is capable of equipping students with relevant practical IT skills desired by future employers.

Media Studies

Examination Board: Eduqas

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Dyer and Mr Roberts

Examination Board Link: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/gcse/>

Media Studies GCSE is the study of the media, whether that is film, television, magazines, newspapers, radio, websites or posters. Through the study of a variety of texts you will learn about how the media influences us, how the texts are made and how they represent people or places in a variety of ways. During the course you will also have the opportunity to create your own media text using industry standard computer programs.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Examination: (70%) You will complete the majority of your Media GCSE through **two** equally weighted exams. The first will focus on exploring the media, media language and representation within a variety of media industries including film, video games and newspapers. The second one will focus on media forms and products such as television programmes and music videos. Students will be asked to discuss how these media products are created and how audiences and viewers are affected by them.

Non-exam assessment: (30%) This is your opportunity to apply your knowledge of media language, forms and audiences to create your own product from a brief, set by the exam board. This is a creative project where you research, plan, create and evaluate your own media text. Students have used Photoshop and photography as part of this process. New briefs and tasks are set by the exam board every year.

HOW WILL MEDIA STUDIES HELP ME?

You will analyse a number of media texts, learning how they use different techniques to create meaning. These analytical skills will help you in other subjects, such as English. They will also deepen your understanding of the importance and effect of the media in today's media saturated world. You will also develop your creative and artistic skills by producing your own media texts. We will train you to use quite complex computer software and so your ICT skills will be greatly improved.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

The course will provide you with a firm foundation of knowledge and skills should you wish to take Film Studies at A level. Furthermore, the analytical, creative and ICT skills you will learn will be transferable to a whole host of other subjects, from English to Photography, that you may wish to pursue later in your education.

Music

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Robinson

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music/gcse/music-8271>

GCSE Music is an exciting subject that gives you the opportunity to develop your musical skills on a practical level using a combination of traditional methods and up to date technology. If you enjoy music and want to continue to use your instrumental and/or vocal skills to make music in a creative way, this course is for you.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The music course is divided into three components:

Performing music (30%): Opportunities will be available throughout the course for you to perform by yourself as well as part of an ensemble; two of these performances will be submitted as part of your GCSE assessment.

Composing and appraising music (30%): You will compose two pieces of music, one in your own style and the other in response to a given brief. You will learn how to notate using Sibelius and/or GarageBand in the Mac suite whilst composing for your chosen instruments.

Appraising (40%): You will develop your knowledge about the elements of music, whilst listening to and analysing a variety of music from the Western Classical Period through to current popular music. This aspect of the course is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute exam with listening and appraising questions that range from multiple choice to more detailed longer answer questions.

HOW WILL MUSIC HELP ME?

The skills you will acquire in this course are numerous and varied. Music develops critical thinking, spatial reasoning and cognitive skills. It also helps develop communication skills and encourages creativity and expressiveness. Students who play music as part of a group develop strong team-working skills, self-discipline, self-esteem and the ability to listen to others. All of these skills will help you to develop as a person as well as improving your musical abilities. Music will also complement your other studies at GCSE as through Music GCSE you will build skills in analysis and presentation as well as creativity.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Music GCSE is a good foundation for A level Music or Music Technology in Oldfield Sixth Form. It can also lead onto other musical qualifications such as Performance Studies A level. As well as leading to opportunities to study music further, the self-confidence you will gain and the skills mastered through such a rigorous qualification are well sought after in most further education courses and workplaces.

Art & Design: Photography

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Miss Wells

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206>

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is divided into two parts:

Unit One – Personal portfolio

You will work on creating a portfolio that will allow you to explore ideas, materials and methods of photography. You will explore a multitude of locations to capture images based on your theme and you will look at the work of other photographers and say how this has influenced your own work. You will be expected to use class and homework time to explore the contextual understanding of photography and manipulate your images to the very best standard. You will have to work hard to take creative and interesting photographs outside of class that support your project. You will get the chance to explore all aspects of photography from the traditional to unconventional, using both digital software and manual manipulation processes. This work is worth 60% of the total marks.

