



**KING EDWARD VI  
KING'S NORTON  
SCHOOL FOR BOYS**

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*Educational excellence for our City*

**Year 9 Options Booklet  
2025**

# Introduction

**Dear Year 9 student,**

**You are about to start on a new stage in your education.**

**So far, all the decisions about courses you have followed have been made by the school. Now you have the chance to choose some of the subjects you will study in Years 10 and 11.**

**Start by reading this booklet carefully. Show it to your parents too, so that they can help you in your decision making.**

**If there is any further information you need, do not hesitate to ask Mr Butcher, Deputy Headteacher, your subject teachers, form tutor or any other member of staff you know well. We are all available and keen to help you make the choices which will make your next two years as enjoyable, successful and rewarding as possible.**

**Good Luck!**

**Yours faithfully,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Butcher', written in a cursive style.

**Mr J Butcher  
Deputy Headteacher**

# The Options Process

1

## **OPTIONS EVENING**

**THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

This is a presentation for parents/carers where you will be introduced to the options process and the various steps which have to be taken. There will also be information available about the next two years focused on ensuring our boys are ready for post 16 study.

2

## **YEAR 9 PARENTS EVENING**

**THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 4PM – 7PM**

This is the most convenient occasion for gathering advice from tutors and individual teachers, an opportunity to double check on progress, courses and potential in your son's subjects.

3

## **OPTIONS FORM**

**DEADLINE: FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> APRIL**

Once the choices have been made, the forms are handed to the Year 9 tutors. We shall do our best to provide you with courses that you have chosen, but it may be that we run out of spaces in a particular subject. If there is a problem of this kind, we shall discuss it with the students concerned. It is essential that you nominate reserve subjects, so that we can do our best to accommodate students' wishes closely in the event that they may not be able to study their original choices.

# Compulsory Curriculum

Some subjects are followed by all students. These form the compulsory part of the curriculum. They are:

- English
- Mathematic  
s
- Science
- Physical Education (CORE)
- Personal Development

# Optional Curriculum

In addition to the compulsory curriculum, students also study up to four further subjects. These are GCSEs, applied courses such as a Cambridge National, or a combination of both.

All students are required to study either history or geography (or both). In addition, students on the prestigious 'EBacc' pathway are required to choose French or Spanish. You are encouraged to discuss your preference with course leaders, form tutors and learning support staff. Unless otherwise stated, the courses below are GCSE:

- Art & Design
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia  
(Cambridge  
National)
- Design &  
Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sport Studies (Cambridge National)
- Statistics

# GCSE English

## GCSE English Language and Literature (AQA)

In years 10 and 11, you will be taking a double GCSE in English Language and Literature. There is no longer a controlled assessment element; assessment is wholly exam based for both strands and you will be examined at the end of Year 11. The Literature exams are closed book meaning that no texts are allowed in the examination.

### English Language

There are two written exams:

#### Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing (50% overall)

Section A: reading (40 marks)  
Section B: writing (40 marks)

#### Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (50% overall)

Section A: reading (40 marks)  
Section B: writing (40 marks)

### English Literature

There are two written exams:

#### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (40% overall) Exam: 1hr 45 minutes

Section A - Shakespeare: you will answer one question on the play you have studied

Section B - The 19th-century novel: you will answer one question on the novel you have studied

#### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60% overall) Exam: 2hrs 15 minutes

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

Section B - Poetry: you will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from your chosen anthology cluster.

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

In addition to these, there is a speaking and listening element that is assessed through the completion of a presentation to a group. This is a separate qualification but a compulsory component.

# GCSE Mathematics

**The Mathematics GCSE will consist of three equally weighted papers, one calculator and two non-calculator, each 1 hour 30 mins in length. You will be awarded a 9-1 grade, with questions targeted at grades 5-1 at Foundation tier and at grades 9-3 at Higher tier.**

*Students will be allocated a tier in Year 10 based on previous academic performance. These will be continually reviewed throughout Year 10 and Year 11, with final tier decisions being made in the Spring term.*

**You will need to be able to apply techniques and processes, reason, interpret and solve problems across a range of topics, including: Number, Algebra, Interpreting/Presenting Data, Fractions, Ratio & Percentages, Angles & Trigonometry, Graphs, Area & Volume, Transformations, Equations & Inequalities, Probability, Multiplicative Reasoning, Similarity & Congruence, Circle Theorems, Vectors, and Geometric Proof.**

## **Assessment**

**Our department uses a significant amount of assessment with personalised feedback and personalised follow up tasks.**

## **GCSE Assessment**

**Paper 1 – Non-Calculator – 1 hr 30m - 80 Marks  
Paper 2 – Calculator – 1 hr 30m - 80 Marks  
Paper 3 – Calculator – 1 hr 30m - 80 Marks**

**A grade will be allocated based on the cumulative total of all 3 papers.**

# GCSE Science

**Students at KEVI King's Norton School for Boys study either Combined Science or Separate Award Science at GCSE. The majority of our students follow the Combined Science option which leads to a double graded GCSE that averages student performance across Biology, Chemistry and Physics.**

