

# **GCSE SUBJECT INFORMATION**

**2017 - 2018**

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**OCR**

**Course Overview:**

GCSE Computer Science will provide students with real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students are familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere, however, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving students a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

**Course Content:**

The course covers two main areas of study and one programming project:

**Unit 1: Computer Systems**

- Systems Architecture
- Memory and storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

**Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination and practical work

Unit 1: Computer System:	40% examination
Unit 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:	40% examination
Programming Project:	20% externally moderated

**What does this course lead to?**

Careers in Computer Technology related areas are diverse and often highly paid. This qualification will provide a superb stepping stone to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education.

# ICT

## Cambridge National

**Exam board:**  
OCR

**Course Overview:**

ICT skills are essential for success in employment, in education and are one of the fundamental transferrable skills required by employers. Cambridge Nationals deliver these skills across the whole group, effectively engaging and inspiring students, of every ability, to achieve great things.

The course concentrates on the integral hands-on business IT skills so that students will gain the relevant and up-to-date application skills and ICT knowledge.

**Course Content:**

The course covers four main areas of study:

**Unit 1: Understanding Computer Systems**

- Features and purposes of computing devices
- Input and Output devices
- Software (operating systems, utility and application software)
- Storage and connectivity devices
- Configurations for typical office and customised needs
- Network connectivity
- Legal, ethical, safety and security issues

**Unit 2: Using ICT to create business solutions**

- Searching, storing and sharing information
- Using data effectively
- Using software to communicate
- Formatting data effectively

**Unit 3: Handling data using spreadsheets**

- Creating and formatting data
- Using functions, macros and validation concepts
- Modelling data to support decision making

**Unit 4: Handling data using databases**

- Designing and creating multi table databases
- Understanding how to use and test databases
- Understanding how to analyse databases

**Assessment:**

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Systems	25% External Exam
Unit 2: Using ICT to create business solutions	25% Coursework
Unit 3: Handling data using spreadsheets	25% Coursework
Unit 4: Handling data using databases	25% Coursework

**What does this course lead to?**

The use of IT is transforming the way we do business, access recreation and enjoy culture. This course will prepare you for careers in the specialist IT world, or for moving on to higher education studies, vocational training and apprenticeships.

# BUSINESS GCSE

**Exam board:**

**To be confirmed**

**Course Overview:**

GCSE Business is an interesting and relevant course. Business is an integral part of everyday life and equips students with the skills necessary to excel in today's fast paced and ever changing world.

The hands-on application of knowledge and the numerous transferable skills such as problem solving, strategic thinking, communication and presentation skills that the average business student possesses is highly attractive to employers.

**Course Content:**

The course covers five main areas of study:

1. Marketing
2. Human Resources
3. Operations Management
4. Finance
5. Influences on Business

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1	50%
Unit 2	50%

**What does this course lead to?**

Careers in Business are diverse and often highly paid. This qualification will help students to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education.

# Mathematics

## GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**Edexcel (1MA1)**

**Course Overview:**

Mathematics is central to our understanding of the world in which we live, to our control of the environment, and to the organisation of our society. It underpins science, technology, medicine, economics and government. Maths is critical to our understanding of the world because it is the language we speak when asked to explain it.

**Course Content:**

The content of all specifications is now identical across all examination boards and split into exactly the same topic areas. Foundation papers will have a greater emphasis on number work while the Higher tier paper will place more emphasis on Algebra to provide a clearer pathway to further mathematical study.

The aims of all new Mathematics qualifications are to

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

To assess these aims Mathematics will be assessed across the following content areas.

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1: 1hr 30 mins	(non-calculator)	80 marks
Unit 2: 1hr 30 mins	(calculator)	80 marks
Unit 3: 1hr 30 mins	(calculator)	80 marks

**What does this course lead to?**

The possibilities with Mathematics are endless.

It is possible to study Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Level 3 Core Maths at this college. Degrees in Mathematics are becoming increasingly desirable with employers looking to attract the best problem solvers to their companies.

Mathematicians are found in almost every single industry and underpin advances in our society and modern industry. From health-care to ecology, computing to space travel the influence of Mathematics is being felt across the globe and at every single level. The rate of technological growth is a direct impact of our increased understanding of Mathematics.

