



ST. AIDAN'S  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



# GCSE COURSE BOOKLET

2015 - 2017





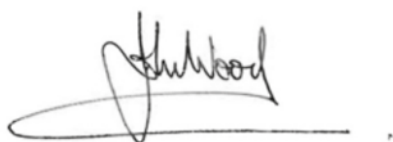
## INTRODUCTION

During your first three years at St. Aidan's you have continued to follow the National Curriculum and with the exception of a second foreign language all pupils have followed the same programme. You now face a number of important decisions about your courses in Years 10 and 11.

The National Curriculum requires that you must continue to follow courses in several of the subjects you have taken so far, so your programme of work will remain broad and balanced through to the end of Year 11. This is important as it means that almost all career areas remain open to you.

In Years 10 and 11 some subjects are compulsory, some offer choice within the subject, others are optional. You and your parents will be involved in a thorough programme of consultation. You will also need and obtain advice from your Form Teacher, your Subject Teachers, your Head of Year and the Careers staff.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that our GCSE results at St. Aidan's in recent years have been excellent, placing the school very high in the national ranking of comprehensive schools, as well as being ranked as one of the top schools in Yorkshire. With hard work and determination, I have no doubt you can match the achievement of our former pupils in two years' time. You will continue to receive all the support and encouragement we can give you to enable you to achieve your potential.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wood', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

**John Wood**

HEADTEACHER

# COURSES IN YEARS 10 AND 11

This guide gives details of the courses in the GCSE years and explains what choices you can make. All the courses are for both boys and girls and last the full two years.

## CORE COURSES

All pupils follow courses in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Modern Languages\*
- Physical Education

\* The majority of pupils are expected to continue with a Modern Foreign Language. Core Skills is available for some pupils.

Information and Communication Technology is integrated across other subjects.

## OPTIONAL COURSES

A further 3 subjects are chosen from the list below.

- Art Graphics
- Business and Economics
- Certificate in Digital Applications (CiDA)
- Computing
- Dance
- Drama
- Fine Art
- Food Technology
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- ICT
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- Product Design (3D Design or Engineering)
- Textiles Technology


In addition, all students follow a course in Careers Education, which takes place in tutorial time and occasionally in normal lesson time.


**The grid on the following page shows the structure of choice.**

## CORE COURSES

Pupils must choose **ONE** element from each section

### ENGLISH

 English Language and English Literature

 English Language only


This will be decided by you and your English teacher

### MATHS

 Maths

No further choices


### RELIGIOUS STUDIES

 Religious Studies

Options within the subject - see subject description.


This course will also cover significant elements of Citizenship.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION



 Physical Education

No further choices

### SCIENCE

 Co-ordinated

 Separate

  Single Co-ordinated Science & Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

### MODERN LANGUAGES

**FR** French

**ES** Spanish

**DE** German


 Core Skills

## OPTIONAL COURSES

Pupils must choose **THREE** elements from this section

 Art Graphics

 Fine Art


 Business and Economics

 CiDA

 Computing


 Dance

 Drama

 Engineering

**FR** French

 Geography


 Health & Social Care


 History


 ICT

 Media Studies

 Music

 PE (Full GCSE)

 Product Design (3D Design or Engineering)

 Food Technology

 Textiles Technology

**Please note:** It is allowed to choose both Food and Textiles Technology but candidates cannot combine Product Design with Food or Textiles

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE



## English Language

**Exam Paper 1:**

**Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing - 50% of overall GCSE**

**Section A:** Reading Students will read a single source from 20th or 21st century literature e.g. an extract from novels and short stories. They will consider how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers.

**Section B:** Writing Students will use a written prompt or visual stimulus to produce descriptive or narrative writing. Accuracy and the organisation of their work will be a key focus.

**Exam Paper 2:**

**Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives - 50% of overall GCSE**

**Section A:** Reading Students will use two linked sources from different time periods, e.g. 19th century and either the 20th or 21st century to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. Sources will be non-fiction and literary non-fiction, e.g. broadsheet newspapers, articles, travel writing, diaries, letters, autobiography and biography.

**Section B:** Writing Students will write an article or letter presenting a point of view on a topic which links to section A. Accuracy and organisational techniques will be a key focus.

**Non-examination Assessment:**

**Spoken Language (0% weighting of GCSE)**

Students are required to deliver a presentation to the class. They must respond to questions and feedback and use Standard English. This is assessed by the teacher and appears on the exam certificate as an endorsement awarded 5 as the highest mark down to 1.

## English Literature

**Exam Paper 1:**

**Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel - 40% of GCSE Literature**

**Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer one question on a Shakespeare play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Text choices will be: Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet or The Tempest. There are marks for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar in this section.

**Section B 19th Century Novel:** students will answer one question on a 19th Century novel. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Text choices will be: Frankenstein, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, A Christmas Carol, Great Expectations, Jane Eyre and The Sign of Four by Arthur Conan Doyle.

**Exam Paper 2:**

**Modern Texts and Poetry - 60% of GCSE Literature**

**Section A:** Modern Texts students will answer one question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text. Text choices: Lord of the Flies, Animal Farm, An Inspector Calls, The History Boys or The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (play script). There are marks available for accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar in this section.

**Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from a selection of poems from the AQA anthology on the themes of love or conflict. Poets are for example: Robert Browning, Carol Ann Duffy, Seamus Heaney, Thomas Hardy, William Blake, Wilfred Owen and John Agard.

**Section C Unseen Poetry:** students will answer one question on an unseen poem printed on the exam paper and then answer another question comparing the first poem with a second unseen poem.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

**What will I do on the course?****English Language**

English Language is a core subject in the National Curriculum and includes a wide range of reading and writing tasks that will be a continuation and development of the kind of work pupils have been used to in English at KS3. Speaking and listening activities will play an important role in accessing the texts studied.

Assessment is in terms of your skills in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.

**English Literature**

English Literature has now been given equal weighting to English Language and builds on the skills acquired at KS3, looking in greater depth at significant works of English literature – in prose, drama and poetry. Students will study the themes and ideas of writers such as Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, William Golding, as well as more recent writers such as Alan Bennett and Owen Sheers.

**How are these courses assessed?**

There is now no tiering for English exams. Both courses are linear and examined at the end of Year 11.

See assessment weightings for each unit above.

**What can I do with these courses?**

English Language at GCSE prepares students for the skills required at A Level English Language e.g. analysis of non-fiction texts and journalistic writing. GCSE English Literature prepares students for the type of texts they will study at A Level and close analysis essay skills. Following the English Language and English Literature courses will enable students to access all three English A Level courses at St Aidan's: English Language, English Literature and English Language and Literature.

**Where can I get further information?**

You can find out more information from Miss Fairburn, the Head of Department or

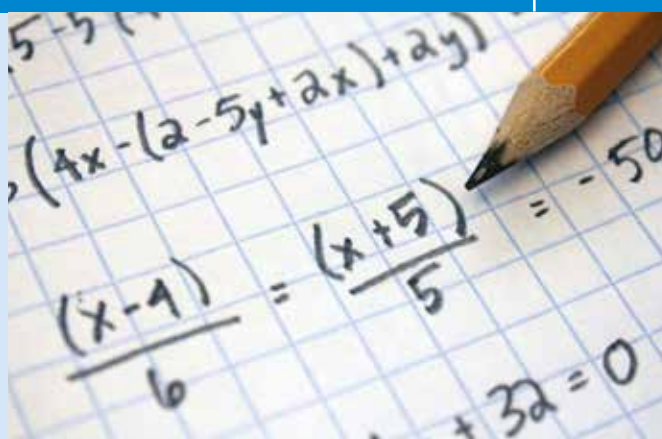
Mrs Lewis, the Second in Department. You can also get further information from English teachers in the department or the school's website. Please do not hesitate to ask!