**A smaller number of students study the Separate Award (sometimes called Triple Science) course. This takes all of the content covered by Combined Science and adds in extra to allow individual GCSE's in Physics, Biology and Chemistry to be awarded. The course is most suited to students who are planning to continue to study Science A-Levels or other level 3 post -16 Science courses. Students studying the Separate Award course attend a compulsory period 6 lesson each fortnight and sit longer final examinations. Separate Award Science places are limited and if your son wishes to be considered, please indicate this in the appropriate place on the options form.**

**We use the Pearson Edexcel examination board for all of our Science qualifications. The syllabus contains a mixture of traditional and more modern Science content which is assessed through six examinations in the summer of Year 11. There is no longer a controlled assessment or coursework element for GCSE Science. Practical work does still form a key part of the course with students completing a range of practical tasks in Y10 and 11, some of which are specifically referred to in GCSE exam questions.**

## **Assessment**

**Science is assessed across 6 examinations, 2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics all of which are taken at the end of Y11 and available at higher and foundation tier. Higher tier papers assess from grades 4 to 9 and foundation tier from grade 1 to 5.**

**The examinations for students studying 'Combined Science' are all 1hr 10mins and consist of 60 marks of short, medium, long answer and calculation-based questions. The examinations for students studying the 'Separate Science' course are all 1hr 45mins and consist of 100 marks of short, medium, long answer and calculation-based questions.**

# Personal Development

**At KS4 our students will receive a fortnightly lesson of Personal Development.**

**In Year 10, students will be focusing on the following three areas: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Sex Education and Living in the Wider World. Students will be able to build upon their understanding and skills gained in years 7-9 on topics such as mental health and will be able to learn how to monitor and reflect on their wellbeing as they enter their GCSE year. Students will be given dedicated time to careers as detailed below.**

**In Year 11, students will have a focus on study skills, as well as health and well-being. Each lesson will consist of a lesson on one of the following topics: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships and Sex Education and Living in the Wider World, followed by a guided lesson on how to revise. These lessons will show our students different revision strategies, how to use them effectively and reflect on which revision activities work best for them.**

## **Careers advice and Guidance (CEIAG)**

**The Personal Development (PD) scheme of work includes topics that are dedicated to the areas of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). In years 7-8, the careers topics develop students' general knowledge of soft skills and job-sector awareness. This information is then progressed in years 9 to 11 for students to enhance their understanding of their own skills and abilities through increased reflection and self-awareness.**

**In the KS4 years, students are made aware of where they can go to find information about their post-16 opportunities. Year 10 students are given time to develop a CV and examine job applications before they then turn theory into practice with a work experience placement and a mock interview day. Students are encouraged and guided to secure their own work experience placement that is relevant to them and this independence gives them a taste of the challenges that may face them when applying for a job in the World of Work.**

**All KS4 students will have had the chance to interact with a range of local post-16 providers, from colleges, sixth-forms, apprenticeship providers or the armed forces at the KNBS careers fair and from assemblies/presentations.**

**Year 11 students will be provided with the opportunity to have a 30minute meeting with an impartial careers advisor who can offer the students advice, guidance and support with their post-16 options.**

**Furthermore, the school's careers display board, located in the dining hall, is updated regularly with relevant post-16 information. Students and parents/carers also have access to the careers pages on the school's website. If a student or parent/carer wants to discuss CEIAG and/or post-16 options, the school has a level 6 qualified Careers Leader that would be happy to have a chat with you.**



# Core Physical Education

**Physical Education in Years 10 and 11 allows a more in-depth study of team games, athletics and health-related fitness principles.**

**In Year 10 you will follow a set programme of activities that develops your understanding and skills from Key Stage 3. There is a greater opportunity for independent learning, and the development of leadership and social skills is a key feature within lessons. You will have the opportunity to use the Fitness Suite, developing your knowledge, understanding and application of fitness concepts whilst planning your own training programme.**

**In Year 11 you will opt to participate in activities and study these sports for a term at a time to allow you to develop an enjoyment and high level of skilled performance in your chosen activity.**

**By offering a wide variety of sports, both in and outside school, it is hoped that you will be able to find an activity you will want to pursue on leaving school.**

# English Baccalaureate

**In order to satisfy the criteria for the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc), students need to study and pass a particular suite of subjects.**

**These are:**

- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science (double award)**
- **History or Geography**
- **A modern foreign language (French or Spanish)**

**There has been huge emphasis on Ebacc over the past few years, and there is growing evidence that in order to progress successfully to higher education, Ebacc qualifications provide candidates with a clear advantage over those without them.**

**Success in Ebacc subjects is regarded as evidence of a well-rounded academic preparation for work or further study, and we strongly recommend that if you are capable of studying these subjects, then you should do so.**

**For many students who show potential to succeed with Ebacc, we have prescribed a further Ebacc subject, so that the full suite of Ebacc subjects will be studied. For these students, there will be the freedom to select two further option choices.**