# Geography GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**EDUQAS Geography B**

**Course Overview:**

This course provides students with a range of skills covering a variety of topics in both physical and human Geography. It also gives students a chance to take part in two out of school field trips as well as geographical decision making exercises.

**Course Content:**

Theme One- Changing Places and Changing Economies

Theme Two- Changing Environments

Theme Three- Environmental Challenges

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1- Geographical Issues 1hr 45 mins	40%
Unit 2- Problem Solving Geography 1hr 30 mins	30%
Unit 3- Applied Fieldwork Enquiry 1hr 30 mins	30%

**What does this course lead to?**

Geography is an excellent subject to study as it promotes an understanding of the wider world and how it works. It fits well with most other subjects and provides students with a wide range of useful skills. Geography can also be studied at A Level in Year 12.

# Science GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

Most students follow the AQA GCSE Science Trilogy course. This means they will gain two GCSE grades from 1-9 (9 being the highest grade.) Science Trilogy is split into Biology, Chemistry and Physics units.

Students demonstrating a high ability in Science follow separate science GCSEs of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This means they will gain three GCSE grades at grades 1-9.

**Course Content:**

<b>Biology</b> 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology	<b>Chemistry</b> 8. Atomic structure and the periodic table 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 10. Quantitative chemistry 11. Chemical changes 12. Energy changes 13. The rate and extent of chemical change 14. Organic chemistry 15. Chemical analysis 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere 17. Using resources	<b>Physics</b> 18. Energy 19. Electricity 20. Particle model of matter 21. Atomic structure 22. Forces 23. Waves 24. Magnetism and electromagnetism 25. Space Physics
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**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only. Examinations are taken in the summer term of Year 11.

Trilogy:

Biology:	Unit 1	1hr 15 mins
	Unit 2	1hr 15 mins
Chemistry:	Unit 1	1hr 15 mins
	Unit 2	1hr 15 mins
Physics:	Unit 1	1hr 15 mins
	Unit 2	1 hr 15 mins

Triple Sciences:

Biology:	Unit 1	1hr 45 mins
	Unit 2	1hr 45 mins
Chemistry:	Unit 1	1hr 45 mins
	Unit 2	1hr 45 mins
Physics:	Unit 1	1hr 45 mins
	Unit 2	1 hr 45 mins

**What does this course lead to?**

Science qualifications are highly regarded in the world of work and Further Education. Many of our students are successful in gaining apprenticeships or training schemes with local business. We have a large proportion of our students stay on for further study in sciences. At Key Stage 5, the current options are:

- Cambridge Technicals Level 3 in Laboratory Skills
- AS/A2 Biology
- AS/A2 Chemistry
- AS/A2 Physics

# Food & Nutrition GCSE

**Exam Board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

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.

Students 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.

**Course Content:**

This GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

**Assessment:**

The scheme of assessment is split into two parts:

Controlled Assessment: 50% of GCSE

Task 1: Food investigation – This will show students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment - Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Exam Assessment: 50% of GCSE

**What does this course lead to?**

GCSE Food and Nutrition leads to a variety of different pathways. Some students may choose an academic pathway or a vocational pathway. Examples of careers where GCSE Food and Nutrition will be of great value include; Chef, Sous Chef, Caterer, Food Service Manager, Food and Snack Product Developer, Packaging developer, Quality Assurance Managers, Dietician, Health Educator.



# French GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

GCSE French is an exciting course which builds upon students' prior learning in Years 7 and 8. In an ever more globalised world, the ability to speak a foreign language is becoming more and more important for our young people, and gives them the skills to be able to communicate and learn other languages later on in life. French is the official language of the EU and only other language alongside English which is spoken as a first language on every continent in the world in 29 countries.

Students will practise a wide range of skills including improving their spoken and written communication in French, understanding how to use grammar to increase their independence in the language and becoming more confident in a range of situations, all of which are highly attractive to universities and employers alike.

**Course Content:**

Theme 1 – Identity and Culture

Theme 2 – Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Theme 3 – Current and Future Study and Employment

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1:	Listening	25%
Unit 2:	Speaking	25%
Unit 3:	Reading	25%
Unit 4:	Writing	25%

**What does this course lead to?**

Students who can speak a second language are able to demonstrate improved communication skills and a better understanding of the wider world. As well as offering travel opportunities, they can lead to a wide range of careers in areas as diverse as translation, interpreting, law, accountancy, engineering, medicine and research, teaching, business, journalism, public relations, politics, the armed forces, the foreign office, ICT, design and science.

