



Claremont Fan Court Senior School

GCSE CURRICULUM BOOKLET



2020-2022

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For Year 9 pupils

Selecting GCSE options may seem like a simple matter – it is the first opportunity during your school career, except for a language choice, for you to focus on the subjects which suit you most. However, each positive decision to study a subject is counterbalanced with a second decision not to study something else. Each individual should take great care to make the right choices for them.

In some cases, you will already have a clear idea about the career you wish to work towards. On the other hand, it is not uncommon for pupils to change their minds at a later stage, and therefore it is always wise to be cautious in narrowing career paths too much at this early stage.

The school journey at Claremont Fan Court School is about more than the subjects selected for GCSE study. It is about engagement with others, whether your peers, your teachers or the wider community. Sport and PSHE continue to be core parts of the curriculum, as does the commitment we expect of every pupil to be involved in the wider life of the school: in assemblies; school council; creative performances or indeed supporting the house or school open events.

Do take care to discuss subject choices with your teachers and family in the coming weeks. Do not worry if your friends are not opting for the same combination as you, but instead take this opportunity to identify the subjects in which you can really flourish.

As well as being happy to talk to you individually, we will try to assist you and your parents through several meetings:

Wednesday 26 February 2020 - JGC

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Parent Teacher Evening | 4.30-8.30pm |
| Curriculum and options talk | 6.00-6.30pm |
| Parent Teacher Evening resumes | 6.30pm |

Option forms should be returned after 26 February and by Monday 9 March 2020. Early return of the options form is not necessary as the options form return box will not be opened until Tuesday 10 March 2020. The return box will be held at Mansion reception.

Mr W Brierly
Headmaster

Mr A Hitchcock
Senior deputy head

Mrs C Cahillane
Head of Year 9

Timetable of Dates

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 26 February 2020 | Curriculum and options talk |
| 9 March 2020 | Last date for returning options form to the Senior School timetabler |
| 10 March 2020 | Options will be collated from this date |
| By mid-June 2020 | Letter from school confirming options |
| 1-30 September 2020 | Some option changes may be possible but only at the discretion of the senior deputy head |
| 1 October 2020 | No option changes will be considered from this date |

OPTION CHOICES: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. What subjects are compulsory and how many options do I take?</p> | <p>Compulsory Subjects: English language, science (minimum of combined science equivalent to two GCSE awards), mathematics, religious studies.</p> <p><i>*English literature - a core subject unless otherwise advised by Head of Faculty: English</i></p> <p>Options: Most pupils will choose four other options.</p> <p>We will try to meet your requests.</p> <p>The senior deputy head and head of individual needs may recommend a reduced curriculum of three options for certain pupils. These pupils will be placed in a study support group for the fourth curriculum slot. Please note that the study support group is not an option as such and is not examined.</p> |
| <p>2. What if I need help?</p> | <p>Read this booklet carefully. If you want information about a specific subject, talk to your own subject teacher or the contact teacher. If you need more general advice, ask Mrs Cahillane or Mr Hitchcock.</p> |
| <p>3. What should I do if my teacher encourages me to do a subject because I am good at it but I am not sure that it is right for me?</p> | <p>Listen to everybody's advice, especially that of teachers and parents. You will be studying your chosen subjects for two years.</p> |
| <p>4. If my friend and I both choose the same subjects, will we be together?</p> | <p>Not necessarily. You could be in different sets depending on your choices. Never choose a subject just because your friend is choosing it!</p> |
| <p>5. What if I don't like a subject after a few weeks?</p> | <p>It may be possible to change your options once you have started the course. It is better that you choose the right ones in the first place! Remember that the school may not be able to give every pupil the choices they want.</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | |
| 6. How has coursework changed? | Coursework is now referred to as Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) and will be completed at school under teacher supervision. |
| 7. How much homework will I get? | You should expect at least one hour of homework per week for each full GCSE course you take. |
| 8. Will I get my choices? | The majority of choices will be met but it is inevitable that there will be some disappointments. If we cannot meet your choices, we will discuss alternatives with you. |
| 9. How will I cope with all the work in Years 10 and 11? | Time-management is very important and so are good study skills. Think carefully about the range of subjects you are taking. Choosing a mixture of practical and academic subjects may help you to manage your workload more easily. Most importantly, choose subjects you are good at and enjoy. |
| 10. Will I be able to drop a subject? | You will be expected to continue with your options throughout Year 10 and Year 11 unless the school advises you differently after you have sat the mock examinations in November 2020. |
| 11. What happens if I fail a mock or module? | You will be expected to achieve a Level 4 or better in all your GCSE subjects in the final (summer) results. If you do not show good progress towards this goal at the end of the autumn term, the senior deputy head will contact you for further discussion. If a Level 4 is unlikely to be achieved in any optional subject or in English literature or religious studies, you will not be entered for that subject's final examination. |

New Grades for GCSE



| NEW GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE | CURRENT GCSE GRADING STRUCTURE |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9 | A* |
| 8 | |
| 7 | A |
| 6 | B |
| 5 | |
| 4 | C |
| 3 | D |
| 2 | E |
| 1 | F |
| | G |
| U | U |

Annotations in the table:

- A black box with white text: "GOOD PASS (DfE)" and "5 and above = top of C and above" below it.
- A teal box with white text: "AWARDING" and "4 and above = bottom of C and above" below it.

All GCSE grades now appear in numbers. The minimum grade expected by this school for continuation into sixth form is a 4 but, in keeping with most independent schools, we are keen to see a grade 5 wherever possible, which the government is labelling as a “*good pass*”. Please note that Claremont operates a different admissions system to its sixth form in terms of grades and details can be found in the A level curriculum booklet which is published in the autumn term ahead of entry the following year.

Tiering

Tiering is the system of setting examination papers at different levels of difficulty. All examination boards follow the same scheme of assessment.