Unit Two – Externally set assignment

The examination board will send us an examination paper that will contain a theme. You will work through a small project in order to arrive at a final outcome. This will be similar in format to the personal portfolio in that you will develop and explore ideas, try a range of different materials and then plan a final piece. The examination will last for ten hours (with adequate breaks throughout) and in this you will complete your final piece that supports your theme. Your sketch book will be marked alongside your final images for your final grade. The externally set assignment is worth 40% of the total marks.

HOW WILL PHOTOGRAPHY HELP ME?

Photographers use their cameras as tools of exploration, instruments for change. We will inspire you to do the same. The visual understanding and presentation skills that you learn in photography might help you in your other subjects as well. You will be able to use images and look at images in lots of different subjects with much greater knowledge and understanding.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Photography GCSE is fun and exciting and it will be a valuable asset if you want to study A level Photography with us in Oldfield Sixth Form. There are many careers that include photography, click here for more information;

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/photography>

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/arts-and-creative/894045-careers-in-art-and-design>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION OPTIONS

Students will be directed to the most suitable qualification

PE GCSE

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Driver

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582

This course provides the opportunity to develop personal performance skills in PE to a high level. Theoretical work will be supported by practical aspects to increase knowledge and understanding.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

The course is split into 3 sections. There is an increased emphasis on the theoretical content worth 60% of the qualification assessed through examination.

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport (30%)

What is assessed: Applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data.

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport (30%)

What is assessed: Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and wellbeing, use of data.

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport (40%)

Practicals are 30% of the qualification and must be three activities - one team activity, one individual activity and a free choice. In addition, performance analysis is worth 10% of the qualification, assessed through coursework.

HOW WILL PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE HELP ME?

Skills developed in the course may encourage you to do further qualifications within sport and PE. The sport and leisure industry is huge, and there are plenty of opportunities for you to work within an area you enjoy.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

A GCSE in PE is a good foundation for A level PE at Oldfield School. It can also serve as a good foundation for psychology or science related courses in further education.

Sports Studies

Examination Board: OCR

Qualification: Cambridge National Sports Studies Level 2

Teacher Contact: Mr John

Examination Board Link: www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-j829/

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

This course offers students the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance.

R184: Contemporary issues in sport

Social and Cultural Issues in Sport; an external examination based on their subject knowledge and understanding.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

Developing Sports Skills; in two different practical activities plus the ability to officiate one activity. Students will be assessed through a combination of assignments and practical performance and leadership.

R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities (OAA)

Students take part in a number of activities and study how we ensure safe positive outcomes. Pupils will be assessed through a combination of assignments and practical performance in OAA.

HOW WILL THIS HELP ME?

Students will develop a wide range of written and practical skills that can be applied in a wide range of settings, including the sports and leisure industry. This vocational course is excellent when considering a sports based vocational course for further education.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS

Students can choose between one of the subjects below

Design & Technology: Product Design

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Miss Fielding and Miss Sackett

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552

This GCSE course will offer you the chance to explore the role of a professional designer working across a broad range of materials, tools and processes. As well as developing skills with wood, plastic and metal, you will be given the chance to build and use elements of CAD/CAM, electronics and graphics.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit One – Controlled task. This makes up 50% of the final grade and consists of a design folder of work and a practical outcome, which you will develop from an initial brief set by the exam board.

Unit Two – Examination. The 2 hour written exam is at the end of Year 11 and is worth 50% of the final grade. Students will be tested on their knowledge of Design and Make Processes, Sustainability and Properties of Materials.

HOW WILL PRODUCT DESIGN HELP ME?

A GCSE in Product Design will develop your creative and problem solving skills, as you work towards designing and making products to meet the needs of specific consumer groups. These are extremely beneficial skills in any work place and are highly desirable in both your future education and employment.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Product Design GCSE is a good foundation for A level Product Design at Oldfield School Sixth Form, as well as college courses in construction, mechanics, plumbing and electronics.