# High Quality Vocational Courses

## What are Cambridge Nationals?

**BTECs are vocational qualifications offered by the Edexcel exam board. Cambridge Nationals are a similar type of course offered by OCR. They are nationally recognised by employers and further education providers and are offered in many schools as alternatives to GCSE qualifications. All vocational courses offered at KNBS are high quality courses, approved by the government for inclusion in 2026 performance indicators.**

## What are they worth?

**Vocational courses are largely coursework based, using a mixture of projects and assignments, and offer a different learning experience to GCSEs. Vocational courses also have an examined component. Each pass is equivalent to at least a 4 grade at GCSE. It is possible to achieve the equivalent of a 6 with a "merit" and a 7/8 with a "distinction".**

## What vocational courses are offered at KNSB?

**We will be offering a Cambridge National course in Sport. We will offer a Cambridge National in 'Creative iMedia' (this is strongly ICT based).**

## Will I be studying vocational courses or GCSEs?

**Most students who opt for PE will follow a GCSE course, but many will study Cambridge National Sport if that would be a more successful option for them. Other choices are made by you after close consultation with staff at KNBS.**

## What can a Cambridge National lead to?

**Level 2 vocational qualifications are particularly good preparation for level 3 vocational qualifications, which are specialist qualifications offered at many sixth forms. These are equivalent to A-levels and are recognised by universities, further education colleges and employers alike. These qualifications are suitable for students aged 16 upwards and are recommended for those who have achieved at least four 9-4 grade GCSEs or have passed a vocational qualification at level 2 (GCSE equivalent).**

# GCSE Art & Design

**Examination Board:** AQA

**Controlled Assessment: One project & additional supporting work**  
60%

**Externally set question – examination: One project** 40%

## What am I expected to produce in the GCSE Art and Design course?

For your Controlled Assessment (CA) you will produce an A3 folder based on your chosen topic. You will have 4-5 loose topics to choose from. Your folder will be filled with experiments, artist links, ideas for a final piece and then an outcome in either 2D, A1 in size or 3D. You will have the opportunity to develop your artist knowledge and skills using some new materials for example promarkers, paint pens, lino printing and gouache paint. Students will produce a range of work from 2 specialisms which are Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Textiles, 3D and Photography.

## How much will I be expected to do over the two year course?

You will produce one Controlled Assessment project, additional supporting work and one exam project. Supporting work will be mostly made up of homework's based on various titles. Pupils will also complete their CA and exam artist research boards for homework.

## Will I be able to choose what media I work in?

When you start Year 10 you will do Assessment Objective 2- Experiment and you will try out a very wide range of materials and techniques. Drawing is a big focus for this Assessment Objective.

## What media can we use for GCSE?

Painting, drawing (in pencil, biro, crayon, pastels, fineliner, promarkers, paint pens, scratchboard) printing in various forms, sculpture, photography, photoshop, ceramics and illustration.

## Are there any trips involved?

There will be potentially a trip in Year 10/11- tbc.

## What about the exam?

Your topic will be set by the AQA examination board in the January of Year 11. You will produce a folder like you have for your CA work based on one of the questions they set. Teachers will guide you through this. In the May of Year 11 there will be a 10-hour exam. This is spread out over 2 days with normal breaks.

## What can I do with my Art GCSE after Year 11?

Many students have enjoyed success in this subject with excellent examination

**results leading on to complete A Levels in a Sixth Form or going on to various colleges and Universities. Art also teaches you a vast amount of valuable transferrable skills that you can apply to other non-Art related areas.**

**What will I need?**

**An A3 folder with 20 pockets- teachers will show examples in lesson.**

# GCSE Business Studies

**Examination Board:** Eduqas

**Examination:** Paper 1: 62.5% 2 hour exam  
Business Dynamics  
Paper 2: 37.5% 1 hour 30minute exam  
Business Considerations

## **What does Business Studies involve?**

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

## **Why choose business?**

This GCSE specification introduces you to the business world, empowering you to develop as commercially minded and enterprising individuals. You will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, enabling them to use business information critically, to develop arguments, to make justified decisions and to prepare you for further study and career pathways. The focus of the specification is to introduce and nurture an enthusiasm for studying business in a range of contexts. You will appreciate how businesses operate in a dynamic and competitive environment and develop an understanding of the interdependent nature of business functions from a local to a global perspective.

## **What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

It is unlikely that you will have studied Business Studies before taking this course, but that does not matter. You will have come across business terms in your Computing lessons. You may have enjoyed this part of the Computing course and have an interest in business technology, or perhaps want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and the systems that help businesses communicate effectively.