# MATHEMATICS



The course will be examined entirely by three examination papers taken at the very end of Year 11.



## Course Outline:

The course is broken into two tiers and covers the following areas:

	Higher	Foundation
Number	(15%)	(25%)
Algebra	(30%)	(20%)
Ratio, proportion and rates of change	(20%)	(25%)
Geometry and measures	(20%)	(15%)
Probability and statistics	(15%)	(15%)

## What will I do on the course?

Lessons will cover the work required for the various areas and will relate as much as possible to everyday life and support work in other subjects.

In line with the AQA Specification students will learn to:

- Use and apply standard techniques
- Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
- Solve problems within Mathematics in other contexts

Contextual questions are essentially problems that are constructed within real life areas.

Homework is a vital part of the course; it is at home that you will have the chance to put into practice the techniques you have learnt in class. Practice is essential if you are to understand completely the work done.

## How is this course assessed?

You will take three examinations in May and June of Year 11 and they all carry equal weighting. The exam papers are all 1½ hours long and content from any part of the course may be assessed on any of the exams. Paper 1 is non-calculator. There is **no coursework** for Mathematics.

## What can I do with this course?

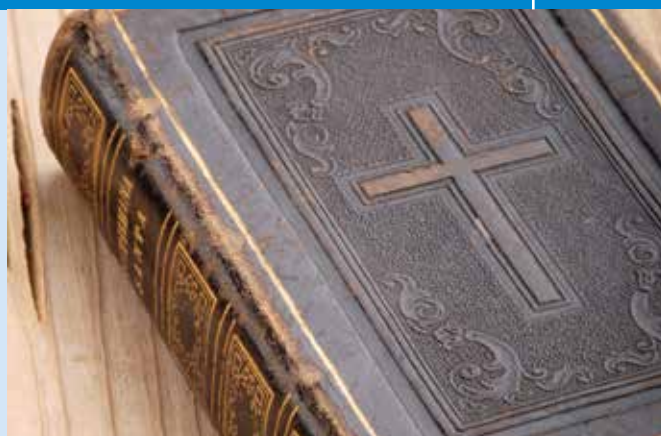
Mathematics is a vital qualification for all job applications in later life. You will develop foundations for further study at A Level in Mathematics and related subjects such as the Sciences. In addition you will learn problem solving techniques and to think logically.

## Where can I get further information?

For further information please talk to your Mathematics Teacher.



## RELIGIOUS STUDIES A (St Mark's Gospel)



### Course Outline:

**The course has two units:**

**St. Mark's Gospel**, which looks at themes in the Gospel including nature of the Gospel itself, the ministry and death of Jesus and discipleship

**Christian Ethics**, which includes study of the right to life, medical technology, personal responsibility, social responsibility, global concerns and conflict.

### What will I do on the course?

You will experience different teaching methods and activities so that in lessons you will have traditional teaching as well as group work and discussion. You will be encouraged to develop your own ideas and to explore them orally and in writing. You will be responsible for your own notes and you will have regular assessment tasks and tests so that you know how you are progressing towards your GCSE.

### How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed by an externally marked examination

There will be two exams

Each exam is 1½ hours

Exams are taken in the Summer of Year 11

### What can I do with this course?

You can continue Religious Studies at A level and at university and it is also an excellent foundation for all your other subject and career choices. The thinking and reasoning skills you develop during your course will be valuable tools for the future and your ability to make decisions and reach conclusions about difficult issues will be recognised by universities and colleges and by employers. Religious Studies will be a useful subject to offer if you are thinking about any career that involves working with people, like Teaching, Social Work, the Police or Marketing. It is valuable for careers in Media and or Law. If you are thinking of Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Science or other related careers you will find the work you have done in Ethics is very useful.

### Where can I get further information?

You can get more information from your Religious Studies teacher or any of the RS staff.

You can look on the school's website or check [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES B (Philosophy and Applied Ethics)



### Course Outline:

**There will be four units of study:**

**Philosophy 1** including beliefs about God; religious and spiritual experience; the end of life

**Ethics 1** including religion and human relationships; religion and medical ethics; religion, poverty and wealth

**Philosophy 2** including good and evil; religion, reason and revelation; religion and science

**Ethics 2** including religion, peace and justice; religion and equality; religion and the media

### What will I do on the course?

You will be involved in a variety of different teaching methods. Lessons will often include traditional teaching with time for question and answer and for discussion. You will be encouraged to formulate your ideas and present them orally and in writing. You will make notes and answer exam-style questions and you will take assessment tests at the end of each unit of work so that you practise exam technique and know how you are progressing towards your GCSE. Your teacher will use other teaching methods as well, including IT and games to present ideas for you and you will have access to published material and the Internet. You will be expected to do homework each week and to keep your notes up to date.

### How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed by externally marked examinations. There will be four exams each 1 hour long, taken in the summer of Year 11.

### What can I do with this course?

You can continue to study religion at A level and at university and you will find Philosophy and Ethics is also an excellent foundation for all your other subjects and career choices. The thinking and reasoning skills you develop during your course will be valuable tools for the future and your ability to make decisions and reach conclusions about difficult issues will be recognised by universities and colleges and by employers. Religious Studies will be a useful subject to offer if you are thinking about any career that involves working with people, like Teaching, Social Work, the Police or Marketing. It is valuable for careers in Media or Law. If you are thinking of Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Science or other related careers you will find the work you have done in ethics is very useful.

### Where can I get further information?

You can get information from your Religious Studies teacher or any of the RS staff. You can look at the school website and on [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

**SEPARATE SCIENCE or TRIPLE AWARD** (Worth three GCSEs)**Course Outline:**

In this course you will study six units each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

There will be two hours of each Science taught each week by different teachers.

**What I will do on the course?**

This course is split into three different GCSEs studying aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. A GCSE is awarded for each individual Science. The following units are studied in each science:

**Biology**

- B1 Understanding Organisms
- B2 Understanding our Environment
- B3 Living and Growing
- B4 It's a Green World
- B5 The Living Body
- B6 Beyond the Microscope

**Chemistry**

- C1 Carbon Chemistry
- C2 Chemical Resources
- C3 Chemical Economics
- C4 The Periodic Table
- C5 Quantitative Analysis
- C6 Chemistry Out There

**Physics**

- P1 Energy for the Home
- P2 Living for the Future
- P3 Forces for Transport
- P4 Radiation for Life
- P5 Space for Reflection
- P6 Electricity for Gadgets

Throughout the course you will be required to carry out practical work, think about how science is used in the world around you and discuss different ideas about science.

**How is this course assessed?**

Currently there are two exams. Units 1-3 have an exam worth 35% and lasts 1¼ hours. Units 4-6 have a 1½ hour exam worth 40%.

Controlled assessment makes up 25% of the final grade awarded in each GCSE. The controlled assessment will involve a practical investigation task split into three parts and carried out under controlled conditions.

**What can I do with this course?**

The three Separate Sciences are excellent preparation for an AS or A2 in a Science. It is an option for those students considering a career in science or other areas where competition is strong.

**Where can I get further information?**

Speak to your Science teachers.

**DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE** (Worth two GCSEs)**Course Outline:**

In this course you will study four units each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There will be two hours of each Science taught each week by different teachers.

**What I will do on the course?**

This course is split into two different GCSEs which both involve studying aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. One GCSE is awarded based on the units shown below:

- B1 Understanding Organisms
- B2 Understanding our Environment
- C1 Carbon Chemistry
- C2 Chemical Resources
- P1 Energy for the Home
- P2 Living for the Future

A second GCSE called Additional Science is awarded based on the units shown below:

- B3 Living and Growing
- B4 It's a Green World
- C3 Chemical Economics
- C4 The Periodic Table
- P3 Forces for Transport
- P4 Radiation for Life

Throughout the course you will be required to carry out practical work, think about how science is used in the world around you and discuss different ideas about science.