# German GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

GCSE German is an exciting course which builds upon students' prior learning in Years 7 and 8. In an ever more globalised world, the ability to speak a foreign language is becoming more and more important for our young people, and gives them the skills to be able to communicate and learn other languages later on in life. German is widely spoken in Europe and is a major scientific language.

Students will practise a wide range of skills including improving their spoken and written communication in German, understanding how to use grammar to increase their independence in the language and becoming more confident in a range of situations, all of which are highly attractive to universities and employers alike.

**Course Content:**

Theme 1 – Identity and Culture

Theme 2 – Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Theme 3 – Current and Future Study and Employment

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1:	Listening	25%
Unit 2:	Speaking	25%
Unit 3:	Reading	25%
Unit 4:	Writing	25%

**What does this course lead to?**

Students who can speak a second language are able to demonstrate improved communication skills and a better understanding of the wider world. As well as offering travel opportunities, they can lead to a wide range of careers in areas as diverse as translation, interpreting, law, accountancy, engineering, medicine and research, teaching, business, journalism, public relations, politics, the armed forces, the foreign office, ICT, design and science

# Sport

## BTEC Level 1/ Level 2

### First Award in Sport

**Exam board:**  
**Edexcel**

**Course Overview:**

The BTEC First Award in Sport is a Level 2 course, equivalent to one GCSE. The course gives students a wider understanding of health related fitness and sports and encourages students to increase participation and improve their own individual performances through sports analysis. Students will be given the opportunity to develop a range of skills through the four units which encourage development in personal well-being, and to also demonstrate key attributes to be successful in the sport and active leisure sector. The units offered are very structured with various opportunities such as leading sports sessions and designing and applying a six week personal fitness programme. Each unit in turn will give students an insight into a different part of the sport and active leisure sector, giving them a wide variety of options in future years.

**Course Content:**

The course has both practical and theory based elements. The majority of course will be assessed through coursework and will involve mostly theory lessons. This requires students to be able to write essays, design posters, reports and create session plans. Practical activities include video analysis, individual performance in Rounders and Basketball, umpiring games and completing a specific six week training programme. Unit one is an exam at the end of year 11 and this is completed on a computer. Each piece of coursework involves scenario based activities which are always linked to opportunities within the sport and active leisure sector, to prepare learners for work placements and volunteer activities in the future years.

**Assessment:**

1. Health and Fitness for Sport & Exercise	Exam	25%
2. Practical Sports Performance	Coursework	25%
3. Training for Personal Fitness	Coursework	25%
4. Leading Sports Activities	Coursework	25%

**What does this course lead to?**

This course leads on to many opportunities in the sport and active leisure sector. National Governing Body coaching awards are always a popular choice for students and will help them to gain employment in the leadership area. Students can progress onto Sport and Exercise Sciences such as the OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sports which can also be a useful pathway to university courses and higher education when combined with other A/ As Levels. This course is also a pathway onto other vocational course including: Gym instructor level 1, Personal Training, Physiotherapy & Sports Massage.

# 3D Design & Technology

## GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

The course has been designed to cover all aspects of design and will give students a broad range of multi-discipline skills suitable for many different career paths.

**Course Content:**

Year 10:

The projects undertaken in year 10 form the basis of the skills and knowledge that you will be used in the Year 11 main project. The first few weeks are spent introducing the course and developing the basic drawing and presentation techniques that will be used throughout the 3D Design course.

CO2 Car Project:

After completing the initial presentation techniques section of work, the students will then start the CO2 Car Project. Students are required to design and make a CO2 powered car that is raced down our special track. This project will reinforce key drawing skills as well as providing opportunities to use the CAD/CAM technology present in the department

Year 11:

In year 11 the students undertake their major project. The current Year 11 are designing and making an educational toy for young children. After completing the major project, the lesson time is then spent preparing for the final exam.

**Assessment:**

The scheme of assessment is split into two parts:

Exam	50% (at the end of Year 11)
Coursework	50% (Major Project in Year 11)

**What does this course lead to?**

This course will prepare students for a pathways into a broad range of different career types, not just the creative industries. More obvious pathways include: Engineering, Design, Architecture, Manufacturing, etc.