Some subjects have two tiers but others have none. If a candidate fails to achieve the mark for the lowest grade of the tier, they will receive an unclassified (U) result. It is important to consider this when decisions about entry levels are made. **The final choice of tiering is the responsibility of the head of department.**

| Tier | Grade Available (9-1) |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| Foundation | 5-1 |
| Higher | 9-4 |

A grade 5 is counted as a good pass and is equivalent to a low B grade (as demonstrated in the table above).

The following subjects are tiered:

Languages

Mathematics

Science

Non-Examination Assessments/Mock Examinations

Incomplete Non-Examination Assessments (NEAs) or an inadequate mock examination will result in the pupil being withdrawn from the examination. The deadline dates for school NEAs will be set and must be adhered to. Further information regarding deadline dates is distributed to parents at the beginning of Year 10.

English Language

Faculty of English

GCSE: English Language 8700

Contact Teacher: Mrs B Clarke

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

The course is compulsory and must be studied by all pupils in Years 10 and 11. This specification will enable pupils of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures. The course offers a skills-based approach to the study of English language in an untiered context. Questions are designed to take pupils on an assessment journey through lower tariff tasks to more extended responses.

Assessments

There are **two** examinations and **one** non-exam assessment.

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

For the award of the GCSE in English language pupils must complete all three assessments.

Examination

There are two examinations, each worth 50% of the English language GCSE.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessment

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions:

Reading (40 marks) (25%); one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

TePaper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessment

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions:

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

The aim of the assessment is to allow pupils to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills.

Spoken Language

What is assessed?

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

Assessment

- teacher set throughout course
- marked by teacher
- separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)

Progression

This course offers excellent preparation for A level English, as well as equipping pupils with essential life-skills and the best progression route to future employment.

English Literature

Faculty of English

GCSE: English Literature 8702

Contact Teacher: Mrs B Clarke

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

This course will be taught alongside English Language GCSE to most pupils in Years 10 and 11 and should encourage pupils to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, pupils have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been created and written. Studying GCSE English literature should encourage learners to read widely for pleasure and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level. The specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English literature that is consistent across the genres in an untiered, closed book context through the use of extract-based questions in the assessment of the 19th century novel and the Shakespeare plays.

Examination

There are **two** compulsory examinations, one worth 40% and one worth 60% of the English literature GCSE.

Both examinations are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the examinations.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

- Shakespeare
- The 19th-century novel

Assessment

- written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions:

Section A Shakespeare: pupils will answer one question on the play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th century novel: pupils will answer one question on the novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

- Modern texts
- Poetry
- Unseen poetry

Assessment

- written paper: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Questions:

Section A Modern texts: pupils will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: pupils will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the Power and Conflict cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: pupils will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Progression

The study of English Literature GCSE offers excellent preparation for A level English Literature as well as giving pupils a grounding in a wide variety of literature that will stay with them for life.

Mathematics

Faculty of Mathematics

GCSE: Mathematics 8300

Contact Teacher: Mrs S Philip

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

The course is a compulsory part of the curriculum and must be studied by all pupils in Years 10 and 11. It covers five distinct areas:

- number
- algebra
- ratio, proportion and rates of change
- geometry and measures
- probability and statistics

Mathematics is an important thinking skill in everyday life. We would all be lost without the basic arithmetic and geometry involved in cooking, shopping, decorating, travel planning and scheduling. Learning mathematics trains you to think logically and clearly. It shows you how to organise information and how to reason effectively and efficiently. It can also be a lot of fun. Most people gain great satisfaction from cracking a problem or succeeding in understanding a difficult concept.

Syllabus and Examination

The AQA exam board offers only one linear mathematics syllabus for GCSE with two tiers of entry, foundation and higher. At the higher tier, all grades from 4 to 9 are available. At the foundation tier, by contrast, the material is much more accessible to all candidates but the highest grade available is a 5. We expect most pupils at Claremont Fan Court to be entered at the higher tier although some pupils in lower sets may be entered at the foundation tier, especially as a significant amount of content that was previously only tested at higher level will now be tested at foundation level.

The examination consists of three examination papers covering content from any part of the specification. All exams are taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Non-calculator

One written paper (1½ hour) 80 marks (33⅓% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Calculator

One written paper (1½ hour) 80 marks (33⅓% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Calculator

One written paper (1½ hour) 80 marks (33⅓% of GCSE)

Pupils in all maths sets will be taught the same core material throughout the GCSE course although following slightly different schemes of work to reflect the varying ability levels of the sets. Following the mock examination at the end of the first term in Year 11, the decision will be made to enter pupils at higher or foundation level. Although it is likely that all the pupils in a given set will be entered for the same examination, the decision will be an individual one for each pupil.

Coursework Requirements

There is no coursework element in GCSE Mathematics. Assessment is based purely on examination performance.

Progressing from GCSE to A level

In addition to the GCSE Mathematics course, pupils in the top set will usually study for the AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics (specification no 8365) in Year 11. The syllabus for this examination has a very large overlap with the GCSE Mathematics syllabus and is particularly useful for gaining a deeper understanding of algebra and trigonometry. It provides students with opportunities to practise higher order skills thus enhancing their opportunity of a high grade at GCSE as well as giving a head start to those going on to take maths at A level. There is no coursework element.

Pupils who enjoy mathematics may wish to consider studying the subject at A level in the sixth form. They will certainly find it stimulating and rewarding. In recent years, more than half the students in the sixth form have chosen to study mathematics.