Design & Technology: Textiles

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Miss Hasnat

Examination Board Link: www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552

This GCSE course will give you an insight into the Textile Industry and the opportunity to explore the many roles and skills involved in designing and making Textile based products. You will develop various construction and decorative techniques through a number of practical projects as well as gaining first-hand expertise on designing sustainably.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Unit One – Non Exam Assessment:

Students will research, design and produce an innovative textiles product based on a theme selected from an externally set list. This can be fashion, interior or product based and will account for 50% of their final grade.

Unit Two - Examination:

The two hour written exam is worth 50% of the final grade. Topics include design and making processes, sustainability and material properties.

HOW WILL TEXTILES HELP ME?

A GCSE in Textiles will develop your creativity and problem-solving skills as you work towards designing and making products to meet the needs of specific clients as well as giving you an understanding of the materials and products we use on a daily basis. These are extremely beneficial in any work place and are highly desirable in both future education and employment.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

This course will prepare you with the understanding, creativity and practical skills needed to go on to study A level Textiles at Oldfield Sixth Form, as well as other college courses focused on Art, Design, Fashion and Marketing.

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies)

Examination Board: Equqas

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Lewis

Examination Board Link: www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

This GCSE is an inclusive subject, for people of any faith and for people of no faith at all. It allows students to build a strong philosophical literacy, and a key knowledge of diverse worldviews; including those held by some of the greatest thinkers and philosophers of our time. In RPE GCSE, students will develop analytical and critical thinking skills and the ability to work with abstract ideas. During the course of study, we develop their ability to write, explain, argue, analyse and evaluate. They become better at understanding what they read or see, how to express themselves orally and how to think critically about the diverse world they find themselves within.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern world.

Written Examination: 2 hours. 50 % of the qualification.

- Theme 1: Issues of Relationships; Exploring topics such as human sexuality, contraception, marriage, divorce, purpose of families, gender equality, homosexuality and the issues surrounding homophobia in society.
- Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death; Exploring topics such as the origins of the universe, the environment, the use and abuse of animals, abortion, euthanasia, death and the afterlife.
- Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil; Exploring topics such as crime, punishment, prisons, suffering, forgiveness and the death penalty.
- Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights; Exploring topics such as equality, social justice, human rights, censorship, the need of laws, extremism, poverty.

Component 2: Study of Christianity

Written Examination: 1 hour. 25% of the qualification.

Exploring topics such as the nature of God, creation, the afterlife, Jesus, worship, baptism, mass, persecution of Christians. When studying Christians you don't simply learn about religion but ask – is prayer still meaningful? Why would a God allow evil? Is it ever right to try and convert someone? Is Christianity still as important today?

Component 3: Study of Islam

25% of the qualification.

Exploring topics such as the nature of Allah, the afterlife, Jihad, fasting, pilgrimage, festivals. When studying Islam you don't simply learn about religion but ask – is fasting still important today? Should a Muslim be expected to pray 5 times a day? Would God allow people to suffer in Hell?

HOW WILL RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS HELP ME?

This specification ensures students are challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards contemporary issues. Students will gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. The curriculum allows students to build the knowledge and skills that enable them access to the study of theology, philosophy or the social sciences beyond the GCSE.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

It is a qualification that is valued by Oldfield Sixth Form, colleges and employers because of the transferable skills it develops. A student might also go on to study the subject, or related subjects, at A level. For certain subjects Religious Studies GCSE would be particularly beneficial, e.g. Law, Philosophy, Sociology, Criminology, History, English, Leisure and Tourism, and Health and Social Care.

Sociology

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs Moore

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

Sociologists look at how wider society shapes us and influences our beliefs and behaviours. We explore British society as well as investigating a range of issues across the globe. Sociology aims to equip you with a developed understanding of social changes that are relevant to your life.

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

What is assessed;

- the sociology of families;
- the sociology of education;
- relevant areas of social theory and methodology.