**How is this course assessed?**

Currently for both Science and Additional Science there are two exams between 1¼ and 1½ hours long.

Controlled Assessment makes up 25% of the final grade awarded in each GCSE. The controlled assessment will involve two practical tasks split into three parts and completed under controlled conditions.

**What can I do with this course?**

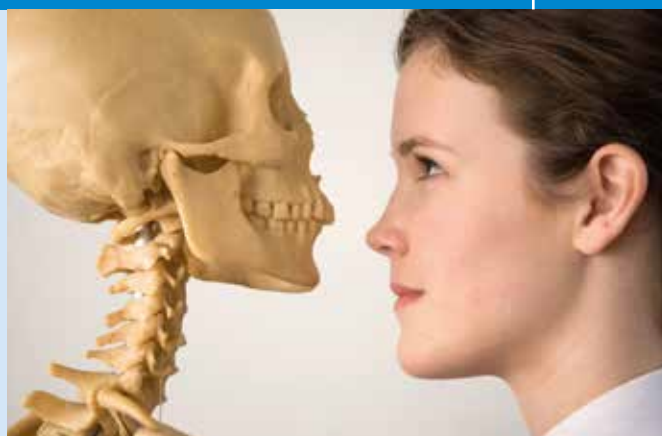
A GCSE in science is vital for entry onto many other courses at Sixth Form level and at college.

**Where can I get further information?**

Speak to your Science teachers.

**SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE** (Worth one GCSE)

This course will be taken by those pupils who opt to study the ASDAN course.

**Course Outline:**

In this course you will study two units each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There will be one hour of each Science taught each week by different teachers.

**What I will do on the course?**

The units to be studied are;

B1 Understanding Organisms

B2 Understanding our Environment

C1 Carbon Chemistry

C2 Chemical Resources

P1 Energy for the Home

P2 Living for the Future

Throughout the course you will be required to carry out practical work, think about how science is used in the world around you and discuss different ideas about science.

**How is this course assessed?**

There are currently two exams between 1¼ and 1½ hours long.

Controlled assessment makes up 25% of the final grade awarded. The controlled assessment will involve both a practical task split into three parts and will be done under controlled conditions.

**What can I do with this course?**

A GCSE in science is vital for entry onto many other courses at Sixth Form level and at college.

**Where can I get further information?**

Speak to your Science teachers.

# FRENCH / GERMAN / SPANISH (First Foreign Language)

FR  
DE  
ES

## Course Outline:

France, Spain and Germany are three of the most interesting and exciting countries in Europe for UK citizens to holiday in or to do business with. On these GCSE Language courses you will build on the foundations of Years 7 – 9 to become independent and confident linguists. You will learn new vocabulary and more advanced grammar to help you communicate more effectively. Learning in class is supported by homework activities directed at the key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. *N.B. Pupils achieve equally high grades in Spanish and German as they do in French, despite starting to study these languages later. This is due to the rapid progress made in Year 9 where they catch up with the level of French.*

## What I will do on the course?

There are three trips run every year in Year 10. These go to France, Spain and Germany and as well as allowing you to improve your language skills you can enjoy time with your friends experiencing a different culture in the summer sunshine. Work in school will involve whole class, small group and pair activities that focus on the key skills. You will use real materials from TV, videos, DVDs, Internet downloads, advertising and newspapers in your learning. As well as working from the textbook in class you will spend time with our Foreign Language assistants in conversation groups out of class.

## How is this course assessed?

You will have the chance to show off your skills in all four skill areas. Written work is assessed through two controlled writing activities in class based on topics studied at the time of the assessment. Speaking is assessed with your teacher in two individual conversations, again at the end of the units studied. Reading and listening exams take place in June of Year 11.

## What can I do with this course?

Large numbers of students go on to study Languages in the Sixth Form. The Associated Sixth Form has the highest number of students entered for A level Languages of any school in the North of England! From this base most go on to study Languages at university where a Languages degree makes you the most employable type of graduate alongside medics and teachers. Our Sixth Form courses also offer further travel abroad as well as wider cultural opportunities which in recent years have included short courses in Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Arabic.

## Where can I get further information?

Talk to your friends in Years 10-13! They will tell you what fun they have on the trips abroad and in their lessons. Log on to [www.bbc.co.uk/languages](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages) and watch the range of videos and soap operas aimed at language learners. Go to France, Spain and Germany and try talking to people to see how much you can improve! Follow the links on the MFL section of St Aidan's website to practise your skills.





Students taking this course  
**DO NOT** take a Modern  
Foreign Language



### English and Mathematics

This option gives pupils more time to work on their core subjects, English and Mathematics. It provides extra teaching in small groups with specialist teachers, providing valuable opportunities for them to practise the key concepts taught in their main English/Mathematics lessons and to receive additional tuition where necessary. There is opportunity during the two years to move between English and Mathematics, depending on individual need.

Since the teaching groups are smaller than average, there is more time to consolidate learning and to reinforce other skills e.g. organisational, thinking and revision skills.



# CERTIFICATE OF PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS (CoPE)



## Qualification:

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

Students who choose this course have eleven lessons per fortnight. This means they DO NOT study a Modern Foreign Language from the Core Options block and they will study Single Award Science.



## Course Outline:

Students take part in a variety of practical as well as academic activities to produce portfolio evidence to gain The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (a GCSE equivalent qualification). Each activity gives the students the opportunity to learn and develop the **Wider Key Skills** (Working with Others, Problem Solving & Improving Own Learning/ Performance) and the skills of **Personal Effectiveness** (Research, Discussion and Oral Presentation).

In addition they will also develop skills of Creativity, Resilience, Writing for a Purpose and Numeracy.

## What will I do on the course?

The emphasis of the course is to develop the skills through doing. Therefore the majority of the learning and skills development takes place through vocational and practical activities. Depending on the level at which the students are working activities could take two, five or ten hours. Students learn how to plan (setting their own goals and targets), how to manage their time effectively and to reflect on the skills they are developing. Possible activities might include; developing first aid skills through the St. John's Young First Aider Award, writing and illustrating a story for primary children, working together to make a magazine for teenagers, creating a virtual tour of the school for prospective parents, re-designing and planting a garden at school, taking part in an enterprise project, producing a major piece of artwork for display in school and organising an activity to raise money for charity. Projects vary from year to year depending on the interests of the group.

The course also involves an extended placement (of two hour sessions) at Harrogate College in Year 10. St. Aidan's pupils are taught in a discrete group by Harrogate College staff under the supervision of St. Aidan's teachers. The placement is negotiated each year but will involve modules on Catering, Ceramics and Digital Photography. The college placement provides valuable experience for any students considering vocational courses post 16.

## How is the course assessed?

There is no final exam. The course is 100% coursework to build up a portfolio, which is externally assessed. The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness is available at Level 1 (GCSE D) and Level 2 (GCSE B).

## What can I do with this course?

The skills which the course develops (in particular Problem Solving and Working With Others) are highly valued by employers. As the course develops Personal Effectiveness Skills (Research, Discussion and Oral Presentation) as well as Improving Own Learning it also prepares students for the more independent approach required for success at A Level, Further Education and in Higher Education.

## Where can I get further information?

More details and a comprehensive range of activities is available from Mr Davis.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The aim of the Department is to provide opportunities, which will positively influence the physical, social, moral, and emotional development of the individuals we teach. Our hope is that pupils are able to be independent in their learning by the end of Key Stage 4 and can follow their own programme of sport, health and recreation in the Sixth Form and beyond. For Years 10 and 11 our programme of study has been devised to recognise the growing maturity of pupils at Key Stage 4. The programme is to enable pupils to experience greater independence, leadership and ownership in their lessons. Pupils will have greater choice and experience varied roles such as coach, referee, and team manager and will have sporting, recreational and health promoting opportunities.