Science

Faculty of Science and Technology
Department of Science

Exam Board: AQA

GCSE:

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AQA GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy Foundation 8464F Higher 8464H | OR | AQA GCSE in Biology 8461F/8461H AQA GCSE in Chemistry 8462F/8462H AQA GCSE in Physics 8463F/8463H |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Contact Teachers:

Mr D Ridings (head of faculty: science and technology)

Miss A Jackson (head of physics)

Mr A Boothe (head of biology)

Mrs R Michael (head of chemistry)

Pupils have two alternative pathways through science: *either* GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) leading to two GCSE qualifications *or* separate GCSE subjects in Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to three GCSE qualifications.

Route One: GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)

GCSE Combined Science provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, science and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society. All learners are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They are helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences which are both inter-linked and are of universal application.

This specification is intended to promote a variety of styles of teaching and learning so that the course is enjoyable for all participants. Learners will be introduced to a wide range of scientific principles which will allow them to enjoy a positive learning experience. Practical skills are developed throughout this course and an investigatory approach is promoted.

The course consists of six papers (components):

Biology Paper 1 (16.7% of GCSE – written exam 1 hr 15 mins)

Biology Paper 2 (16.7% of GCSE – written exam 1 hr 15 mins)

Chemistry Paper 1 (16.7% of GCSE – written exam 1 hr 15 mins)

Chemistry Paper 2 (16.7% of GCSE – written exam 1 hr 15 mins)

Physics Paper 1 (16.7% of GCSE – written exam 1 hr 15 mins)

Physics Paper 2 (16.7% of GCSE – written exam 1 hr 15 mins)

Route Two (separate sciences): GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics specifications draw on the teaching modules from the GCSE Combined Science specification with further sections of content specific to each subject.

Each course will be examined via two papers:

| GCSE Physics | GCSE Chemistry | GCSE Biology |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure. (50% of GCSE – written exam - 1 hr 45 mins) | Paper 1: Topics 1 - 5: Atomic structure, the periodic table; Bonding, structure, the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes. (50% of GCSE – written exam - 1 hr 45 mins) | Paper 1: Topics 1 - 4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics. (50% of GCSE – written exam - 1 hr 45 mins) |
| Paper 2: Topics 5 - 8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics. (50% of GCSE – written exam - 1 hr 45 mins) | Paper 2: Topics 6 - 10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources. (50% of GCSE – written exam - 1 hr 45 mins) | Paper 2: Topics 5 - 7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology. (50% of GCSE – written exam - 1 hr 45 mins) |

Those who wish to take science A levels or pursue a career in the sciences or engineering are strongly advised to take the three separate sciences at GCSE. However, as this route is more demanding, the science department requires pupils to average a **grade B** or higher in their Year 9 tests to qualify for this route. The professional judgement of the classroom teacher should also be taken into account. It is vital that good communication exists between parent, department and pupils in order for the correct decision to be made.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Faculty of Science and Technology

Department of Technology

GCSE: Food Preparation and Nutrition 601/8093/6

Contact Teacher: Mrs E Wells

Exam Board: Eduqas

This is a new and exciting course which has replaced Food Technology qualifications. This course is much more creative with more focus on practical cooking skills, nutrition and food science.

Course outline

The GCSE specification in food preparation and nutrition will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Pupils will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways and develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- 1. Food, nutrition and health** – Macro Nutrients, Micro Nutrients, Nutritional Needs and Health.
- 2. Food science** – Cooking of Food, Heat Transfer, Functional and Chemical Properties of Food.
- 3. Food safety** – Food Spoilage, Contamination and the Principles of Food Safety.
- 4. Food choice** – Factors affecting Food Choice, British and International Cuisines, Sensory Evaluation, Food Labelling and Marketing
- 5. Food provenance** – Environmental Impact and Sustainability of Food, Food Processing and Production.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

Task 1: Food investigation (15%) Written Report

Pupils will demonstrate an understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will submit a written report (1500–2000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%) Written Portfolio

Pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

Pupils will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Pupils will submit a written portfolio (15 A4 pages) including photographic evidence.

Exam: Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition (50%)

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Co-curricular Activities

Lunchtime clinics and clubs to extend practical skills and subject knowledge

Visits from experienced chefs

Entry into national and regional cookery competitions

Trip in Year 10 to develop ideas for non-examination assessment

Target Group

We welcome any pupil who has a real interest in the vital and essential world of food and nutrition, how it is prepared and the need for an understanding of how this knowledge underpins the world we live in today.

Design and Technology

Faculty of Science and Technology
Department of Technology
GCSE: Design and Technology 0979
Contact Teacher: Mr P Gladstone

Exam Board: CIE

Course Outline

Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) Design and Technology enables learners to identify, consider and solve problems through creative thinking, planning and design and by working with different media, materials and tools to produce a made product.

Learners gain technical and design awareness and develop skills such as initiative, resourcefulness, enquiry and ingenuity. They also develop the communication skills central to the design process.

Cambridge IGCSE Design and Technology (9–1) is designed to accommodate a wide range of interests, materials and resources. It provides an ideal basis for further study and equips learners with technical knowledge and practical designing and making skills for the world of work.

Non-examination Assessment (NEA)

One major design and mark project manufactured using chosen specialist material (resistant materials) completed in Year 11 (50% of final grade).

Examination

Final examination: Two papers (25% each of final grade) taken at the end of Year 11.

Useful Skills

You should have an appreciation of the world around you, an interest in design, enthusiasm, drive, good organisational skills, creativity and accuracy in presentation and layout.

Target Group

The course is aimed at anyone who is interested in 3d-design work such as product design, transport design, furniture, interior design, architecture, exhibition design, set design, advertising, marketing and computer aided design.

Co-curricular Activities

We will visit the Design Museum and the Royal College of Art in Year 10 to see the work of MA Design pupils which will enable you to begin planning your major project.

Progression

This qualification is a recognised part of the National Qualifications framework. As such, IGCSE DT provides progression from Key Stage 3 through Key Stage 4 to post-16 studies. It lays an appropriate foundation for further study of Design and Technology or related subjects at A level.