## **Is this the right subject for me?**

The subject content enables you to apply your knowledge and understanding to different business contexts, including businesses ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. If you enjoy learning new things and understanding the world around

**you, then this subject is for you.**

**You are required to develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour. You will be expected to be familiar with current issues in business and develop an understanding of the dynamics of business activity.**

# GCSE Computer Science

**Examination Board:**

**OCR GCSE**

**Examination:**  
at the

**The course is structured with all exam assessments  
end of the two years. Programming skills will  
be taught throughout both years 10 and 11.**

**If you have an aptitude for how computer systems work,  
programming and wanting to gain a greater understating of these  
concepts then this course is for you.**

**CONTENT OVERVIEW**

**Computer systems - 50% of total GCSE**

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

**Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 50% of  
total GCSE**

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



# GCSE Design Technology

**Examination Board: OCR**

**Examination: 50%-Principles of Design & Technology Coursework/NEA: 50%-Iterative Design Challenge**

**Essential skills needed for success:**

**Resilience - don't give up when things go wrong  
Good problem-solving skills and focus  
Ability to sketch design ideas  
Be able to make accurate prototype models and products**

**What's your big idea?**

**Our world is changing rapidly – your generation needs to prepare for the unknown. Design and Technology is about solving real world problems.**

**GCSE Design & Technology encourages creative thinking leading to design innovation, it is centred on the iterative design processes of 'explore/create/evaluate', preparing students to become critical and creative designers/engineers of the future.**

**Exam-Principles of Design & Technology-50%**

**100 marks - 2 hour's written paper (completed in the summer term of year 11) This component brings together students' 'core' and 'in-depth' theory knowledge. 'Core' knowledge of Design and Technology principles demonstrates students broad understanding of principles that all learners should have across the subject. In-depth' knowledge allows learners to focus more directly on at least one main material category, such as wood, polymers or electronics and computer coding. A minimum of 15% of the paper will assess students' mathematical skills as applied within a design and technology context. To assess this knowledge, you will be given weekly**

**theory homework. Coursework-Iterative Design**

**Challenge-50%**

**100 marks Approx. 40 hours (starting in the summer term of year 10) This will involve designing and making a prototype to solve a Real-world problem. You will be expected to:**

- **Work with a customer/client that you will need to find**
- **Investigate the problem**
- **Sketch creative solutions to solve the problem**
- **Communicate and develop ideas through models and computer aided design**
- **Create three prototypes and a final product using materials**
- **Get regular feedback from your client to develop your product**

- **Evaluate your completed product with your client**

**The coursework will need to be presented to a high standard and sent to the exam board for grading.**

# GCSE Drama

The Drama GCSE follows the AQA syllabus and is divided into three components:

- **Component 1: Understanding drama (1hr45min exam 40% of GCSE)**
- **Component 2: Devising drama (Practical devised performance 40% of GCSE)**
- **Component 3: Texts in practice (Practical scripted performance 20% of GCSE)**

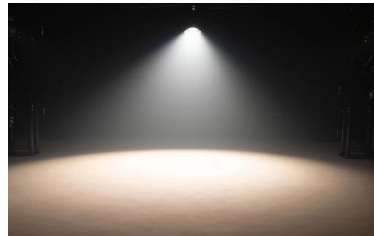
## Why take GCSE Drama?

- **Studying Drama will provide you with the required skills to communicate and deliver confidently in front of others, this is useful when it comes to College/University presentations and leading on work projects in the future.**
- **Trip to go and see a piece of live theatre as part of a review.**
- **Hones your critical thinking, boosts self-confidence, resilience, empathy and negotiation skills.**
- **You will develop your theatrical knowledge, physical and vocal skills along with perfecting drama techniques. These will then be used to create your own piece of Drama in groups.**
- **There are so many transferable skills that will be beneficial in many aspects of life and work e.g. public speaking, teamwork and collaboration, leadership, problem solving and creativity.**

## Is this subject right for me?

- **You do not need to have any prior acting experience. Instead, you need to be confident and willing to perform in front of others and be ready to be creative.**
- **GCSE Drama is a fun but challenging course and can offer you the opportunity to take part in performances, visit live theatre and be able to create your own original Drama.**
- **Drama GCSE is a great comparison to your other subjects, its an opportunity to not be learning strictly behind a desk but to be creative using the practical space.**

- **Drama can lead to many careers' paths and not just the roles that sit**



**within Theatre and TV.**

*“The one thing I can guarantee is that you will remember your GCSE Drama days later in life and you may suddenly realise how it helped you develop as an individual.” Mrs While.*

## GCSE Film Studies

### Examination Board: Eduqas

There is so much more to Film Studies than simply watching films. When watching a film, we might see it as relaxation or escapism. However, the in-depth study of film involves coming from a very different starting point.

As well as gaining an appreciation of film as an art form in terms of its visual storytelling, studying film can enhance your understanding of the world, for example by exploring competing values, attitudes and beliefs. GCSE Film Studies aims to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- the ways in which meanings and responses are generated through film
- a contrasting, culturally diverse range of films from different national contexts
- film as an aesthetic medium
- how films reflect the social, cultural and political contexts in which they are made
- the relationship between film and film technology over time.

The texts we study represent different time periods and different moments in history showing alternative representations of culture and people.