Students are able to undertake an A-Level in Design. This is a highly successful course that allows students to expand their creativity even further.

# Media Studies GCSE

## Exam board:

AQA

## Course Overview:

Students will study for a single award Media GCSE. Throughout the course, students will explore a variety of different sectors within the media, whilst also creating their own media texts using a range of ICT software.

This course is a fantastic opportunity for creative students who wish to develop an understanding of the ever-changing world that surrounds them.

## Course Content:

As well as producing, students will also be highly involved in the analysis of a range of media texts. When exploring certain media forms, students will be asked to comment on the four key concepts:

- Media Forms
- Media Audiences
- Media Representation
- Media Industries

Students will also get the chance to study media texts through the following forms:

- Audio-Visual (TV, film, video games, radio, music videos)
- Online (social networking, apps, podcasting, blogs)
- Print (newspapers, magazines, advertising)

## Assessment:

Unit 1	35%
Unit 2	35%
Coursework	30%

Coursework is completed in school responding to a set topic and will involve research, production and evaluative skills.

## What does this course lead to?

A range of opportunities working in one of the fastest growing industries. We've had several successful students go on to work in journalism for well-known newspapers as well as respectable music magazines. Qualifications can lead to careers in PR or marketing, as well as working in exciting industries such as film and TV. An understanding in the media is also crucial for any aspiring politicians.

# Drama

## GCSE

### Exam board: OCR

#### Course Overview:

Drama is a practical, creative and engaging subject which will provide opportunities to understand and create drama as a practical art form. Students learn how ideas and meaning are communicated to an audience through informed artistic choices. Students will study this art form and apply their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and to their own performance work. Drama provides a fantastic curriculum to ignite and engage learners' creativity, passion and interests. The non-exam assessment allows learners to explore their own interest and develop their skills in either performance or design. It also provides freedom for learners to experiment and take risks with their work while developing their own style.

#### Course Content:

As part of the course, students will practically study a range of drama texts, both modern and traditional, providing a solid foundation for students who wish to go on and study Drama at A Level and further education. Students will also be taught a range of devising strategies and styles to use in the Devising Drama component and how to critically evaluate their own and other's performances.

#### Assessment:

There are three assessed components:

- |                                    |                         |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Devising Drama                  | 30% non-exam assessment |
| 2. Presenting and Performing Texts | 30% visiting examiner   |
| 3. Drama: Performance and Response | 40% exam 1hr 40 mins    |

#### What does this course lead to?

This course leads to a variety of different pathways. Some students may choose an academic pathway and go on to study Drama and Theatre Studies at A level and later to degree level. Students with a particular interest in performance may go on to study at Drama or Performing Arts at specialist Drama schools. Those with an interest in the technical or design elements of the course may go on to study costume, set, sound or lighting design or some other aspect of theatre, including arts administration and event management roles. Skills developed on the course are highly transferable and students will gain confidence in presenting themselves and their ideas, and an ability to work closely as a team member.

# History GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

History helps students to develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions effectively and to express their own opinions.

Studying the past helps students to make sense of the world they live in today. Students will also learn how to evaluate sources and different interpretations of events.

**Course Content:**

The course has four units of study:

1. America, 1840-1895: Expansion and Consolidation – Period Study
2. Conflict and Tension, 1894-1910 – Wider World Depth Study
3. Britain: Health and the People, 1000 to the Present Day – Thematic Study
4. Restoration England, 1660-1685 – British Depth Study

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1: Understanding the Modern World (1 hr 45 mins) 50% of GCSE

- Section A: America, 1840-1910 – 6 compulsory questions
- Section B: Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918 – 4 compulsory questions

Unit 2: Shaping the Nation (1 hr 45 mins) 50% of GCSE

- Section A: Health and the People – 4 compulsory questions
- Section B: Restoration England, 1660-1685

**What does this course lead to?**

History is a particularly useful subject to take for students looking to follow career paths in Law, Journalism, Politics, Museum Curators, Teaching, Business and Marketing and Archaeology.



# Psychology GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**OCR**

**Course Overview:**

Psychology is the study of mind and behaviour. It involves look at lots of different theories about why people do and think certain things. These theories are tested by doing investigations so understanding the process of research is a key part of studying psychology too.