Media Studies

Department of Media Studies

GCSE: Media Studies J200

Contact Teacher: Mrs J Mann

Exam Board: OCR

Course Outline

You will develop a deeper understanding of the modern mass media - newspapers, online, magazines, advertising, music video, video games, radio, film and television - through studying the institutions and practices that produce them and the audiences that consume them. You will investigate relevant and interesting case studies that will introduce you to some key ideas of current debates in the mass media. You will make your own production after practice in a range of technical skills that develop your creativity and knowledge of technology.

Teaching methods include the use of audiovisual material, discussion, presentations, group work and individual investigation. All pupils record their work on individual blogs that are linked to the class teaching blog. You will learn to use the Canon cameras, to film and edit in iMovie and FinalCut, to use Photoshop and other platforms like ComicLife.

Course Content

J200/01 Television and Promoting Media - written exam (1 hour, 45 minutes) 70 marks, 35% of total GCSE

In this module, you explore how media products (specifically, contemporary and historical television crime drama) follow generic conventions, use media language, represent events, issues, places, individuals and social groups, address audiences and reflect their industrial context. As television crime drama is our case study, you view an extract from a television crime drama and answer questions about genre conventions under examination conditions; you analyse its film language and the representation of people and places; and you explain the differences between television channels and their audiences. You study how a Hollywood major studio advertises and markets its films using posters, advertising campaigns and video games.

J200/02 Music, News and Radio - written exam (1 hour, 15 minutes) 70 marks, 35% of total GCSE

This module introduces you to a wide variety of contemporary media forms and industries - newspapers, magazines, radio, online media and music videos - through a specific case study designated for each of these mass media. In the exam, you will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of aspects of each industry, its language, its audiences and the ways in which it creates representations. You prepare in-depth case studies for exam questions about products intended for different audiences:

- Music videos and music magazines
- BBC Radio
- Newspapers and online news (historical and contemporary)

J200/03/04 Creating Media - non-examination assessment, 60 marks, 30% of total GCSE

You create your own original production and will be assessed on your work individually although you may use other people as actors and assistants to operate light, sound and recording in your video work or to feature in your print production. Past briefs have included making the two-minute opening sequence from a new children's television soap opera, drama or music video (video brief), the front cover and double page spread for a music magazine aimed at an audience of young people (print brief) and a news website (online brief). Briefs change every year.

Co-curricular activities

Media club and clinics run during lunch breaks during which time you have access to the media studio's suite of Mac computers with the full Adobe software suite. You learn to use the Canon cameras. You have the freedom to practise film editing and Photoshop skills as well as stop-frame animation. You may enter film production competitions. We usually have a study day at the British Film Institute.

Target Group

As a recognised part of the National Qualifications framework, the media studies course gives you valuable insight into how media is produced for those interested in working in business, marketing, journalism and in the creative industries of television, film, marketing, advertising, design, magazine and radio. You develop transferable skills in research and new technologies. If you have curiosity about the modern world, and love film, television, music, newspapers and radio, and want to learn more about how to discuss and to make them, then this is the course for you.

Progression

You learn a wide variety of transferable skills in technology as well as analytical skills that provide a sound foundation for humanities, design and arts subjects at A level. We offer CIE A level Media Studies in the sixth form.

Computer Science

Faculty of Science and Technology

GCSE: Computer Science J277

Contact Teacher: Mrs A Taylor

Exam Board: OCR

Course Outline

The course will provide an introduction both for students who are interested in Computer Science as a discipline itself and for aspiring scientists, or engineers, for whom Computer Science is increasingly important as an 'underpinning' subject.

The content has been designed to allow for a solid basis of understanding and to engage learners and get them thinking about real world applications. Computer Science is a creative subject that encourages students to develop own their ideas and pursue their interests. The course content will value computational thinking, helping pupils to develop the skills to solve problems and design systems.

The qualification will encourage students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

Assessment Summary

The assessment consists of two written examinations. Students are also required to complete an externally moderated non-examination assessment, but this does not contribute to their final mark.

Component 01: Computer Systems (50%)

External examination 1 hour 30 minutes

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Component 02: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming (50%)

External examination 1 hour 30 minutes

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and integrated development environments

All students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s), either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during their course of study. Students may draw on some of the content in both components when engaged in practical programming.

Progression

These skills will be the best preparation for pupils who want to go on to study Computer Science at A level and beyond. The qualification will also provide a good grounding for other subject areas that require computational thinking and analytical skills.

Art and Design: Fine Art

Faculty of Arts and Sports

Department of Art

GCSE: Art and Design: Fine Art (1FAO)

Contact Teacher: Mrs E Williams

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Outline

The GCSE Fine Art course includes the study of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and alternative media. Students are introduced to the history of art and contemporary art and are taught how to make exciting and ambitious creative outcomes. Students will show evidence of trying to extend their own and others' ways of seeing the world. They will learn how to use the language of the subject sensitively and thoughtfully.

The course aims to develop pupils':

- creative and imaginative ability and the practical skills for engaging with and for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings in art
- investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretative capabilities, aesthetic understanding and critical and enquiring minds
- personal attributes including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self-discipline and commitment

Assessment

The course is fully linear so pupils' work is officially assessed at the end of Year 11. There will be assessments made throughout the coursework component so students are confident about the levels they are achieving.

Prerequisites

Students have to be prepared to work consistently from the start of the course and have a passion for creativity. Pupils are required to have willingness to develop their drawing and making skills and to analyse a wide variety of different artists' work.

Course Structure

Personal portfolio (Component 1)

60% of qualification

Consisting of:

Project 1: The theme for this project can vary each year but students will develop drawing, printmaking, painting and sculpture skills then focus on an area for a final outcome response in Year 10 at the end of the spring term.