They will be able to choose from a variety of invasion games (football, basketball, netball, hockey, net games (tennis, volleyball, badminton), target and striking games (cricket, softball, rounders, golf). Other activities include fitness, weights, aerobics and dance where there are also extra-curricular clubs. World Games is also offered as an option where students can experience games such as Lacrosse, Ultimate Frisbee and Aussie Rules. Golf is offered off-site and involves teaching by a PGA Professional, which is sponsored by the Golf Foundation. Martial Arts are taught in school with specialist teachers providing expert tuition.



The Department also aims to provide opportunities for academic and leadership development. GCSE PE is a popular option for many pupils and also on offer is the highly recognised Junior Sports Leaders Award for those who are interested in developing leadership and coaching roles in Sport and Recreation. The JSL programme is a nationally recognized qualification, which is formally assessed by the students leading younger pupils in our local feeder primary schools. It is a popular and successful course.

## CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

In Year 9 you have been encouraged to think seriously and practically about your future career plans. You will make your choice of GCSE subjects in line with the National Curriculum and, therefore, will be continuing studies across a broad spectrum of subjects. These will keep open a wide range of career options. All Students in Year 9 are encouraged to visit the Careers Department to use the Careers Library and relevant computer programmes such as New KUDOS to research career ideas. This help ensures you chose the relevant GCSE subjects.

Throughout Key Stage 4 you will receive ongoing careers information, advice and guidance from the Careers Department to help you plan for your future. We have a team of professionally qualified Career Advisers and a dedicated Work Experience Co-ordinator to assist you at all times. In Year 10, students will be involved in the "Be Real Game" and learn more about the world of work and managing finances.

During Year 11, Careers Advisers will help you make informed decisions as to what to do post 16, be it to continue into the Sixth Form, go to college or do an apprenticeship and every student will have an individual careers guidance interview. At the end of Year 11 there will be the opportunity to do work experience in an appropriate career area. The Careers

Department will assist you in finding a placement and help you prepare for this opportunity to ensure that you get the most out of it.

You can use the facilities of the Careers Department at any time and we are open daily from 8.30am to 5.00pm. We regularly invite employers and guest speakers in to the department to talk to students about different careers, as well as organise career events, which you are always welcome to attend.



## ART: GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION



The course will give you the experience of a range of Graphic Design techniques. Projects will be set by your Art Graphics Teacher, allowing for choice in both materials and outcome. The aim is to develop a wide range of new skills and encourage creativity.



Course work will consist of two projects, a shorter introductory project that will last for one term and a second major project that will last about two terms. In the final stages of Year 11 there will be an exam. The exam is set by AQA and after a preparation period of eight weeks, a ten-hour exam. The question paper allows for choice and personal interpretation of a chosen brief.

### What I will do on the course?

You will produce graphic work, based on a series of briefs, supported by a research folder that explores media development as well as experimentation and interpretation of ideas. You will investigate Artists, Designers and Advertising styles in order to enrich your own understanding of the subject and to develop your knowledge of Design. Media is wide and varied but primarily involves the use of Photoshop software. The software is able to facilitate the production of complex multi-layered images and develops sophisticated IT skills. The designs can be printed onto a large scale using the school's AO printer. Personal Photography is encouraged as part of the Design procedure. Traditional media is also an important part of this course including drawing, painting and illustrative design. Animation may also be used where appropriate. Homework is set fortnightly and supports the work produced in class. Work can be improved and developed throughout the course as skill level evolves.

### How is this course assessed?

The two-coursework projects will be worth 60% of the overall grade and the exam project 40%. These are assessed at the end of the course but feedback is on-going throughout.

### What can I do with this course?

Firstly it enables you to move on and study a related course in Sixth Form, either Graphic Communication or Fine Art or Photography. After this it will take you to university degree and then into careers as diverse as Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Photography, Architecture, Interior Design to name just a few. The media industry now employs more graduates than any other industry and continues to grow annually.

### Where can I get further information?

You can talk to your Art Teacher or go online to the Art and Design section of [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

# BUSINESS STUDIES AND ECONOMICS



Business and Economics courses are both very popular in the Sixth Form and, as such, we offer a joint GCSE in Business Studies and Economics rather than just Business Studies.



## There are three units over the two year GCSE course:

- Introduction to Small Business (25%)
- Investigating Small Business (25%)
- Introduction to Economic Understanding (50%)

## What will I do on the course?

### You will consider Business ideas:

Spotting a business opportunity, putting it into practice and making it work e.g. by effective marketing and finance.

### You will consider Economic questions:

How can I think like an Economist? Is growth good? Is the world fair? What difference do the interest and exchange rate make to business decisions?

## How is this course assessed?

The final GCSE grade will be determined by a combination of controlled assessment and examination.

### Controlled Assessment

- Students complete one Edexcel-set task
- Research/investigation followed by analysis/evaluation of task

### Examinations

- One written paper of 45 minutes, with compulsory objective test questions
- One written paper of 1½ hour, with short-and extended-answer, data response and scenario-based questions

## What can I do with this course?

The GCSE in Business Studies provides skills, which can be utilized both in further study and employment. It is very good preparation for progression onto Advanced level courses in Economics and in Business, or to other Advanced level courses.

## Where can I get further information?

For more details please speak to Mrs Capell, Head of Economics/Business or other members of staff within the Department (RS/Business block).



## COMPUTING



The Computing GCSE course gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their ICT lessons 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.

```

84  ::selection {
85      background: rgba(2,139,25
86      color: #fff;
87      text-shadow: none;
88  }
89
90  /* Improve readability of pre
91  pre {
92      white-space: pre;
      white-space: pre-wrap;

```

### What will I do on the course?

This course differs from the ICT GCSE in that the main focus is around problem solving and programming. The students will study the fundamentals of computer systems including hardware, software, data representation, communications and networking whilst developing their programming skills throughout the course and using them to produce a fully programmed software application as part of their controlled assessment.

### How is this course assessed?

- Coursework (60%)  
Two controlled assessment projects (one in each year)
- Examination (40%)  
One written examination
- Grades available  
The full grade range of A\*-G is available

### What can I do with this course?

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. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for students who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine as well as area such as network management, games programming

### Where can I get further information?

For more details please see Mr Watson, Head of ICT and Computing

## DANCE



The AQA specification focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the use of dance movement as a medium of expression and communication in the performance, creation and appreciation of dance.



**The aims of the course therefore can be summarized as follows:**

- Develop understanding and appreciation of a range of dance styles
- Develop aesthetic and artistic sensibility to dance works
- Develop the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to perform
- Choreograph and appreciate dance including an awareness of its artistic contexts
- Develop life-skills and attributes including decision making, critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity and the ability to co-operate with others

### What will I do on the course?

Throughout the two year course there will be numerous opportunities to take part in workshops with practicing professional dancers and professional dance companies as well visit the theatre to appreciate a variety of dance works.

### How is this course assessed?

<b>Written paper: 1 hour</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Practical Examination:</b>	<b>20%</b>
- Performance of a set study of 1 - 1½ minutes	
<b>Coursework:</b>	<b>60%</b>
- Performance of a duo/group dance 2½ - 3 minutes	
- Choreography of a dance solo 1 - 1½ minutes	
- Choreography of a solo or group dance 2 - 2½ minutes	

### What can I do with this course?

GCSE Dance is an excellent option for male and female students with an interest in physical and creative expression. The course prepares students for any Dance or Performing Arts based course at Sixth Form level and is useful for those thinking about a career in any of the following areas:

- Choreographer
- Professional dancer
- Dance teacher
- Arts manager
- Youth worker
- Primary school teacher
- Community Arts practitioner
- Supports a career as an Actor or Singer
- Dance therapist

### Where can I get further information?

For further information please visit AQA website or speak to Miss Miller (Dance Teacher).