### What skills will I develop?

The critical skills you develop through studying film will also be of use in GCSE English and Modern Foreign Languages. The deepening historical and cultural perspectives you will develop will inform your work in History, Geography, Sociology and other Humanities subjects. Your writing skills for GCSE English will be enhanced through the non-examined element.

### Is the subject easy?

**GCSE Film Studies enables students, particularly those with a flair for English, to do something which pushes their creativity and analytical skills.**

Film Studies is an extremely enjoyable and worthwhile subject to study, but expect to be constantly challenged with big critical ideas; discussing them and writing about them. Not only will it change the way you watch film, but more importantly it will challenge you to think in new ways and question or change your perspective on a whole host of issues, for example, representation of race or gender.

### **How will I be assessed?**

There are two exams at GCSE, each worth 35% of the qualification with the remaining 30% assessed by Production work.

Each exam lasts 90 minutes and consists of three different sections:

### **Component 1: Key Developments in US Film Section 35%**

A: US Film Comparative Study Section - *Dracula* (Browning, USA, 1931), *U and The Lost Boys* (Schumacher, USA, 1987), 15

B: Key Developments in Film & Film Technology Section

C: US Independent Film Component – TBC

### **Component 2: Global Film – Narrative, Representation & Film Style 35%**

Section A: Global English language film - *Slumdog Millionaire* (Boyle, UK, 2008), 15

Section B: Global non-English language film - *Tsotsi* (Hood, South Africa, 2005), 15

Section C: Contemporary UK film - *Attack the Block* (Cornish, UK, 2011), 15

### **Component 3 – Production 30% (Non-Examined Assessment)**

Create the screenplay for an extract of a film, with a storyboard and an evaluative analysis.

'Carpe diem.' – Professor John Keating, *Dead Poets' Society* (1989)

# GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition

The AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure you develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing your practical cookery skills to give you a strong understanding of nutrition. You will also study a wide range of theory topics, which will require an interest in the mechanics of cooking as well as food science and hygiene practices.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

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

You will be expected to provide ingredients and cook at least once a week throughout Year 10 and 11.

Upon completion of this course, you will be qualified to go on to further study or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or wider food industries.

## Assessment:

### Controlled assessment - 50% -

- 15% food investigation in to the scientific and functional characteristics of an ingredient (30 marks).
- 35% Food preparation project – you will need to research, plan prepare and cook a range of dishes to a theme set by the exam board. There is a three hour practical exam where you will need to present three dishes at a specific time (70 marks).

### Examination - 50% - 1hr 45minutes:

- 20 marks – multiple choice;
- 80 marks written answer questions. A single examination testing theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition.

# GCSE Geography

**Examination Board: Edexcel Specification B (From 2016)**

**Examinations: 3 X 1hr 30-minute examinations**

## **What will I Learn?**

The world is always changing. This specification gives you the chance to learn about those changes.

## **There are three components:**

**Component 1: Global Geographical Issues 1hr 30 minutes exam (37.5% of final mark)**

- **Topic 1: Hazardous Earth**
- **Topic 2: Development dynamics**
- **Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world**

**Component 2: Geographical Issues 1hr 30 minutes exam (37.5% of final mark)**

- **Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.**
- **Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a case study - Dynamic UK cities.**
- **Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation linked to topics 4 and 5.**

**Component 3: People and Environment Issues- Making Geographical Decisions 1hr 30 minutes exam (25% of final mark)**

- **Topic 7: People and the biosphere**
- **Topic 8: Forests under threat**
- **Topic 9: Consuming energy resources**

## **What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

You will have learned a number of geographical skills and a body of geographical knowledge at Key Stage 3. These will be developed further during the GCSE course to give you a deeper understanding of the world. Much will be new but your previous study of geography will have helped prepare you to think, speak and write like a geographer, enabling the development of new skills and concepts.

## **What can I do after I've completed the course?**

Geography really is an education for life. Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that

**geography delivers. Geography fits neatly with science, arts and humanities.**

**Geographers also tend to have very good ICT skills. A GCSE in Geography is excellent preparation for a career in planning, resource and country management, tourism and recreation and environmental management and development. Many geographers also move into general management careers or branch out into journalism.**



# GCSE History

## Why study History?

A study of History allows you to better understand the world around you, current affairs, your local community and your place in it. It encourages independent thinking and promotes cultural awareness. If you have an interest in how society has changed in the past and your place in it now, then History is for you.

You will learn and develop the following skills:

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of evidence from the past;
- How to effectively communicate and apply knowledge and skills;
- How to describe and analyse the key events and people of the periods studied, using problem solving, critical thinking and judgment under pressure.

All of the above are transferrable academic skills which are highly sought after by colleges, universities and employers.

## What will I study?

GCSE History follows the AQA specification and you will study the following:

### Paper 1:

Section A: Period Study - Germany 1890 -1945: Democracy and dictatorship  
Section B: World Depth Study – Conflict and Tension: The First World War 1894-1918

### Paper 2:

Section A: Thematic Study – Britain: Health and the people c1000 to present  
Section B: British Depth Study with historical environment – Norman England

## Assessment:

All assessment in History is linear, which means students will take their exams at the end of Year

11. Students will be assessed by two separate exams, each 2 hours long. There is no coursework/controlled assessment unit.