Project 2: Spans from the summer term in Year 10 to January of Year 11. Project 2 will encourage independent creative thinking and is likely to be based on past GCSE exam paper titles in order to prepare pupils for their Externally Set Assignment.

Pupils respond to a given visual theme and research, analyse, annotate and develop a practical body of coursework and a final outcome.

ESA: Externally Set Assignment (Component 2)

40% of qualification

A controlled unit is set to a theme provided by the exam board and issued to pupils in January of Year 11. Pupils develop a practical portfolio of work in lessons and for prep and then sit a ten-hour exam in which they produce their final outcome. The unit in its entirety is worth 40% of the final grade.

Viewing Art in Context

A visit to a relevant exhibition will take place in Year 10. Further visits to art galleries will help with ideas and project development. It is expected that pupils carry out several gallery visits independently throughout the two-year course.

Target Group

Any pupil with an enquiring and analytical mind who enjoys drawing and painting or 3-D work would enjoy this course. The study of fine art at GCSE is relevant to pupils considering most subjects at A level and has links with history, literature, mathematics, science, religion, politics and philosophy. It is suitable for pupils interested in pursuing all kinds of careers areas including architecture, engineering and medicine, photography, graphic design, product design, illustration, advertising, interior design, theatre set design, fashion design, game design and animation to name but a few.

A level

The skills learned during the GCSE course are a foundation for studies at A level and therefore pupils must complete the GCSE Art course if they wish to continue onto A level Art. GCSE Fine Art would also be an advantage for those pupils wishing to study A level Photography.

Art and Design: Textile Design

Faculty of Design and Technology

Department of Technology

GCSE: Art and Design (Textile design) 8204

Contact Teacher: Mrs T Hart

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

GCSE Textile Design will prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in the fashion, art and design industries. Pupils will develop awareness and learn from wider influences on design including historical, contemporary, cultural and environmental factors. Pupils will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

Non-examination Assessment: Component 1 Portfolio (8204/C) (60% of final grade)

This will include a selection of experimental and creative work produced in skills based workshops and as a result of gallery and exhibition visits. There will also be a sustained project which requires the development of a response to a subject or a theme. This preparatory work will be developed into final outcomes which could either be a fashion outcome, an interior outcome, an installation or a wall hanging. This will be undertaken in Year 10 and completed in Year 11.

Examination: Component 2 (8204/X) Externally Set Assignment (40% of final grade)

Pupils respond to one of the seven set starting points. Pupils prepare for the exam by producing a range of textile ideas and responses in a sketch book. Pupils use their prepared ideas to produce a creative response during a 10 hour exam. Component 2 will be undertaken between January and May in Year 11.

Target Group

The course is aimed at any pupil who is interested in art and design in general and particularly: textile design, fashion, accessories, interior design, wall hangings and installations or soft furnishing design. Pupils interested in a career in fashion design, buying and magazine production should also consider this course. Pupils should have enthusiasm and good organisational skills.

Co-curricular

We visit exhibitions and attend workshops in Year 10 to gain an insight into the textile and fashion industries and visit college and university exhibition stands. Previous trips have included the Royal College of Art, to see the work of MA design students, the Business Design Centre to see design graduates' work, exhibitions at the Design Museum, V&A Museum and the Barbican Centre, attending workshops at the Saatchi Gallery and talks at the Fashion and Textile Museum.

Progression to A level

The creative skills learned during the GCSE Textile Design course form a very good foundation for A level Textile Design. The GCSE Textile Design course is similar in structure to the A level Textile Design course.

Drama

Faculty of Arts and Sports

Department of Drama

GCSE: Drama 1DR0

Contact Teacher: Mr I Williams

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Outline

In Year 10 each pupil will normally undertake:

1. A general introductory unit.
2. Practical workshops on a set text.
3. A devised performance – teacher examined – exam board moderated.
4. A portfolio on the devising process and performance – teacher examined – exam board moderated.

The devised component is divided into two parts:

- a) Preparatory and exploratory work.
- b) Performance and presentation or demonstration and artefact.

Throughout the practical work, pupils will be expected to complete associated written work. This will form an important part of the coursework which is internally marked and externally moderated.

In addition, everybody will be given the opportunity to work on technical and design aspects of theatre if they wish. Students can choose to study one of following technical and design skills:

1. Costume
2. Set design
3. Lighting
4. Sound

In Year 11, one further practical project will be completed, this will be chosen from a text and performed to an outside examiner. At the end of the course there is a written examination.

Written Examination

The written examination involves pupils answering various questions about theatre roles and stage terminology, a play text they have studied and a theatre production they have seen. Pupils will be expected to take part in a variety of drama activities including showcases and visits to the theatre.

Target Group

The course is suitable for those students who are interested in the creation of drama as an art form and also for those who wish to demonstrate on their CV an aptitude for creativity, excellent presentational skills, confidence and team working skills. Drama is a subject that is becoming increasingly valued by business leaders. Within drama you will not only study the craft of acting and theatre, you will also learn extremely valuable transferrable skills, for

example; collaboration, empathy, analysis, evaluation and developing your problem-solving skills.

Please note the course will involve written work; it should also be fun and will provide an excellent basis for A level Drama and Theatre.

Music

Faculty of Arts and Sports

Department of Music

GCSE: Music Level 1/Level 2 1MU0

Contact Teacher: Mr A Affonso

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Outline

The course is divided into testing the three basic musical skills: *Performing* (30%), *Composing* (30%) and *Appraising* (40%). These are integrated through four areas of study that cover a wide range of musical styles from all ages and places.

Performing: one solo lasting a minimum of 1 minute, one ensemble lasting a minimum of one minute. Together the total of both performances should be no shorter than 4 minutes. They are internally assessed and then sent off to Edexcel for external moderation.