# DRAMA



*“Drama is life with the dull bits cut out”*

Film director: Alfred Hitchcock



Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course. No previous experience is necessary. However, Drama is very practical and interactive; being enthusiastic and willing to collaborate with others is essential. The course improves confidence, communication skills, and the balance between the practical controlled assessment tasks and the written examination gives candidates the best opportunity to succeed.

## What I will do on the course?

This course will develop and deepen your understanding of and enjoyment in theatre. We run theatre trips throughout the year to venues across the country. You will experience a wide range of theatre styles, both as an audience member and a participant.

**There may also be opportunities to take part in professional workshops with actors, directors, lighting technicians and stage combat instructors.**

The Drama Department has excellent resources. A superbly equipped Drama Studio/Studio Theatre, Rehearsal Room, costume store and props store occupy a dedicated area on the ground floor of Bede House. Drama students are encouraged to get involved with both the onstage and backstage life of the extra-curricular production work that takes place throughout the year.

## How is this course assessed?

### Practical work: (60%)

Candidates are required to present practical work for two controlled assessments from an exciting variety of options. These include: Devised Thematic Work, Acting, Improvisation, Theatre in Education, Physical Theatre, Set Design, Costume etc. each with a weighting of 30% (60 marks)

### Written Paper: (40%)

Candidates will be given an opportunity to show their knowledge and understanding of how plays are constructed and realised. Plays are studied from a **practical point of view** and draws on **personal experience**.

The written paper is comprised of three sections:

- A Practical work, completed during the course
- B Study and performance of a scripted play
- C Study of a live theatre production seen

Section A is a compulsory question. Candidates also choose **one** further question from either Section B or Section C.

## What can I do with this course?

**GCSE Drama** is far more than simply an extra-curricular activity. Taking GCSE Drama is excellent preparation for the AS/A Level **Drama and Theatre Studies** course and is directly useful for anyone considering a career in Law, Teaching, the Media, the Performing Arts Industry, Public Relations, Management or any field of work requiring people skills.

## Where can I get further information?

Please see Mrs Bray for further information.

*“I’m so glad I took Drama. I’ve gained so much confidence and it’s my favourite subject”*

Year 10 GCSE student



## FINE ART



The aim of the course is to give you a broad experience of a variety of approaches and techniques in Art. Your Art Teacher will provide starting points to the projects, but there will be lots of opportunities for you to develop your work in the way that you want to.



You will be encouraged to develop your skills and creativity by being introduced to a wide range of techniques. Coursework will consist of two projects which will allow you to work in an extensive variety of media. In the final stages of Year 11 there will be an exam. This will be an extended project, which lasts about one term leading to exam sessions of ten hours in total. There is no written exam in Art – you are being examined on your practical and creative skills.

**What I will do on the course?**

You will produce artwork, which covers a range of activities such as drawing, painting, printing, collage, mixed media and work in three dimensions. Eventually you will focus more on activities, which are your strengths. Each project will involve collecting source material, developing ideas, producing observational studies, exploring media and researching artists. You will also have access to Art IT facilities which will allow you to manipulate images and research the work of recognised artists. You will be encouraged to take your own photographs which can provide inspiration whilst developing your ideas. Homework will be set regularly to allow you to further develop your portfolio of work.

**How is this course assessed?**

Coursework is worth 60% of your overall grade and the exam project accounts for 40%. These are assessed at the end of the course but you will get regular feedback throughout the course as well.

**What can I do with this course?**

Firstly it enables you to move on and study an Art course in the Sixth Form, Fine Art, Graphics or Photography. After this you can progress to degree level and then into careers as diverse as Architecture, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Photography and Interior Design to name just a few.

**Where can I get further information?**

You can talk to your Art Teacher or go online to the Art and Design section of [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY



This course is an excellent choice for students interested in finding out about the ever-expanding range of food products available to us and to the food industry. Much of the work is practical, giving students the opportunity to develop new skills in the preparation and cooking of food.



Covering all aspects of food product development, students will gain an understanding of the functional and nutritional properties of food and the design and marketing influences.

Through practical investigations with food components and working with existing products, students will find out how foods are combined, processed, assembled and packaged for sale to meet the changing demands of the consumer.

### What I will do on the course?

The course involves a mixture of theory and practical lessons. The practical lessons cover all aspects of food production, investigation, analysis and disassembly. Close links have formed with the food industry and, where possible, a variety of industrial visits take place e.g. “Betty’s” and “Debbie and Andrew’s Sausage Company”. Guest chefs have visited school to further expand practical skills and focus on finishing techniques. We have had a number of visits from the Focus on Food Cooking Bus highlighting the value of regional foods and given the opportunity to work alongside experts from industry.

### How is this course assessed?

The course is divided into two units. Unit 1 is a written paper and accounts for 40% of the final mark and is taken at the end of Year 11. Unit 2 is a Controlled Assessment Criteria (formally known as coursework). Themes will be provided to guide the students with their choice of title. This piece of work is focussed around practical product development and accounts for 60% of the final outcome.

### What can I do with this course?

Given its practical nature the course offers the foundation for any food/consumer related career. The course is well suited to form a base for A level Food Technology and move forward into Food Manufacturing, Food Science or Marketing. The Controlled Assessment will include a substantial amount of both practical and written work and will allow the students to illustrate their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

### Where can I get further information?

Please come along to the Food Technology Department and speak to Mrs Betteridge, Mrs Herman or Mrs Hedges. For the AQA specification visit [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## FRENCH

FR

France is one the most interesting and exciting countries in Europe for UK citizens to holiday in or to do business with. For French GCSE Language you will build on the foundations of Years 7 – 9 to become a more independent and confident linguist.



You will learn new vocabulary and more advanced grammar to help you communicate more effectively. Learning in class is supported by homework activities directed at the key skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

### What I will do on the course?

There are trips run every year in Year 10 to France, which will enable you to improve your language skills and experience French culture. Work in school will involve whole class, small group and pair activities that focus on the key skills. You will use real materials from TV, videos, DVDs, Internet downloads, advertising and newspapers in your learning. As well as working from the textbook in class you will spend time with our French Language assistants in conversation groups out of class.

### How is this course assessed?

You will have the chance to show off your skills in all four skill areas. Written work is assessed through two controlled writing activities in class based on topics studied at the time of the assessment. Speaking is assessed with your teacher in two individual conversations, again at the end of the units studied. Reading and listening exams take place in June of Year 11.

### What can I do with this course?

Large numbers of students go on to study Languages in the Sixth Form. The Associated Sixth Form has the highest number of students entered for A level Languages of any school in the North of England! From this base most go on to study Languages at university where a Languages degree makes you the most employable type of graduate alongside medics and teachers. Our Sixth Form courses also offer further travel abroad as well as wider cultural opportunities which in recent years have included short courses in Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and Arabic.

### Where can I get further information?

Talk to your friends in Years 10-13! They will tell you what fun they have on the trips abroad and in their lessons. Log on to [www.bbc.co.uk/languages](http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages) and watch the range of videos and soap operas aimed at language learners. Go to France and try talking to people to see how much you can improve! Follow the links on the MFL section of St Aidan's website to practise your skills.

## GEOGRAPHY



The study of Geography focuses on major issues of immense importance, which our society faces today. It is designed to lead you to an understanding of the nature and origin of these issues and the various ways in which they might be managed effectively.

**Course Outline:****Unit 1 Managing places in the 21st century (37.5%)**

- The Coastal Environment
- The Urban Environment

**Unit 2 Hostile world and investigating the shrinking world (37.5%)**

- Natural hazards
- Global tourism

**Unit 3 Local investigation including fieldwork and Geographical issue investigation (25%)**

- Local Investigation including fieldwork (15%)
- Geographical issue investigation (10%)

**What I will do on the course?**

You will follow an enquiry based approach through a variety of teaching methods including discussions, group work, drama, debates, fieldwork, role play, presentations, map work, satellite imagery, GIS, ICT and personal research. In all areas there is an opportunity for you to explore different parts of the world, the idea of sustainable development and to emphasise your future role in caring for the environment.