How it is assessed;

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes;
- 100 marks;
- 50% of GCSE.

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

What is assessed;

- the sociology of crime and deviance;
- the sociology of social stratification;
- relevant areas of social theory and methodology.

How it is assessed;

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes;
- 100 marks;
- 50% of GCSE.

HOW WILL SOCIOLOGY HELP ME?

You will gain the ability to use evidence and to arrive at reasoned judgements based on evidence from a variety of sources. You will also develop your ability to critically evaluate media sources and political opinions. These are skills which will benefit you in a variety of subjects as well as within higher education and your future career.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Sociology A level links closely to the GCSE in terms of the assessed skills and subject content, and whilst it is not an essential subject required to study Sociology at Oldfield Sixth Form it will closely support it. Students who take Sociology A level often also choose to study other essay based subjects such as History, Psychology and English.

Spanish

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mr Cordle

Examination Board Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

COURSE CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The course has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Only students already studying Spanish can opt for this course.

Paper 1: Listening (25%). Understanding different types of spoken language.

Paper 2: Speaking (25%). Communicating and interacting effectively in speech.

Paper 3: Reading (25%). Responding to different types of language.

Paper 4: Writing (25%). Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

The course is most suitable for students who enjoy language and culture and who are prepared to work hard and commit to learning lots of new vocabulary and grammatical concepts. The specification covers three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries where Spanish is spoken.

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local, national and international areas of interest.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

HOW WILL THIS HELP ME?

Spanish is the third most commonly spoken language globally with more than 500 million speakers and it is the second most spoken native foreign language worldwide, after Mandarin. Being able to speak this wonderful language will allow students to travel and work all over the world, not just in Spain.

Geographically, a large number of countries that have Spanish as a dominant language include Spain, the United States, Argentina, Chile, Honduras, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, Cuba and Colombia. The Spanish language will also give students the key to a rich cultural heritage – literature, films, music and art.

Spain and the other Spanish speaking countries make up a vast Hispanic global economy so Spanish speakers are highly sought after by British employers. Being able to speak the language will put students in high demand when they look for a job in the future. Careers for which being a Spanish speaker would be an advantage include; medical assistants and doctors, sales consultants, human resources managers, teachers and private tutors, border agency staff, journalists, civil servants, flight attendants, to name but a few! Being able to offer Spanish as a skill will also open up many more opportunities.

WHAT CAN I DO NEXT?

Spanish GCSE is a highly regarded element of the EBacc qualification. It is of course an essential grounding for studying A level Spanish at Oldfield Sixth Form, and is highly valued by both universities and employers.

Oldfield School Key Stage 4 Options

The deadline for choices is **Thursday 23rd March 2023**. They can be submitted using the [online form](#).
This paper form only needs to be returned to school if you do not fill in the online form.

Prohibited combinations

- You cannot take the same subject twice, including duplicating choices from Options A and B in Options C, D and reserve options.
- You cannot study both Sports Studies and GCSE PE.
- You cannot study both Textiles and Product Design.

Core Curriculum	English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, PE, PSHE, Work Experience
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Option	Subjects	Choices
A & B	French (if you have studied French in years 8 & 9) Geography History Spanish (if you have studied Spanish in years 8 & 9)	Choose TWO : A: B:
C & D	Free choice of two from: Art & Design: Fine Art Business Studies Child Development Computer Science Dance Drama Food Preparation and Nutrition French (if you have studied French in years 8 & 9) Geography History Information Technologies Media Studies Music Art & Design: Photography Physical Education (PE or Sports Studies) Design & Technology: Product Design or Textiles Religious Studies Sociology Spanish (if you have studied Spanish in years 8 & 9)	Choose TWO : C: D: Choose TWO reserve options: Reserves: i)..... ii).....

Name (print):	Tutor Group:
Signed (student):	
Signed (Parent/Carer):	
Date:	

Office use only	Choices added by:		Choices added date:	
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