Composing: two compositions, one of which is completed to a brief set by Edexcel and lasting a minimum of one minute. A second composition is in a style chosen by the candidate (free choice), again not lasting less than one minute. Both compositions should together last a minimum of three minutes. They are internally assessed and then sent off to Edexcel for external moderation.

Pupils must work on their compositions under controlled conditions for at least five hours. This must include the final write up of their compositions, and can include any research and development time. The final write up is defined as the time when the final recording and score or commentary of the piece is produced.

As composition is a creative process that cannot be confined to the classroom, pupils will be allowed to research and generate initial ideas outside of the classroom and teacher supervision. However, to ensure the composition is the pupil's own unaided, personal and independent work, teachers must monitor and authenticate preparatory work (development of composition ideas, for example this may involve listening to other music, mulling over a brief, experimenting with suitable melodies or rhythmic ideas on guitar or piano, working out rough drafts) prior to the commencement of the composition recording period. Pupils will be allowed to bring in stimulus and ideas but need to develop ideas within a classroom setting and complete the final recording and write up under controlled conditions.

The *Appraising (Listening)* paper (one hour and forty five minutes in length) consists of:

Section A: answering questions on two set works and recorded excerpts drawn from each of the four areas of study. Instrumental Music 1700-1820/Vocal Music/Music for Stage and Screen/ Fusions.

- Six questions related to 6 of the 8 set works
- One short melody / rhythm completion exercise (worth 6-10 marks)
- One question on an unfamiliar piece (skeleton score provided) with questions on its musical elements, musical contexts and musical language.

Section B: one question that asks candidates to compare and/or evaluate the musical elements and musical language of one set work with one unfamiliar piece of music.

This paper is sat internally and marked externally.

Requirements

The ability to sing or play an instrument and a willingness to develop all aspects of musical experiences and knowledge is essential. GCSE Music pupils should already be in one of the school's choir/orchestra/band.

Co-curricular Activities

A GCSE Music pupil is expected to be a leading member of at least two school based musical activities e.g. choir/orchestra/band.

Target Group

Pupils with an interest in all styles of music and music technology and who wish to develop their knowledge and musical horizons.

Prerequisites

Minimum level of entry should be Grade 2. A willingness to follow a course of Grade 5 theory to support the listening paper element of the course. Recommendation from their music teacher as to their suitability for such a course and possible future studies.

Physical Education

Faculty of Arts and Sports
Department of Physical Education
GCSE: Physical Education J587
Contact Teacher: Mr T Rixon

Exam Board: OCR

Course Outline

Theory – 60%

The theory content of the course is in two distinct parts. It is challenging and requires you to apply your knowledge from a number of subjects across the school curriculum. The focus of the theory element is to link physical education to living a healthy lifestyle.

1. Applied Anatomy and Physiology (30%)

This section will expect pupils to develop a clear knowledge of the structure and function of the body and its systems, before applying them to the process of training and the impact that this has on the development of a performer and his body.

2. Socio Cultural Influences, Sports Psychology, Health, Fitness and Well Being (30%)

This section examines the place of sport and physical activity in society. Effective understanding of this section will actually provide the basis for the greatest number of career opportunities as it investigates the many support structures and bodies which underpin successful elite and mass participation activities in the world today.

Non-examination Assessment (NEA)

Practical performance (30%)

You will be assessed in *3 different sports from 2 different activity groups* (individual and team activities). These will be pursued through the games programme and during curriculum lessons, or if not applicable then outside of curriculum time – potentially a residential trip.

Evaluating and analysing performance (10%)

This element requires pupils to observe and comment on a performance in a sport of their choice. They will need to develop a good understanding of the concepts that explain performance and how the theories taught in this subject underpin an individual's success.

Examination

There are two written examinations on the theory each worth 30%. Pupils also undertake practical assessments and analysis of performance over two days of moderation by an external assessor.

Target Group

The course is suitable for pupils with an interest in a variety of sports and science, particularly biology. Potential careers include medical based careers such as physiotherapy, diet and nutritionist. More traditional pathways include coaching, teaching, elite sport support or perhaps even playing.

Theology and Philosophy (RS)

Faculty of Humanities

Department of Theology and Philosophy

GCSE: Religious Studies A8062

Component 1: The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

Component 2: Thematic Studies

Contact Teacher: Miss B Rose

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

The Religious Studies GCSE course is designed to educate pupils on the two most widely followed religions of the world, Christianity and Islam. It will provide them with a thorough understanding of what it is like to be a follower of the religions, and equip them to live in harmony with others in our increasingly diverse society. Pupils will also complete four philosophy and ethics thematic studies, which will give them the opportunity to investigate their own beliefs on a wide range of topics relevant to the modern world, and to practically apply what they have learnt about Christianity and Islam. Questions such as '*how did we get here?*', '*does God exist?*', '*can war ever be justified?*' and '*should the death penalty be legalised?*' will be explored in depth, giving pupils a chance to look at controversial issues from a range of perspectives.

Course Information

All pupils at Claremont study for the full course GCSE in Religious Studies, reflecting the vital role the course plays in helping pupils develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally.

Component 1 Topics:

- Christianity: Beliefs and Teachings
- Christianity: Practices
- Islam: Beliefs and Teachings
- Islam: Practices

Component 2 Topics:

- Religion and Life
- The Existence of God and Revelation
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment

Assessment

Pupils will be assessed through two written exams at the end of Year 11:

Component 1 – 1 hour 45 minutes, 96 marks, 50% of GCSE

Component 2 – 1 hour 45 minutes, 96 marks, 50% of GCSE

Theology and Philosophy A level

The GCSE course is an excellent preparation for the Theology and Philosophy (RS) A level we offer, also with AQA exam board.