**How is this course assessed?**

25% of the course is based on controlled assessment. There are two pieces of controlled assessment each with time limits that are carried out in class.

75% of the course is based on final examinations that take place in the summer of Year 11. There are two exams; each is 1 ½ hours. Two tiers of assessment are available:

- Higher- Grades A\*-D
- Foundation – Grades C-G

Class teachers will closely monitor progress throughout the course and students will have many opportunities to practise their examination technique and gain insights into how they will perform in the final exam. We expect that the large majority of candidates will be entered for the Higher Tier.

**What can I do with this course?**

Geography is concerned with the real world – past, present and future. Through the course you study economic, social, historical, cultural and environmental aspects of Geography, and some more traditional physical Geography topics.

You should think about Geography if you:

- Have enjoyed Geography so far
- Are concerned about the environment
- Like to understand where we live and why
- Are interested in current affairs
- Are unsure about what you want to do and wish to keep your future options open
- Are interested in travel, or different cultures

Studying Geography at GCSE means that it might be an option at A level, it is also a really diverse subject that can broaden your understanding in lots of other subject areas. If you think about the topics you have studied in lower school many of them support and extend things you also learn in other subjects like Sciences, History and RS. This is also true for Sixth Form options like Economics, Business Studies and Travel and Tourism.

People with Geography A level, and university degrees go on to do a wide range of jobs. These include obvious ones like teaching, conservation and mapping. But it also leads to jobs linked to charity work and fundraising, accountancy, engineering, tourism and leisure, transport and planning, resources, disaster management, development, international relations and politics, industry and trade.

Employers like people with an understanding about the world around them and Geography helps you develop this. It also teaches you valuable skills that most employers will look for. The most employable people are able to communicate, work in teams and individually, plan work, collect data and research, analyse information, use computers, draw conclusions, make decisions and evaluate. At many points on your GCSE Geography course you will be asked to develop these skills.

**Where can I get further information?**

- Talk to Mrs Stone or your Geography teacher
- Talk to Geography students in the years above
- Ask to look at textbooks and resources that GCSE students use
- Look at displays of visits and fieldwork trips in the Geography corridor
- Seek information from the Careers Department

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



The course provides an excellent basis for understanding human physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. It also explores the care services available to a variety of client groups, the principles that underpin them and roles of specific workers within this sector.



### Course Outline:

Two units of study;

**Unit one** is called Understanding Personal Development and Relationships.

**Unit two** is called Health, Social Care and Early Years Provision

### What I will do on the course?

**Unit 1** topic areas include stages of human growth and development and factors which influence it, life changes and relationship roles, the development of self-concept and personal relationships.

**Unit 2** topic areas include care needs of major client groups, service provision available and how to obtain it, main work roles for key people who work within health, social or early years care and principles which underpin all care work with clients.

### How is this course assessed?

A written paper of 1½ hours (40% of total marks)

A portfolio assessment (60% of total marks)

### What can I do with this course?

Progress on to a variety of A level courses including Health and Social Care, Biology or Psychology.

A large number of professions are associated with this study including Adult or Child Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Childhood Studies, Midwifery and Early Years Education.

### Where can I get further information?

Speak to Mr Alker or Miss Cuthbert in Biology. Look at textbooks in the library.



## HISTORY

**What I will do on the course?**

Why did the USA ban the sale of alcohol between 1920 and 1933? Why were many American women called “flappers” in the 1920s? Why did Hitler persecute the Jews so severely in the 1930s? What caused the Second World War? Which had the bigger impact on British people, WW1 or WW2?

The answers to these and many other questions are discovered when you study History at GCSE. Actually, you don’t study the whole of the world’s history since 1900 (now there’s a relief), but you will study the following topics:

- The USA, 1919-1929
- Germany 1929-1945
- Civil Rights in America, 1945-1968
- The First World War: the causes (1900-1914) and aspects of warfare
- Keeping the Peace, 1919-1929 (Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations)
- The Second World War: the causes (1929-1939) and aspects of warfare

The GCSE course follows on from some of the work completed in Year 9 History lessons, so if you have enjoyed History in Year 9 it is likely you will enjoy it at GCSE!

Homework (groan!) will be given once a week, with exercises and past exam questions to develop your skills for the two examinations.

**How is this course assessed?**

For controlled assessments you will complete two assignments in class (one in each of Years 10 and 11). It will be set by the exam board and will involve analysing historical sources on aspects of the First and Second World War. The Controlled assessment counts for 25% of the total mark. Two exams will count for 75% and will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Grades available: A\*-G (History is a common exam sat by all candidates).

**What can I do with the course?**

GCSE History is an excellent preparation for Sixth Form courses of an academic or vocational nature. It will suit anyone interested in the past and who may wish to study History, Politics, English, Languages, Economics and Science at A level.

So, why did Adolf Hitler bite on carpets? Have a go at GCSE History and find out!

**Where can I get further information?**

For further details please contact Dr Nicholas at St. Aidan’s or any of the History teachers.

## ICT (Software Applications and Multimedia)



This exciting GCSE gives students fantastic opportunities to work with a variety of technologies and allows them to flourish in areas such as web design, creating multimedia products or games design making it engaging and enjoyable to study.



### Course Outline:

The qualification has been designed to nurture digital literacy and provide students with up-to-date skills, knowledge and understanding of the rapidly developing digital world. It gives students the ability to keep up to date with IT and digital developments, at home and in the commercial world

GCSE ICT provides students with IT skills they can use to solve practical problems and allows students to develop technical skills which will give them a foundation for achieving in ICT and cope with the variety of modern software applications and computing.

### What will I do on the course?

During the course, students study a range of current and emerging technologies and the impact that advances in technology may have on themselves and others. They will look at the practical use of software applications and problem solving using ICT.

Students will also investigate a range of creative software applications in order to produce a multimedia solution to a problem. They will combine various technologies to produce a multimedia website or a computer game by creating and developing their own sound clips, video, animation and graphics.

Assessment tasks are open-ended allowing students to be stretched and challenged throughout the course. This motivates high-achievers by allowing them to see the ultimate goal and plan their progress.

### How is this course assessed?

The final GCSE grade will be determined by a combination of coursework and examination:

- Coursework (60%) Controlled assessment projects
- Examination (40%) Written examinations
- Grades available The full grade range of A\*-G is available

### What can I do with this course?

GCSE ICT provides excellent preparation for careers and higher study in areas such as web design, multimedia applications, systems analysis and games developing, business and enterprise and network management.

It is an ideal preparation for progression onto A Level courses including Computing and the Applied ICT GCE qualification offered in the Sixth Form.

### Where can I get further information?

For more details please see Mr Watson, Head of ICT and Computing



## CiDA ICT (Certificate in Digital Applications)



CiDA is an exciting and modern qualification which has been recently updated to reflect changes in the field of digital applications. The CiDA qualification is intended to be hands-on, working with a variety of standard and modern applications, including Office software, web authoring, multimedia and gaming. The aim of the course is to develop in-depth ICT skills in a modern context, which students can use to solve a range of complex problems.



The CiDA qualification includes two of the units shown below.

### What I will do on the course?

#### Compulsory Examination Unit (practical examination 25%)

- **Unit 1: Developing Web Products**
  - 2½ hour practical examination using computers
  - Web authoring software
  - Website design, production and evaluation

#### Optional Coursework Units (one must be taken, coursework 75%)

- **Unit 2: Creative Multimedia**
  - Designing and developing Multimedia products
  - Video editing and animation
- **Unit 3: Artwork and Imaging**
  - Developing and preparing images for screen and print
  - Graphic design using bitmap images and digital photography
  - Vector graphics, including scaleable designs
- **Unit 4: Game Making**
  - Games design and development

### How is the course assessed?

The CiDA course is divided into two units.