## Is GCSE History right for me?

To achieve high grades in History you must have a natural interest and engagement with the past and enjoy learning about political, social, economic and military events. You will need to read and write in depth, have a good level of written and verbal communication and be prepared to think for yourself and reach your own conclusions.

# Cambridge National Creative iMedia (ICT)

It has three units, two of them are based on your coursework in making and changing images using Photoshop, and making webpages with digital marketing animations. One unit has a written exam, which is taken in the January of Year 11.

**R093: External Exam**

**40% 70 marks**

**1 hour 15 mins**

**R094: Digital Graphics**

**25%**

**50 marks**

**Controlled**

**assessment R097:**

**Multipage Website 35%**

**70 marks**

**Controlled assessment**

All coursework units require extensive planning and evaluating of each task. Each unit is assessed in controlled assessment conditions and will be marked at the end of each project. This will then be externally moderated by OCR.

On this course students can achieve a level 1 or 2 pass, a merit, a distinction or distinction\*. These are equivalent to a GCSE Grade 9 – 1.

## Year 10

### R094: Creating digital graphics

This is also a compulsory unit, in which Photoshop is used to edit photographs and images to suit given situations. Students will learn how to effectively use the software and how to use tools to meet a client brief in the business world.

### R093: Pre-production skills (Exam)

This is a compulsory unit, based on all aspects of planning projects from mood boards to Gantt Charts. It will also develop their understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.

*It should be noted coursework must be sent off and 'banked' at the end of year 10. It cannot be amended and improved in year 11. The exam unit will be taught across both years as the exam must be taken in the summer of year 11.*

## Year 11

### R093: Pre-production skills (Exam)

This is a compulsory unit, based on all aspects of planning projects from mood boards to Gantt Charts. It will also develop their

**understanding of the client brief, time frames, deadlines and preparation techniques that form part of the planning and creation process.**

R097: Creating a multipage website

**In this unit, students will have the opportunity to understand the basics of creating multiple websites. They will also be able to demonstrate their creativity by combining components to create a functional, intuitive and aesthetically pleasing website using Dreamweaver.**

# GCSE Modern Foreign Languages

## Why study a GCSE in French or Spanish?

*English is not enough...* 60% of the world's population speak more than one language.

**You can too! We live in an increasingly globalised society where knowledge of another language is seen more and more as a valuable asset, and one that can increase your earning potential.**

**So what's so great about Language learning? well there are so many reasons. Here are our top 3:**

- 1. It is good for the brain! – it increases the size, health and efficiency of your brain. Learning a language also enhances memory skills and makes it easier to multi-task.**
- 2. Learning a language improves your grades in other subjects as well! - Did you know that studying a second language can improve your skills and grades in Mathematics and English? Research has shown that numerical and verbal exam scores increase, with each additional year of foreign language study. So the longer you study a foreign language - the stronger your skills become and the better equipped you'll be to succeed in school.**
- 3. It makes you more employable – learning a language teaches you the skills that employers value: being able to connect with people, having developed reasoning skills, and having the confidence to talk to others. Learning a language takes time and commitment, but why not use it as an opportunity to show future employers what you are made of?**

## What will I learn at KNSB?

**This is an exciting new GCSE (first exams in 2026) which will be accessible for all. It is based on practical language and skills that are relevant to you, and the world around you. You will build up your confidence in the subject, whilst learning about the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.**

**The course consists of three themes (each theme contains 3 sub-topics):**

**People and lifestyle: - Identity and relationships  
with others. Healthy living, lifestyle, Education and work**

**Popular culture: - Free time activities. Customs, festivals and celebrations.  
Celebrity culture**

**Communication and: - Travel and tourism, including places of interest.  
Media and technology. the world around us  
The environment and where people live**

## How will I be examined?

**Achievement in French and Spanish will be certificated by a GCSE from the AQA Examination Board. This qualification is linear, which means that you will sit all your exams at the end of Year 11, at either Foundation or Higher level. You will be examined in four papers and each one is worth 25% of your final GCSE grade:**

|                                   |                                      |                   |                       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <b><u>Paper 1 - Listening</u></b> | <b>35 minutes for<br/>Foundation</b> | <b>45 minutes</b> | <b>for<br/>Higher</b> |
| <b><u>Paper 2 - Speaking</u></b>  | <b>9 minutes for<br/>Foundation</b>  | <b>12 minutes</b> | <b>for<br/>Higher</b> |
| <b><u>Paper 3 - Reading</u></b>   | <b>45 minutes for<br/>Foundation</b> | <b>60 minutes</b> | <b>for<br/>Higher</b> |
| <b><u>Paper 3 - Writing</u></b>   | <b>70 minutes for<br/>Foundation</b> | <b>75 minutes</b> | <b>for<br/>Higher</b> |

# GCSE Music

The Music GCSE course follows the Eduqas specification and is divided into three components:

- Performing
- Composing
- Appraising

## Component 1 – Performing (30% coursework)

A minimum of two pieces, lasting a combined total of 4-6 minutes.