Business

Faculty of Humanities

Department of Business and Economics

GCSE: Business 1BS0

Contact Teacher: Mrs E Martin

Exam Board: Edexcel

Everything that we do on a day to day basis is affected by the businesses that surround us. There are over three million people in the UK who run their own business and research shows that 40% of the population would like to be self-employed.

This course is aimed at both pupils with an entrepreneurial spirit and those who love to explore how the world works. It is an active course and pupils should be able to communicate their ideas and explain their decisions. Pupils will learn why some businesses fail and others grow and how the society around them functions. No matter what their future career, the majority of pupils will at some point have close contact with the business sector. GCSE Business is an excellent starting point!

Course Outline

The business course is divided into two units over two years. The Year 10 unit is called *Investigating Small Business*. This unit includes analysis of how to set up and run a small business by carrying out market research, completing cash flows forecasts and dealing with initial staffing issues. In Year 11 pupils will complete the second unit called *Building a Business*. The focus of this unit is larger organisations, particularly the role of the main business functions: finance, marketing, operations and human resources. Pupils will also consider the impact of the wider world on the success or failure of a business covering the problems associated with increasing the size of a business and government influence on the commercial world.

Prerequisites

An interest in current affairs and how businesses operate is essential along with the ability to problem solve and lots of enthusiasm.

Non-examination Assessment

There is no NEA for this course.

Examination

There are two examinations, one for each of the above units. The examinations last ninety minutes, are each worth 50% of the qualification and follow the same structure. They will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions. These are based on short business case studies.

A level

Pupils are recommended to study GCSE Business in order to build a strong foundation for A level Economics or A level Business. Both subjects are currently offered in the sixth form at Claremont.

Geography

Faculty of Humanities

Department of Geography

GCSE: Geography 8035

Contact Teacher: Miss K Preston

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

Geography encourages flexible thinking and independent thought and it is an essential subject in understanding our ever-changing world. This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them. Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. The subject of geography is wide ranging and has links with many other subjects. It is constantly changing and highly regarded by many employers as a result of the transferable skills geographers possess. Nationally, geography has one of the best graduate employment records in the country and, in some industries, has the highest proportion of those in managerial positions.

Fieldwork

Students undertake two geographical enquiries, each of which include the use of primary data, collected as part of a fieldwork exercise. The two enquiries are carried out in contrasting environments and show an understanding of both physical and human geography. In the enquiries students show an understanding about the interaction between physical and human geography. Students' understanding of the enquiry process will be assessed in Paper 3 in the following two ways:

1. Questions based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context.
2. Questions based on students' individual enquiry work.

Examination

There are three final written examinations. Geography is a linear course so written exams will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 1hr 30 minutes 35% of marks - Living with the Physical Environment

Paper 2 1hr 30 minutes 35% of marks - Challenges in the Human Environment

Paper 3 1hr 30% of marks - Geographical Applications

Co-curricular Activities

- Lunchtime clinics, field trip, geography competitions, Royal Geographical Society lectures (A level) and an optional field trip abroad.

We welcome any pupil who has a real interest in the subject and the world around them and who is willing to work hard to achieve results. An enquiring mind is essential.

Further Information

A Level Geography is offered in the sixth form and is a subject that is highly regarded by universities. It encourages links with other subjects and includes residential and local fieldwork.

History

Faculty of Humanities

Department of History

GCSE: OCR History A: Explaining the Modern World J410

Contact Teacher: Mr M Hawkins

Exam Board: OCR

Course Outline

This is a new course that has been designed to help pupils to explain and understand the world around us today. Pupils will study a wide range of content options and consider key themes which demonstrate the relevance of the past in understanding the present.

The new course allows them to study history from three eras: Medieval (500-1450), Early Modern (1450-1750) and Modern (1700-present) and on three timescales: short (depth study), medium (period study) and long (thematic study) and in three geographical contexts: a locality (the historic environment), British and European and/or wider world settings.

Within the course, pupils will study five different topics: one thematic study, one British depth study, one non-British depth study, one period study and one study of the historic environment.

Examination (100% written examination at the end of Year 11)

- 1. Period study and non-British depth study:** International Relations: the changing international order 1918-c.1975 and a depth study on Germany 1925-1955: The People and the State (50% of GCSE)
- 2. British thematic study:** Migration to Britain c.1000 to c.2010 (25% of GCSE)
- 3. British depth study and a study of the historic environment:** The Impact of Empire on Britain 1688-c.1730 with Urban Environments: Patterns of Migration (25% of GCSE)

Units 2 and 3 are linked.

Teaching methodologies include use of visual and audio sources, presentations, group work, discussion and personal research projects.

Prerequisites

A successful student of history will be someone who is keen to expand his/her knowledge of the past, has an enquiring mind and who should also be ready to work hard, as well as being able to express themselves effectively using the written word.

Target Group

Pupils with a curiosity about and an interest in the modern world, those who want to explore history further and who like thinking for themselves will enjoy this course. If you are considering history at A level, it is a huge advantage to have taken the subject at GCSE.

Languages

French (Continuation)

Faculty of Languages

GCSE: French 8658

Contact Teacher: Mr S Woolnough

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

This course is for pupils who have taken French as their foreign language in Year 9. Pupils follow the course *Studio* for AQA GCSE. Pupils expand all aspects of their knowledge of French, learning to write short pieces of spontaneous French and also to translate short texts, to answer questions orally on a range of topics, and also prepare for comprehension tests in reading and in listening.

Examination

There will be four exam papers, all taken in the summer of Year 11:

Listening (25%) There is a listening comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in French, about short passages of spoken French.

Speaking (25%) There is a short speaking test.

Reading (25%) There is a reading comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in French about short passages of written French. There is also a very short translation from French into English.

Writing (25%) Pupils write short texts in French, and there is also a short translation from English into French.

Languages Department Visits

The department has organised a range of visits to France in recent years for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils such as a French exchange and a study visit to Paris in the October half-term break. These visits are a good opportunity for pupils to visit France and to practise their French.