Unit 1 is assessed by a practical ICT examination and is 25% of the marks.

The optional units (one of which is completed) are assessed online using electronic portfolios which present the evidence for the coursework developed throughout the course. The units follow a brief set by Edexcel and account for 75% of the marks.

### What can I do with this course?

At the end of Year 11 students who pass the qualification receive either a GCSE equivalent grade from A\* to C (Level 2) or D-G (Level 1).

### Where can I get further information?

For more details please see Mr Watson, Head of ICT.

## MEDIA STUDIES

**What I will do on the course?**

During the two year GCSE course, you will study all aspects of the media from print media (magazines, newspapers, poster), to broadcast media (films and TV programmes), to e-media (internet sites and music). You will be given the opportunity to explore why these forms of media are so relevant in today's society and look at issues such as representations of people and places the media offers and the power the media has over the ways in which audiences think. You will develop skills in media analysis and learn new terminology that is You will also get to make media products.

**How is the course assessed?**

The course is assessed through coursework and examination. The coursework is worth 60% of your overall grade and comprises of the following:

Two written investigations into a topic in the media

One production piece where you will have to research, plan, make and evaluate a piece of media.

The examination is worth 40% of the overall GCSE grade. In the exam, candidates have to answer a series of questions on media texts that they will view in the examination time and they will also have to carry out some pre-production and planning work for a media product.

There is no tiering in Media Studies, which means that all students who choose this subject will not be limited in the grade they can achieve. All will have the opportunity to achieve from A\*- G. However, due to the written element of the course, you must have secure skills in English to succeed in Media Studies.

**What can I do with this course?**

Many people make the wrong assumption that Media is only useful if you want to go in to a media-related profession like a filmmaker or radio presenter. However, this is not the case. The analysis, essay writing and practical skills you develop in Media can prepare you for a variety of interesting careers such as jobs in advertising and marketing, PR and business to name but a few. The GCSE in Media Studies is also an excellent starting point to develop these skills in to A Level Media Studies and we have many students who go on and successfully complete degrees in media-related disciplines.

**Where can I get further information?**

If you require any further information, please see Mrs Rosser in the English Resource Room.

## MUSIC (4270)

**Course Outline:****Unit 1 - Listening to and Appraising Music**

(20% - Formal written exam at the end of the course)

You will develop your listening skills and an understanding of the organisation of sound, through five areas of study.

AoS1 Rhythm & Metre; AoS2 Harmony & Tonality; AoS3 Texture & Melody; AoS4 Timbre & Dynamics; AoS5 Structure & Form.

These will be explored by studying a wide of musical styles from three strands:

The Western Classical Tradition

Popular Music of the 20th & 21st centuries

World Music

**Unit 2 - Composing and Appraising**

(20% - 20 hours supervised time for the composing and 2 hours controlled time for the appraisal, all of this in lesson time)

You will compose ONE piece of music that is related to two or more of the areas of study in Unit 1 and linked to a strand announced by AQA. You are then required to evaluate and appraise how successful your composing and linking has been.

**Unit 3 - Performing Music**

(40% - Practical exam in Spring of Year 11)

You will be required to perform ONE piece of music individually and ONE piece of music in a group performance. You will need to perform pieces which are Grade 5 standard and above to achieve the highest possible marks, but it is possible to achieve an A\* grade in performing by playing or singing the simplest of pieces. The emphasis is on a good quality, musical performance rather than difficulty.

**Unit 4 - Composing Music**

(20% - 20 hours supervised time in lessons)

You will compose ONE piece which explores two or more of the areas of study in Unit 1.

**What I will do on the course?**

You will explore a wide range of music through practical methods which will allow you to play to your strengths. To begin with your teacher will give you a firm grounding in a variety of compositional techniques, including those which use Music Technology. You will have plenty of performance opportunities during the course, which will enable you to gain in confidence in playing with and in front of others. As a GCSE Music student you will also have a group lesson with a visiting instrumental/vocal teacher paid for you by the school. There is an expectation that you will participate in at least one of the extra-curricular Music ensembles run by the department. There will also be opportunities to go on trips to concerts and musical events to enhance your musical experience.

**What can I do with this course?**

The obvious career opportunities in Music are performing, teaching, the recording industry, television and radio. In addition to this, colleges and employers always have a high regard for anyone who has learned to play a musical instrument as it says a lot about the person in terms of commitment and self-discipline.

**Where can I get further information?**

From the AQA website [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk) or from any Music teacher at St. Aidan's

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Physical Education at GCSE provides students with opportunities to develop skills and essential personal qualities that complement perfectly their other academic subjects! The course is taught so that leadership, communication, self-confidence, socialisation and determination are core values.



The practical input not only helps maintain positive attitudes and increased activity levels essential for health but also provides students with regular fun, enjoyment and stress release.

## Course Outline:

Pupils may be assessed in a wide range of activities, some of which may be done in school and some that they follow in their own time out of school, e.g. Horse-riding, Swimming, and Dance. This involves the student producing a video record of their best performances and members of the PE staff assessing using video analysis and off-site visits.

Pupils will be expected to become an expert in the rules, tactics and techniques of one of their favourite sports and they will have to analyse their performance in this activity as part of the final assessment. Pupils will be expected to practice their sports in their own time. Homework will be set regularly in order to develop and improve students' theoretical knowledge for the end of course examination.

## The activities I can be assessed on in school are as follows:

Football, Softball, Basketball, Rounders, Hockey, Athletics, Netball, Badminton, Exercise Activities, Volleyball, Cricket

## The activities I do outside of school I can be assessed on are as follows:

Amateur Boxing	Dance	Hurling/Camogie	Cross-Country Running	Rounders	Weightlifting
American Football	Archery	Ice Hockey	Cycling	Softball	Surfing
Association Football	Athletics*	Judo	Golf	Squash	Trekking
Badminton	Clay Pigeon Shooting	Ju-jitsu	Orienteering	Table Tennis	Wakeboarding
Baseball*	Competitive Swimming	Karate	Personal Survival	Tae kwon do	Water Skiing
Basketball	Canoeing	Korfball	Sailing	Volleyball	Windsurfing
Cricket	Climbing (Outdoors only)	Lacrosse	Skiing	Water polo	
Fencing	Horse Riding	Lawn Tennis	Snowboarding	Gymnastics	
Field Hockey	Kayaking	Netball	Polo	Mountain Biking	
Gaelic Football	Lifesaving	Trampolining	Rugby League	Lawn Bowls	
Synchronised Swimming	Handball	Ice Dance	Rugby Union	Rowing	

## How is this course assessed?

- Candidates offer for assessment FOUR activities  
From any three performance roles (Performer, Official and Coach) 48%
- Analysis of Performance in one practical activity 12%
- Theory paper in applied Anatomy and Physiology  
With a clear focus on healthy and active lifestyles 40%

## What can I do with this course?

Physical Education is an ideal pre-requisite for careers in Teaching, Health Care, Coaching, Armed Forces and all sports related jobs. Most importantly, we aim to make the subject enjoyable to ensure the candidate sustains a lifetime of physical activity.

## Where can I get further information?

Please see Mr Strover, Miss Wadhams or your PE Teacher

## PRODUCT DESIGN (3D Design)



This course intertwines an exciting range of practical and theoretical projects to engage you with the principles and practices of industrial Product Design. You will develop your designing and making skills, modelling skills including 2-D sketching and drawing, 3-D physical modelling, virtual computer modelling and materials technologies.



You will learn about the materials and processes that underpin the design and manufacture of everyday products through a series of focused practical projects. The course is designed to develop your knowledge and understanding in this thoroughly modern subject.