- One piece must be an ensemble (group) piece, lasting for a minimum of 1 minute and should be an accompanying part (i.e. not the main tune)
- One piece must link to an Area of Study (see component 3)

Grade 3 is the required standard for performance at GCSE and you can score full marks in your performance if your pieces are played perfectly.

## Component 2 – Composing (30% coursework)

Two compositions, lasting a combined total of 3-6 minutes

- One free composition – allowing the student to compose music in their preferred genre/style.
- One composition to a brief – students will have an option of 4 briefs to

choose from during year 11. Students will compose their music using either: Logic Pro X, Dorico or GarageBand.

## Component 3 – Appraising (40% listening examination)

The examination paper consists of a total of eight questions, two from each Area of Study.

- AoS1 – Musical Forms and Devices
- AoS2 – Music for Ensemble
- AoS3 – Film Music
- AoS4 – Popular Music

Students will analyse two set works which are guaranteed to feature in the appraising examination. One will be a short classical piece of music (AoS1) and the other will be a rock/pop song (AoS4).

## Can anyone take GCSE Music?

You will need to play an instrument to at least a grade 2 standard by the time you start the course, as performances are worth 30% of your overall grade. You must be willing to practice regularly and have weekly instrumental lessons to further improve your performance skills in readiness for when we record your performances in year 11.

## How can GCSE Music help me in the future?

Music demonstrates many transferable skills but particularly demonstrates your creativity and analytical skills. These skills will allow you to pursue career opportunities in and outside of music.

# GCSE Psychology

## What is Psychology ?

**Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behavior. Its subject matter includes the behavior of humans and non-humans, both conscious and unconscious phenomena, and mental processes such as thoughts, feelings, and motives.**

## What will this GCSE require?

Students with a strong foundation in English, math and science would be most equipped for success on this course. However, the course is accessible to all students who have a keen interest in psychology and are willing to complete the necessary work outside of the classroom to facilitate excellent progress within the subject.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENTS: This AQA GCSE Psychology qualification is linear, meaning that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. **2** Written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes and each with 100 marks and worth 50% of GCSE. There is a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing, with each section worth 25 marks.

## Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods

## Paper 2: Social context and behaviour

- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of psychological ideas, processes, procedures and theories in relation to the paper content. Knowledge and understanding of research methods, practical research skills and mathematical skills, also form a key part of pupils' learning in Psychology. Mathematical skills form 10% of the marks available

## Career Pathways

**GCSE psychology provides an excellent foundation for A level Psychology, although not a requirement to study at that level. People with skills in psychology are sought after in business, management, teaching, research, sport, social work and careers in medicine, healthcare and law.**

# GCSE Religious Studies

*'Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools speak because they have to say something.'* Plato 429-348BCE

## Why study RS:

In reference to Plato's words, RS will help you to develop into the wise man who has something to say. RS will give you the tools to be able to reason and negotiate with the fool. It involves delving into the philosophical sphere; studying the nature of existence, knowledge and values. It promotes ethical decision making by studying moral principles that govern a person's behavior.

## The course is broken down into three sections:

1. **A study of two religions** - In-depth exploration of key beliefs and practices.
2. **Philosophy** - a study of the nature of existence, knowledge and values.
3. **Ethics** - a study into moral principles that influence human behaviour.

GCSE RS follows the AQA specification, and you will study the following:

## Paper 1: The Study of Religions

**Christianity: Beliefs and Practices**  
**Islam: Beliefs and Practices**

## Paper 2: Thematic Studies

**Theme A – Relationships and Families**  
**Theme B – Religion and Life**  
**Theme D – Religion, Peace and Conflict**  
**Theme E – Religion, Crime and Punishment**

The course is 100% examination and consists of two separate examinations, each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. During the course, you will examine a range of issues including scriptural authority, key beliefs, forms of religious expression, diversity within and between Christianity and Islam, and the place of these religions in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the context of relationships, science, conflict, human rights and social justice.

## Skills required for success

- **Be curious and eager to explore different perspectives.**
- **Think critically, analyse arguments, and evaluate ideas.**
- **Appreciate diversity and understand different worldviews.**
- **Willingness to keep an open mind—you won't be expected to change your beliefs, but you will learn why others think differently.**
- **Stay informed by reading the news—faith and ethics are constantly discussed in society.**
- **Be ready to engage in debates and discussions, challenging ideas while respecting the views of others.**

## Looking into the future.

RS is highly regarded by colleges, universities, and employers, as it demonstrates that you are open-minded and able to understand different cultures and beliefs. It also develops strong communication skills, both written



**and verbal, while enhancing your ability to construct critical arguments and support opinions with evidence. These skills are highly valued in careers such as law, education, journalism, politics, social work, psychology, business, and medicine, where understanding different perspectives is essential. By studying RS, you will not only gain a deeper understanding of the world around you but also develop transferable skills that will benefit you in any future career.**

# GCSE Physical Education

Subject to final accreditation we will follow the new OCR specification. This comprises two x one hour examinations (30% each), practical assessment in three sports (10% each) and a piece of written coursework (completed in controlled assessment conditions).