Target Group

The school advises most pupils to continue with their foreign language at least to GCSE level so pupils who have taken French as their foreign language in Year 9 are encouraged to opt for this GCSE course.

Languages

Spanish (Continuation)

Faculty of Languages

GCSE: Spanish 8698

Contact Teacher: Mr S Woolnough

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

This course is for pupils who have taken Spanish as their foreign language in Year 9. Pupils follow the course *Viva* for AQA GCSE. Pupils expand all aspects of their knowledge of Spanish, learning to write short pieces of spontaneous Spanish and also to translate short texts, to answer questions orally on a range of topics, and also prepare for comprehension tests in reading and in listening.

Examination

There will be four exam papers, all taken in the summer of Year 11:

Listening (25%) There is a listening comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in Spanish, about short passages of spoken Spanish.

Speaking (25%) There is a short speaking test.

Reading (25%) There is a reading comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in Spanish about short passages of written Spanish. There is also a very short translation from Spanish into English.

Writing (25%) Pupils write short texts in French, and there is also a short translation from English into French.

Languages Department Visits

The department has organised a range of visits to Spain in recent years for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils such as a Spanish exchange to Toledo and a study visit to Valencia in the October half-term break. These visits are not compulsory but they are a good opportunity for pupils to visit Spain and to practise their Spanish.

Target Group

The school advises most pupils to continue with their foreign language at least to GCSE level so pupils who have taken Spanish as their foreign language in Year 9 are encouraged to opt for this GCSE course.

Languages

German (Continuation)

Faculty of Languages

GCSE: German 8668

Contact Teacher: Mr S Woolnough

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

This course is for pupils who have taken German as their foreign language in Year 9. Pupils follow the course *Stimmt* for the AQA GCSE. Pupils expand all aspects of their knowledge of German, learning to write short pieces of spontaneous German and also to translate short texts, to answer questions orally on a range of topics, and also prepare for comprehension tests in reading and in listening.

Examination

There will be four exam papers, all taken in the summer of Year 11:

- Listening** (25%) There is a listening comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in German, about short passages of spoken German.
- Speaking** (25%) There is a short speaking test.
- Reading** (25%) There is a reading comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in German about short passages of written German. There is also a very short translation from German into English.
- Writing** (25%) Pupils write short texts in German, and there is also a short translation from English into German.

Languages Department Visits

The department has organised a range of visits for Year 10 and 11 language pupils in recent years, and there will be the opportunity to visit Germany and to practise German, either on a German exchange or a study visit.

Target Group

The school advises most pupils to continue with their foreign language at least to GCSE level so pupils who have taken German as their foreign language in Year 9 are encouraged to opt for this GCSE course.

Languages

French (Ab initio)

Faculty of Languages

GCSE: French 8658

Contact Teacher: Mr S Woolnough

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

This course is for beginners in French. It is for pupils who took Spanish or German in Year 9 and who wish to take French as a second foreign language, taking the language to GCSE in two years.

Examination

There will be four exam papers, all taken in the summer of Year 11:

Listening (25%) There is a listening comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in French, about short passages of spoken French.

Speaking (25%) There is a short speaking test.

Reading (25%) There is a reading comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in French about short passages of written French. There is also a very short translation from French into English.

Writing (25%) Pupils write short texts in French, and there is also a short translation from English into French.

Languages Department Visits

The department has organised a range of visits to France in recent years for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils such as a French exchange and a study visit to Paris in the October half-term break. These visits are a good opportunity for pupils to visit France and to practise their French.

Target Group

This course is for good linguists who wish to take French in addition to their main foreign language (Spanish or German).

Languages

Spanish (Ab initio)

Faculty of Languages

GCSE: Spanish 8698

Contact Teacher: Mr S Woolnough

Exam Board: AQA

Course Outline

This course is for beginners in Spanish. It is for pupils who took French or German in Year 9 and who wish to take Spanish as a second foreign language, taking the language to GCSE in two years.

Examination

There will be four exam papers, all taken in the summer of Year 11:

- Listening** (25%) There is a listening comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in Spanish, about short passages of spoken Spanish.
- Speaking** (25%) There is a short speaking test.
- Reading** (25%) There is a reading comprehension test, with some questions and answers in English and some in Spanish about short passages of written Spanish. There is also a very short translation from Spanish into English.
- Writing** (25%) Pupils write short texts in French, and there is also a short translation from English into French.

Languages Department Visits

The department has organised a range of visits to Spain in recent years for Year 10 and Year 11 pupils such as a Spanish exchange to Toledo and a study visit to Valencia in the October half-term break. These visits are a good opportunity for pupils to visit Spain and to practise their Spanish.

Target Group

This course is for good linguists who wish to take Spanish in addition to their main foreign language (French or German).

Languages

Latin (Continuation)

Faculty of Languages

GCSE: Latin J282

Contact Teacher: Mr S Woolnough

Exam Board: OCR

Course Outline

This course is for pupils who took Latin in Year 9. We use the 'Latin to GCSE' textbook, written especially for the OCR Latin exam. Pupils expand their knowledge of Latin language, moving on from the end of Year 9. In addition, they study a selection of short prose texts and they also study for a history option.

Examination

There will be three exam papers, all taken in the summer of Year 11:

Translation and Comprehension (50%) This consists of a range of short comprehension questions followed by a passage of translation from Latin into English. There is then the option of either questions on grammar syntax OR translation into Latin.

Prose (25%). This is a series of short prose passages that the pupils will need to be able to translate into English.

Literature and Culture (25%). This is a history option in English, covering topics such as Roman Religion, the Romans in Britain and entertainment in the Roman world.

Target Group

This course is for pupils with an interest in Latin and classical studies who took Latin in Year 9.