### What will students do on the course?

- Use state of the art 3D and 2D computer software to generate high quality design solutions.
- Produce a range of sophisticated design ideas to solve everyday problems.
- Use your knowledge of scientific principles to select materials and components
- Learn to operate hi-tech CNC machinery including 3D printers, Laser Cutters, CNC Router and CNC Lathe

### How is the course assessed?

The assessment of the course is in two-units:

**Unit 2** - is a piece of coursework on 'Designing and Manufacturing a Product'. The coursework takes approximately 45 hours of lesson time and is worth 60% of the overall mark. The students will be assessed on both their design portfolio and final manufactured product.

### What will the course lead to?

This course provides an excellent foundation for further studies in Product Design at A Level, progressing through to University where the knowledge and skills learnt will be highly desirable in a whole range of design-based subjects, which include; Product Design, Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design, Industrial Design, Graphic Design, Marketing, Advertising, Furniture Design, Stage and Set Design and many more.

### Where can I get further information?

For further information contact Mr Botterill  
(Head of Product Design)



## PRODUCT DESIGN (Engineering)



This course has been created to appeal to students who have an interest in both design and engineering. The difference from the Product Design course is that the project work covered will have a strong engineering focus, meaning you will have the opportunity to develop products that both look good and function well.



It is ideal for creative thinkers who enjoy technical design challenges. Throughout the course you will develop a broad range of skills, including creative and aesthetic awareness, engineering design and communication, and precision manufacturing.

Please note that on completion of the course the students will be awarded a GCSE in Product Design.

### What will students do on the course?

- Use state of the art 3D and 2D computer software to generate design solutions
- Learn to operate hi-tech CNC machinery including the Laser Cutter, CNC Router, CNC Lathe and 3D printer
- Solve problems through the use of engineering and scientific principles
- Use engineering machines such as the centre lathe, MIG welder and milling machine

### How is the course assessed?

The assessment of the course is in two-units:

**Unit 1** - is a 2 hour exam, which is worth 40% of the overall mark.

**Unit 2** - is a piece of coursework on 'Designing and Manufacturing a Product'. The coursework takes approximately 45 hours of lesson time and is worth 60% of the overall mark. The students will be assessed on both their design portfolio and final manufactured product.

### What will the course lead to?

This course provides an excellent foundation for further studies in Product Design at A Level, progressing through to University where the knowledge and skills learnt will be highly desirable in a whole range of design-based subjects, including; Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Automotive Design, Industrial Design and many more.

### Where can I get further information?

For further information contact Mr Botterill (Head of Product Design)

## TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY



This course is designed to encourage all students (whether they have studied Textiles in Year 9 or not) to be innovative and creative. When designing and making, students will be taught to use research and exploration, such as the study of different cultures, or the work of past and present professionals, to identify and understand user needs.



They will identify and solve their own design problems and understand how to reformulate problems given to them, using a variety of approaches to generate creative ideas. They will be taught how to develop and communicate their design ideas using annotated sketches, detailed plans, oral and digital presentations and computer-based tools. They will investigate new and emerging technologies and develop the skills to be able to use specialist tools, techniques, processes, equipment and machinery precisely, including computer-aided manufacture.

### Where can I get further information?

If you would like to see the work of current and past students please come to the Textiles room (DT1) any lunchtime between 12.30 and 1pm. Ms. Moreno will be happy to show you the work and answer any of your questions.

### What will I do on the course?

In Year 10 students begin to learn how to research chosen topics and different cultures, working on how best to present their findings and ideas. When developing their ideas into design solutions, students work with a variety of different media with the end goal being the creation of a highly decorative and unique corset.

In Year 11 students focus on their own chosen Controlled Assessment Task, which consists of a design folder of approximately 20 A3 sheets and a completed Textiles product. This may be a fashion garment, accessory or furnishing item.

### How is this course assessed?

60% of the GCSE grade is achieved with the students Design & Make Task (coursework) and 40% from an end of the course exam.

### What can I do with this course?

'Vince Cable announces £16 million of funding to match industry investment to boost skills in the creative industries.

Business Secretary Vince Cable has announced £16 million of funding to match industry investment to boost skills in the creative industries and help develop the filmmakers and fashion designers of the future. The funding supports the new creative industries strategy which will help maintain the UK's position as a world leader in the sector.' 2 July 2014



# COURSE CHOICE CALENDAR 2015

<b>Wednesday 4th February:</b>	Course choice presentation to Year 9
<b>Tuesday 10th February</b>	Option Booklets given out to students in extended form time
<b>Thursday 12th February:</b>	Information evening for parents - Constance Green Hall 6.30 pm
<b>Thursday 5th March:</b>	Year 9 Parents' Evening 9C, D, E, G
<b>Wednesday 11th March:</b>	Year 9 Parents' Evening 9P, S, W, Y
<b>Friday 13th March:</b>	Last day for course requests to be received by and agreed with Tutors for 9C, D, E, G
<b>Friday 20th March:</b>	Last day for course requests to be received by and agreed with tutors for 9P, S, W, Y
<b>Friday 24th April:</b>	Last day for any adjusted choices to be agreed
<b>June:</b>	Final notification of courses to students and parents

**PLEASE NOTE:** Whilst we will make every attempt to meet your course request, the school reserves the right to decide whether particular courses or combination of courses can go ahead. We hope that all the courses described in this booklet will be available but may have to cancel any course if there is insufficient demand or due to unforeseen circumstances.

**CHARGING:** In some practical subjects, you will make things, which we hope you will want to take home; if so, your parents must tell us in advance and will have to pay for ingredients or materials. In all other ways the compulsory aspects of the courses in this booklet are free of charge, although the school may ask for voluntary contributions towards the cost of certain things such as visits.

## GUIDE TO FILLING IN OPTIONS FORM

1. No options with **English**
2. No options with **Mathematics**.
3. **Religious Studies**: tick **one** box for the course you wish to study.
4. **Science**: if you wish to study three separate Sciences, tick the separate box. Otherwise tick Co-ordinated. Leave blank if you wish to follow the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Course.
5. **Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) Course**: tick here if you wish to follow this course. Leave this section blank if you do not want to follow this course.
6. **Modern Languages**: Tick one box in this section only.  
If you want to study more than one language, choose German or Spanish here and chose French as one of your options.  
If you have opted for the CoPE Course do not tick any boxes.  
If you wish to opt for the Core Skills course, tick the appropriate box.
7. **Optional Subjects**: Choose **three** further subjects and **one** reserve subject from this section.



## St Aidan's Church of England High School Course Request Form

### CORE SUBJECTS

#### Religious Studies *Tick one only*

A: St Mark's Gospel and Ethics		B: Philosophy and Ethics	
--------------------------------	--	--------------------------	--

#### Science *Tick one only*

Separate (3 GCSE's)		Co-ordinated (2 GCSE's)	
---------------------	--	-------------------------	--

#### Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE)

CoPE + Single Science	
-----------------------	--

#### Modern Languages *Tick one only*

French		German	
Spanish		Core Skills	

### OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

*Tick three Choices and mark one Reserve (with an R)*

Art Graphics		Health & Social Care	
Fine Art		History	
Business and Economics		ICT	
CiDA		Media Studies	
Computing		Music	
Dance		PE (Full GCSE)	
Drama		Product Design	
Engineering		Food Technology	
French		Textile Technology	
Geography			

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Hand completed form to Tutors.

Deadline for 9C, D, E and G

Friday 13th March

Deadline for 9P, S, W and Y

Friday 20th March



**ST. AIDAN'S**  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

St. Aidan's Church of England High School  
Oatlands Drive,  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire HG2 8JR

Tel: 01423 885814  
Fax: 01423 884327  
Email: [admin@staidans.co.uk](mailto:admin@staidans.co.uk)

**[www.staidans.co.uk](http://www.staidans.co.uk)**