**Course content:**

Psychology is taught through a series of topics which all include two contrasting theories and a core study, as well as looking at how that topic is relevant to real life.

Topics include:

- Criminal Behaviour
- Psychological Problems
- Sleep and Dreaming
- Memory
- Social Influence
- Development

In addition, students will study Research Methods which involves carrying out investigations both in class and for homework. Sometimes students will act as the participant and at other times they will be the researcher.

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by examination only

Unit 1	40%
Unit 2	40%
Unit 3	20%

**What does this course lead to?**

It is possible to study Psychology at A-Level. Degrees in Psychology are also very popular. Psychology is a good basis for careers that require people skills including: Health, Education, Police Service, Social Care, Marketing, Advertising, Sport Coaching, and Criminology.



# Sociology GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

Sociology helps students to understand the behaviour of people in terms of age, gender, social class, ethnicity and other groups they belong to. Different sociologists see society in very different ways. They have developed a language of Sociology to help develop their ideas about society. These theories are tested through research so, this is a key part of the subject. Sociologists also bring a range of personal experiences and knowledge to the varied sociological debates.

**Course Content:**

Students will study three units:

**Unit 1: The sociology of families and education**

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Social theory and methodology related to the two key areas

**Unit 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification**

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Social theory and methodology related to the two key areas

**Assessment:**

Students are assessed by 100% examination.

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education	50%
Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification	50%

**What does this course lead to?**

Sociology is an excellent subject to study because it opens student eyes to the wider contemporary world and the debates these issues raise. With the range of skills it develops it can fit well with a variety of other subjects. You can go on to study Sociology at A Level and extend your understanding further. A good subject to study if you want to move into careers that have working with people as a focus.

# English Language & English Literature GCSE

## Exam board:

**AQA** (specifications 8700 English Language / 8702 English Literature)

## Course Overview:

Pupils study English for four periods a week in Year 10 and Year 11 and are awarded two separate GCSEs at the end of the course. English Language assesses how well pupils can write persuasively or descriptively, as well as also examining how well they can respond to unseen fiction and non-fiction texts. English Literature is the study of a range of set texts, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Christmas Carol* and *An Inspector Calls*. There are many overlaps between the two GCSEs and the skills taught tend to be relevant to both.

Essentially, the pupils are developing their communication skills, which should help them with all of their GCSEs and which are essential to the vast majority of potential careers.

## Course Content:

Pupils will read a variety of texts throughout the two years and will be asked to respond in various ways. They will also experiment with different writing styles and will present a short speech to their peers on a topic of their choice. There will be extra-curricular opportunities throughout the course including creative writing workshops, writing competitions and homework support sessions.

## Assessment:

There are two exams in both English Language and English Literature.

English Language Paper 1: Response to unseen modern text / Writing to describe 50%

English Language Paper 2: Response to unseen non-fiction texts / Writing to persuade 50%

English Literature Paper 1: *Romeo and Juliet* / *A Christmas Carol* 40%

English Literature Paper 2: *An Inspector Calls* / Poetry anthology / Unseen poetry 60%

## What does this course lead to?

Most employers see a pupil's English grade as a vital indication of their basic skills and the qualification is essential for many courses or careers. Pupils who wish to build on the skills developed at GCSE can go on to study English Literature or English Language & Literature at A' Level.

# Fine Art GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**AQA**

**Course Overview:**

This course promotes the central skills in observational drawing, painting, ceramics (clay) and colour work with the opportunity to work creatively in both two and three dimensions and an introduction to computer generated images. This course is ideal for students who wish to build up a strong skill set in art and enjoy working with 2D media such as pens, pencils, crayons, pastels and paint, but who also want the opportunity to do some ceramics work.

**Course Content:**

- Drawing Techniques
- Mark making
- Painting
- Designing
- 2D & 3D Ceramics
- Mono printing
- Computer art and Photoshop
- Artists ideas & techniques
- Exam preparation

**Assessment:**

The Fine Art GCSE is assessed through:

'Portfolio of Work'	60%
Externally Set Assignment	40%

*(this is a project set by the exam board—students have a choice of 7 different starting points/themes to study.)*

**What does this course lead to?**

This qualification will help students to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education. At Post 16 the Art Department successfully provides A level Fine Art and A level Visual Media. These courses give students the opportunity to build on their success at GCSE and progress on to Higher education courses such as foundation art. Art GCSE can support careers in many areas such as: fashion, illustration, interior design, animation, computer games design, architecture, textiles, publishing, web design, photography to name a few.