The Physical Education course offers you an opportunity to develop an understanding of Sports Science and apply this knowledge to your own practical performances.

## Theory Lessons:

Theory lessons investigate the following areas:

- Paper 1 – Physiology and the effects of exercise on the body
- Paper 2 – Social-Cultural and Psychology issues in Sport

Lessons draw on many different resources, and homework is used to further learning.

## Practical Lessons (30%):

The following practical activities are taught as part of the course:

- Football
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Athletics (including Cross Country running)
- Table -tennis

Each activity will be covered in Years 10 and 11, thereby enabling you to show progression in all sports. You will be assessed in all activities, with your best three taken forward to your final grade, with the marks making up 30% of the final grade.

A small number of alternative sports are available for assessment on the new specification. Please speak to PE staff if you have an enquiry

## Coursework (10%) Analysis task:

The coursework is an analysis of performance task, which focuses on how well tasks are performed and how performance can be improved further.

An average two week GCSE PE timetable would look like:

1 x Practical  
lessons  
3 x  
Theory  
lessons

**It is strongly recommended that students who choose GCSE PE are playing regular sport, both inside and outside of school. Such is the levels required to obtain practical marks.**

**PE Staff will communicate with parents and students over which PE pathway is best for them. Please ask if interested.**

# Cambridge National Sports Studies

**AS A KNSB student you will select performances in two selected activities to be assessed in practically. You will cover the following topic areas in developing and improving your understanding in all aspects of Sports Studies.**

**Topic Area 1 (Mandatory Topic Areas): Participating in your activities, developing decision making during performance, managing, and maintaining performance in individual activities. Sports from including football, basketball, badminton, rugby, table tennis and athletics.**

**Topic Area 2: Your role and contribution to team activities Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity, evaluating your strengths and weaknesses in sports performance, to improve performance in chosen activities.**

**Topic Area 3: Organising and planning a sports activity session from a range of sports activity sessions. Developing safety considerations when planning a sports activity session. Creating objectives to meet the needs of the group and improve sport specific skills.**

**Topic Area 4: Leading a sports activity session of your choice and organisation of a sports activity session. Leading a sports activity session and delivering a sports activity session to develop key skills**

**Topic Area 5: Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session. Review your leadership of a sports activity session and understanding ways to improve.**

## **Optional Topic Area**

**This includes Outdoor and Adventurous activities and includes four practical tasks. This is centre assessed from a variety of activities, including rock climbing and mountain biking.  
Sport Studies Units Assessment**

## **Mandatory**

**R051: Contemporary issues in sport Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour – 60 marks (60 UMS) R052: Developing sports skills Centre-assessed tasks OCR-moderated 60 marks (60 UMS) Learners should spend approximately 10 hours on the assessment tasks**

## **Optional**

**R052: Developing sports skills Centre-assessed tasks OCR-moderated 60 marks (60 UMS) R054: Sport and the media Centre-assessed tasks OCR-moderated 60 marks (60 UMS)  
R055: Working in the sports industry Centre-assessed tasks OCR-moderated 60 marks (60 UMS) Lea R056: Developing knowledge and skills in outdoor activities Centre-assessed tasks OCR-moderated 60 marks**

# GCSE Statistics

**Examination Board:** Edexcel

**Examination:** Paper 1: 50% (80 Marks) – 1h 30m  
Paper 2: 50% (80 Marks) – 1h 30m

## **What does Statistics involve?**

Statistics are everywhere, from predicting the weather, deciding on how much traffic there will be on a motorway to monitoring workflow in an office. It is a huge part of everyday life, careers, and further study. This qualification will enable you to acquire transferable skills to support you in progressing beyond GCSE in a range of subjects. **An understanding of data in the real world and how it can be used, or misused, can empower you and is relevant to everyone.**

## **Why choose Statistics?**

GCSE Statistics will offer you lots of transferable skills which are known to be vital in further education and the world of work. These include:

- Non-routine problem solving- expert thinking, metacognition and creativity
- Systems thinking- decision making and reasoning
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Collaborative problem solving

Being confident in the use of statistics is a crucial skill in many subjects and careers.

## **What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

GCSE Statistics complements your GCSE Maths course, with a significant amount of crossover content covered in both courses; this includes Probability, Collecting and interpreting data, Averages, Scatter diagrams, measures of spread, Constructing tables and charts, types of data Venn diagrams and sampling. Prior knowledge of these topics, gained at KS3, will support learners, but is not sufficient in order to be successful on the course.

## **Is this the right subject for me?**

GCSE Statistics is for all learners; its tiered entry at either Foundation or Higher supports all students to

progress and be challenged.



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