# Art, Craft and Design GCSE

**Exam board:  
AQA**

**Course Overview:**

This practical course focuses on a full range of art techniques and skills including ceramics (clay), sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking, digital photography, and model making. It gives students the best possible introduction to a wide variety of careers within Art and Design. Projects involve briefs which are typical of those set for artists and designers so students understand the role of a working professional.

**Course Content:**

- Drawing Techniques
- Mark making
- 2D & 3D Ceramics
- 3D sculpture techniques
- Mixed media
- Mono printing
- Designing
- Photography
- Computer art and PhotoShop
- Artists ideas & techniques
- Lino printing
- Etching
- Exam preparation

**Assessment:**

The Art, Craft & Design GCSE is assessed through:

‘Portfolio of Work’ 60%

Externally Set Assignment 40%

*(this is a project set by the exam board—students have a choice of 7 different starting points/theme to study.)*

**What does this course lead to?**

This qualification will help students to progress to employment, vocational training, apprenticeships and higher education. At Post 16 the Art Department successfully provides A level Fine Art and A level Visual Media. These courses give students the opportunity to build on their success at GCSE and progress on to Higher education courses such as foundation art. Art GCSE can support careers in many areas such as: fashion, illustration, interior design, animation, computer games design, architecture, textiles, publishing, web design, photography to name a few.

# Music GCSE

**Exam board:**  
**Edexcel**

**Course Overview:**

Students will enjoy this course if they want to study a subject that involves performing, listening to all kinds of music, composing or arranging music. It gives students the opportunity to play music with others in a group e.g. rock groups, bands orchestras or local choirs. It also provides students with the opportunity to learn more about and use music technology. Anyone considering this course must be able to play an instrument and/or sing and should be aware that there will be an element of music theory and note reading as part of the course.

**Course Content:**

**Performing** - Students perform 2 pieces - one solo and one in a group. The minimum combined performance time is 4 minutes.

**Composing** - Students compose 2 pieces of music. One is free choice and the other is set by Edexcel. Combined composition time is no less than 3 minutes.

**Listening** - There are 8 set works to study ranging from Brandenburg Concerto No5 to Killer Queen, from gravity (Wicked) to the Star Wars main title theme. Something for everyone!

**Assessment:**

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. Performing             | 30% Internally marked externally moderated |
| 2. Composing              | 30% Internally marked externally moderated |
| 3. Listening & Appraising | 40% Exam externally marked                 |

**What does this course lead to?**

If you enjoy the GCSE Music course, then you can consider: an AS and A2 in Music, Music Technology or Performing Arts. Your listening skills will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations. Your performing skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience—useful if you intend to pursue drama or law, for example.

# Manufacturing Technology

## Level 2 Technical Award

**Exam board:**

AQA

**Course Overview:**

This qualification is intended for learners aged 14-16 who are interested in understanding the working properties of woods, metals and plastics and wish to use these materials in a practical way. It will particularly appeal to learners who are looking for a course that is practical in nature and will prepare them for further study and employment within related industries.

**Course Content:**

Learners will complete three mandatory units, one externally assessed and two internally assessed.

**Unit 1: Skills demonstration**

Learners will carry out a number of bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in 12 core skills outlined in the specification. This will include the transferable skill of teamwork and one of the mini-projects should allow for this. Learners will produce a series of small made outcomes and record their work in a portfolio of no more than 12 pages.

**Unit 2: Extended making project**

Learners will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills and knowledge they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge they have developed through Unit 3. Learners will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication.

**Unit 3: Fundamentals of Materials Technology**

Learners will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. They will gain knowledge of the applications and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals and polymers and also learn about possible careers within industry.

**Assessment:**

The scheme of assessment is split across the 3 units.

Unit 1: 30%

Unit 2: 30%

Unit 3: 40%

**What does this course lead to?**

Upon completion, learners can progress to a variety of level 3 courses including A-level Design and Technology: Product Design, carpentry, plumbing, etc.

This course is also a great companion for the 3d Design GCSE course.